

## March 11, 2015 Staff Reports and Project Updates

- 140 West Art Plaza

The spring schedule of concerts, dance and other art events at the 140 West plaza began on Friday April, 10 but was cancelled and rescheduled to the 17<sup>th</sup> due to weather. The events will run through June 17, 2015. Thus far there has been pretty good turn out. Last week's event drew about 130 people.

- Library % for Art Projects

Todd Frahm is continuing to carve the four 3.5' x 3.5' limestone animal sculptures for the exterior plaza of the Library. The project is being funded by several sources; including gift funds from the Library. His installation of the sculpture is scheduled at the end of June. Erik Carlson, the selected artist for an interactive video project for the main interior, returned to CH in mid-April to continue to gather images of Chapel Hill and its people for the *Unbound* installation. A decision was made jointly by the office and the Library to delay the installation until September so there could be a big media push and grand opening. It is still not too late to submit images and video to the project.

- Library Art Trail

The wind blew off two stainless steel leaves from *Magnolia Exotica*; staff are contacting local artists to see if one can be hired to weld leaves back into place. One additional pad will be poured this summer, and that and pad #2 will receive new sculptures in July as part of the Sculpture Visions program.

- Arts Plan

Commissioners Emily Kass and Dan Cefalo presented the draft arts plan to Council on May 4 to receive their comments and feedback. Next steps are to take the plan public by hosting a number of public hearings and social media opportunities to respond before returning to present to Council in the fall.

- Arts & Entertainment Research

During Spring Semester 2015, the UNC Public Policy Capstone group engaged in a systematic baseline study on the economic impact of existing town and University arts initiatives/ programs and to create an effective marketing plan to maximize publicity and attraction. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> that student group presented the findings of their economic impact research from select businesses and UNC institutions. Their [Powerpoint presentation](#) and [final report](#) are now on the [Guiding Documents webpage](#).

- Community Clay Studio

Winter/Spring Session B classes are now underway with a record number of participants (118), classes (16, + 2 open studios) and revenue for a single eight-week session. The nine summer camps beginning June 16 are all full save for one session, and 11 more children are waitlisted. Registration for our three adult summer classes began Monday, May 11. This month we anticipate the installation of a computer in the studio and the creation of log-ons and Town email accounts for instructors, and the installation of additional shelving for clay pieces and the studio library.

- Beat Lab

Cultural Arts staff submitted a proposal to incorporate The Beat Lab into its administration and programming work. The Beat Lab currently is located under the Town's Old Post Office on Franklin Street and across the hall from the Teen Center, and it is run by volunteer monitors who hold "open studios" weekday evenings for approximately 12 youth per evening.

- Downtown Art Program

After a 2 month exhibition, Helen's Seebold's plastic cup installation on the railing in front of McDonalds was removed. Carter Hubbard's planted clover seeds in the shape of words in the median of the Community Center parking lot and in other locations downtown have bloomed and have received lots of positive comments on social media. The Downtown Partnership coordinates payments, installation, publicity and other aspects of this program funded by the Public & Cultural Arts Office.

After being reviewed by a committee of the Commission, four art benches previously located on the 100 block of East Franklin St. were permanently relocated to the 300-400 block of West Franklin St. due to street renovations on E. Franklin. The benches need to be cleaned.

- Vets Memorial

The Committee has been revitalized with 3 new veteran members and the possibility of a joint Chapel Hill and Orange Co. Memorial at the Orange Co. Southern Human Services Center site in CH. Letters to the CH Council and Orange Co. Commission have been sent to officially kick off the project.

### **Committee Reports**

- Sculpture Visions/Juried Exhibitions Series

After extending the March 16 deadline for submission once, a total of 53 artists have applied (24 after the first deadline). Selection process is ongoing this week, with Friday, May 15 being the target date for final selection notifications. Selected artworks will go on display in July.

Juried Exhibitions artist Jim Toub is on exhibit at the Library through July and Brad Williams is on exhibit at Town Hall through May. A call to artists for this program was issued May 1<sup>st</sup> (deadline June 15) so that new exhibitions may be coordinated for August 2015 and the rest of the 2015-16 fiscal year.

- Permanent Collection

Re-planting of Muhly grass at Southern Community Park's Air Circle is tabled for now pending review of new budget at the beginning of the fiscal year. Artists' repair/cleaning of Lightning Brown bench, *Promethean Honor Guard*, and *Sharing the Education* to be arranged prior to July, funds permitting.

- Artist in School Residency

Jeannette Brossart's residency was completed at Glenwood Elementary School. The installation *Migration: What we bring with Us* has been installed. The project involved 70 4<sup>th</sup> grade students creating bird-shaped mosaics that focus on colors, symbols and images from the student's immigrant backgrounds.

- Into the Streets: Community Art Project (CAP)

Musician and Educator Pierce Freelon and Culture Mill held beat making workshops and performances in March and April featuring area teens and musicians visiting from Portobello, Panama. Performances took place at the beat lab, teens center, Flyleaf books and on UNC campus. Final materials, including audio & visual documentation of events and works, have been submitted.

- Scrapel Hill

A selection panel of commissioners, artist and U Mall administration met on April 21 to review proposals for the Scrapel Hill VI exhibition at U Mall in the fall. Eleven artists and 17 artworks were selected.