

December 2015 Staff Reports and Project Updates

New

Shimmer Light Art Project

A joint CH and Carrboro Town employee task force met 12/3 to finalize plans for *Shimmer*.

The Parks & recreation Department is working with an independent curator Sarah Wolfe and the Downtown Partnership on an exciting night-time exhibition/festival on February 12, 2016. *Shimmer* will feature 20 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, Orange Co. Arts Commission, Duke Energy Foundation, Coca-Cola, 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 issued in May 2017. A paid intern through the Thorpe Undergraduate Internship Program will assist with the data collection.

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 produced, auditions and underway and the first production was held 12/4.

Festifall 2016 Planning

Behind the scenes planning has already begun for Festifall 2016. Part of the planning includes considering a Saturday date with a Sunday rain date. As such a change will impact merchants, bus schedules, and others affected by Festifall, dialog is being held with a number of stakeholder groups before a final decision will be made.

140 West Spring Series Planning

A meeting with our contracted production company (Deep South Entertainment) will be held 12/15 to evaluate the fall 2015 program and begin to set the scheduled entertainment for spring 2016. The Ram Realty Co. funding that was a part of the development agreement to fund entertainment on the 140 west plaza will be depleted by the end of fall 2016. Serious discussion will be needed to find alternative funding if the series is to continue.

On-Going

- Arts Plan

Planning is underway for hosting a number of input sessions. The Chapel Hill Arts Tomorrow (CHAT) campaign kickoff will be scheduled at the 12/9/16 CHPAC meeting

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 an installation date of January 20 with a big media push and grand opening on January 29, 2016 is scheduled.

- 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 artist 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

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 began the week of November 30. 16 classes for adults, teens & children will be held through early February. 97 people were enrolled as of December 2.

- 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

- Festival in the Park

A mini-festival was held 11/14 at Southern Community Park. Food trucks, family activities, and entertainment presented. CHPAC volunteers solicited feedback about the arts in CH from visitors through a survey. The day was a success with about 1,000 people participating

- 140 West Art Plaza

The winterization of "Exhale" took 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.

- 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 be debuted at the festival in the Park on 11/14 (see above) and performed admirably. 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 hopscotch and a 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 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 closed 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

No report.

- 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)

A Call to Artists for the Spring 2016 CAP will be issued shortly with January 8 application deadline.

- Permanent Collection

In Our Hands bronzes at Public Works were inspected and a cleaning scheduled for April 2016. *Around Town* marble bench at Transit was recently washed by staff and conservator Ted Monnich is scheduled to evaluate the piece December 9. At Southern Community Park Parks Maintenance is considering whether its staff can recreate a new ring for the *Air Datum*, and its staff is arranging purchase of new Muhlenberg grass to be planted spring 2016. Arts staff and the Library Director discussed possible sites for *Sharing the Education* sculpture where the upper lot meets a neighborhood trail.