

September 2015 Staff Reports and Project Updates

- 140 West Art Plaza

The fall season of concerts and, dance and other art events at the 140 West plaza resumed August 28th with a mini-circus and a great crowd. Unfortunately, after a hiatus for Labor Day and Tar Heel Downtown, the September 25th and October 3rd events were cancelled due to inclement weather. Hopefully, Friday the 9th featured a public painting class by Dan Nelson.

- Library % for Art Projects

Todd Frahm unveiled his four limestone animal sculptures titled the *Grand Intimate* on the exterior plaza of the Library to the delight of about 250+ people on July 25th with a special family celebration. The project was funded with funds from the Library and the % for art Library funds. Erik Carlson, the selected artist for an interactive video project for the main interior is now working on editing the community images he will use for his *Unbound* installation. The work is scheduled to be completed and installed in January (delay to accommodate the holidays) with a big media push and grand opening.

- Library Art Trail

Two new Sculpture Visions pieces have been installed along the Library trail.

- Banned Book Trading Card Project

The Office again partnered with the CH Library for the 3rd Banned Book Trading Card Project. Eight artists out of 102 were honored with awards on September 25th at an opening attended by about 150 people. Their artwork is now be part of the trading card pack.

- Festifall

After months of intense planning for the best Festifall ever, it was necessary due to the weather conditions to cancel festifall for 2105. Artists and vendors will receive a refund of their participation fees. We heard from several artist thanking us for our decision. Expenses were incurred, but much less if we had had to cancel the day of, or if no one attended. A much smaller music and food truck event is being planned for one for the Town's parks in mid-November to offer Festifall sponsors something for their sponsorships.

- Arts Plan

Planning is underway for hosting a number of input sessions, The Chapel Hill Arts Tomorrow (CHAT) campaign will be kicked off with a plaza event and interactive engagement event. Thanks to Commissioner Jean Michele and others, a survey has been produced that will be distributed for public response before returning to present to Council in the fall. A petition was presented to Council regarding changing the Commission's name to the Cultural Arts Commission. Appropriate ordinance amendment and resolution are being prepared.

- Arts & Entertainment District Research

Our attempt at receiving funding from the NEA to work on further research and implementation of a joint Town/UNC arts project/district was not funded. Dialog is being held about the New Carolina Arts Innovation space at Carolina Square and how the town might partner.

- Community Clay Studio

Fall Session A classes began 9/28. 94 participants are enrolled in 14 classes.

- Downtown Art Program

A new, joint project with traffic engineering, public works, police and the bike and ped planning team for artist-designed cross walks at the intersections of Cameron/Country Club and Raleigh Rd. and Church and W. Rosemary Sts. And mid- block between Church and Mitchell Sts. On Rosemary is underway. We received 27 proposals. 5 artist were selected to incorporate their designs into the crosswalks, probably in the spring of 2016

The Office of Public & Cultural Arts is working with an independent curator Sarah Wolfe on an exciting night-time exhibition/street fair for February of 2016. *Shimmer*, will feature illuminated art, video, and projections and will take place simultaneously in CH and Carrboro at the intersection of the two communities. The project is jointly funded by the Office of Public Arts/Town of CH, Town of Carrboro, CH Downtown Partnership, Orange Co. Visitor Center. Additional funding is being sought.

- Vets Memorial

The Committee was with 4 new veteran members and the real possibility of a joint Chapel Hill and Orange Co. Memorial at the Orange Co. Southern Human Services Center site in CH. A fundraising chair was appointed at the May meeting and a site visit was held with the group and the landscape architect who designed the original memorial for the cemetery. Some alterations in the design will be required for the new site.

- Solar Trailer Project

Solar panels, batteries, equipment and a floral wrap design with hidden energy images by Andria Linn is finished. The trailer was to debut at Festifall, but due to cancellation of the event will now be debuted on November 14 at another event. Staff has dubbed the vehicle "Flower Power" for it bright floral design and batteries that store enough solar energy to power amps and other electronic equipment for staged events and other uses.

- PlayPrints

The Office received a small grant from the NC Recreation & Parks Association to have pre-designed creative ground markings (hopscotch and foursquare game boards) installed in areas near the Hargraves Cntr. The prints were installed on October 8th. It is hoped this this will spur interest in having artist-designed playprints perhaps installed in other locations, particularly Housing complexes, which were not eligible in this particular grant

Committee Reports

- Sculpture Visions/Juried Exhibitions Series

Sculpture Visions 2015-2016 pieces have been installed with plaques; photographs have been taken; webpage is up; brochure has been designed and sent to printer.

- Scrapel Hill

The Scrapel Hill VI exhibition opened at U Mall on September 10 with an awards ceremony open to the public on September 11. Chapel Hill artist Charron Andrews took home the top prize, with Raleigh artist Denise Hughes receiving second place. A special sponsor award from Silverspot Cinema for best movie themed work went to Leatha Kohler also of Raleigh.

- Permanent Collection

An ad-hoc Gift work group met 9/4 to consider the potential gift of the sculpture *Redwood* by Samuel E. Burns, currently sited at Southern Village; recommendations to the CHPAC will be presented soon. Group members are in discussion with potential sites.

- Artist in School Residency

Commissioner Kat Wilson is working with Phillips Middle School to create an after-school drama club.

- Into the Streets: Community Art Project (CAP)

Planning and a Call to Artists for the Spring 2016 CAP should begin soon.