

November 2015 Staff Reports and Project Updates

New

Festival in the Park

Since Festifall was cancelled, a mini-festival has been planned for 11/14 at Southern Community Park. Food trucks, family activities, and entertainment has been scheduled. CHPAC will solicit feedback about the arts in CH from visitors through a survey.

Shimmer Light Art Project

The Office of Public & Cultural Arts is working with an independent curator Sarah Wolfe and the Downtown Partnership 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, Duke Energy Foundation and 140 West. Additional funding is being sought.

Arts & Economic Impact Study

A contract has been signed with Americans for the Arts (AFA) for the Town of Chapel Hill to participate in a local arts impact study. It will entail much research and hundreds of audience surveys taken at many different programs and events in CH and on campus. The study will begin in January 2016. AFA will analyze the data and a report will be issue in May 2017.

WORD: Employee Poetry Contest

Town employees will be asked to write a poem or song lyric that emphasizes the values espoused by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Brotherhood, Non-Violence, Justice, Morality or Action), is based on the life of Dr. King, or references any direct quote from Dr. King. Any form of poetry will be accepted. 3 winners will have their poems read at the annual celebration, displayed as posters in town hall and as bus cards on CH buses. Small cash awards are being offered. Pierce Freelon, co-founder of the Beat Making Lab will serve as the juror.

Artist-In Residency at Phillips Middle School

Commissioner Kat Wilson has worked with an English teacher at Phillips Middle School to put together an afterschool Drama club. Lesson plans have been produce, auditions and underway and the first production is upcoming. Individuals involved need to be put under contract.

On-Going

- 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.

Library % for Art Project

Erik Carlson, the selected artist for an interactive video project for the main Library interior is now working on editing the community images he will use for his *Unbound* installation. The 4th of 4 procedural meetings

with the Art Project Review Committee was held 10/1 and the 100% construction drawing package for the project was approved. The work is scheduled to be completed and installed in January with a big media push and grand opening.

- Crosswalk Project

A joint project with traffic engineering, public works, police and the bike and ped planning team for 5-artist-designed cross walks at the intersections of Cameron/Country Club and Raleigh Rd. Cameron & Wilson; Church and W. Rosemary Sts.; Church & Henderson; and mid-block between Church and Mitchell Sts. On Rosemary is underway. 27 proposals were received and 5 artists were selected by a committee including UNC art professors to incorporate their designs into the crosswalks. One contract has been signed for a test project. Other contract will be signed shortly. The UNC Campus Art Committee met on 10/20 and approved the two UNC sites. Implementation of the pilot project will be early spring of 2016 with the others to follow in July or August.

- 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 B classes begin November 30, with a larger than usual PR push going on up until December. New Studio rental fees are being submitted to the Parks & Recreation Commission and then Town Council to allow groups the opportunity to rent out the Studio for special workshops during times that the Studio is not in use for regular programming.

- Vets Memorial

With Orange County as a partner and a new site chosen for. Memorial near the Orange Co. Southern Human Services Center in CH, the committee continues to meet to work out a fundraising strategy and to work with the original memorial designer to alter the design for the new site.

Completed

- 140 West Art Plaza

The fall season of concerts and, dance and other art events at the 140 West plaza concluded its 10 performance series on Nov 6. The winterization of "Exhale" will take place on Nov. 19th. Shutting off the fog system is important to keep the water from freezing on the plaza during the colder months and helps preserve the pipes.

- Library % for Art Project

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.

- 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

Festifall was cancelled due to the weather conditions. Artists and vendors are receiving a refunds of their participation fees. We heard from several artist thanking us for our decision. Expenses were incurred, but much less than if we had had to cancel the day of, or if no one attended. The possibility of moving the event to a Saturday, with Sunday as the rain date, is being explored by Town staff.

- 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 will now debut on November 14 at the festival in the Park (see above). Staff has dubbed the vehicle “Flower of Power” for its 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 NC Recreation & Parks Association grant funded pre-designed creative ground markings (2 hopscotches a follow the ladder, and a foursquare game board) were installed in areas around the Hargraves Center. The prints were installed on 10/19-23. It is hoped this this will spur interest in having artist-designed playprints installed in other locations, particularly Housing complexes, which were not eligible in this particular grant.

- Scrapel Hill

The Scrapel Hill VI exhibition which opened at U Mall on 09/10 closes on 11/15. 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. The steel kimonos by Gordon Chandler and the bottle top portraits by Denise Hughes will remain on display at the mall for several more months.

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 printed and distributed. The paintings of Tommy McLaurin are now on display at the Library through mid-January.

- Exhibitions Committee

See attached report submitted by the committee chair

- Artist in School Residency

The Drama Club Project is underway at Phillips Middle School. Contractors have been selected. See attached report submitted by the chair.

- Into the Streets: Community Art Project (CAP)

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