

April 2016 Staff Reports and Project Updates

New or Now

- Arts Plan

Public input sessions were 2/23 at FRANK, 2/27 at the CH Library and 3/14 at Flyleaf Books. On 4/18 a session was held at the Marian Cheek Jackson Center. Moderate audience turn-out has yielded many thoughts and ideas to incorporate into the draft plan. We have received close to 400 surveys either on-line or at an event. On-line access the survey continues on the Public Arts web pages and social media sites through April 30. The final draft of the Plan is schedule to be presented to Council on 6/13.

- Arts & Economic Impact Study

Phase I of the local arts and humanities impact study with Americans for the Arts (AFTA) that identified 109 non-profit arts and humanities groups in CH has been completed and submitted to AFTA . Other financial and staffing Information on these non-profits organizations in CH and at UNC is being gathered. Some 299 audience survey form from different programs and events have been collected and submitted for the 1st quarter of the study. The study continues. AFTA will analyze the data and a report will be issued in May 2017.

- Herzenberg Memorial Bench Project

The Friends of Parks & Recreation is funding an artist-designed bench in honor of former town council member and activist for CH environmental, racial and other causes. A selection panel met 3/9 and selected 3 artists to move forward in the process - Caroly VanDuyn (CH), Mike Waller & Leah Foushee (Durham) and Todd Frahm (Swannanoa). The bench when completed will be placed on the new section of the Bolin Creek Trail scheduled to open at the end of 2016. A site visit with the committee and artists will be held 4/21

- 140 West Art Plaza

The first event to celebrate the re-animation of Exhale was held on 4/1. Due to cooler weather, turn out was slight, but people there enjoyed the Celtic music by Thistledown Tinkers and a special modern dance by the studio A Dancers. The every Friday events continue throughout May. A special Shakespeare on the plaza performance By Bare Theater is scheduled for June.

Festifall

Behind the scenes planning has is continuing for Festifall 2016 which will take place on Saturday October 1. A new artist designed poster competition is underway and artist/vendor applications are being accepted.

On-Going

- 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. All five contracts have been initiated. A paint test of a non-artist designed colorful crosswalk was completed on 3/8 and received lots of press coverage. Implementation of the artists' designs will take place in July or August.

- Arts & Entertainment District Research

Dialog with Carolina Performing Arts is being held about the New Carolina Arts Innovation space at Carolina Square and how the town might partner.

- Community Clay Studio

Winter / Spring Session B began last week with 101 participants in 15 classes. Summer camps have 79 out of 80 maximum campers registered, with 12 more on waitlists.

- Vets Memorial

A re-design of the memorial concept to fit the new Orange Co. proposed site in Chapel Hill was presented by the landscape architect team on 4/5. The executive committee praised the re-designed memorial. The design will be shared with Orange Co. Officials, then shared with the full Veterans memorial Committee for them to bring a fund raising campaign.

- Communications and Social Media

The two separate listservs for Public Arts and Events have been combined into one listserv for Cultural Arts with 8,000 recipients ([click here to join](#)), and a new eNews template and look have been created. Mass emails sent via this account are now being planned and scheduled by the Division in a coordination. A joint Facebook account has also been established to replace the separate Public Arts and Events accounts (<https://www.facebook.com/chapelhillculturalarts>). A single [homepage](#) on the Town website has been created for the Division that links to both Events and Arts programming, and headers on subpages are being updated to match.

Completed

- Library % for Art Project

An unveiling of the multi-media Installation of Erik Carlson's UNBOUND took place 3/11 to the delight of many in attendance. The installation received wide-spread media attention. A book mark tells the story of the artwork by the numbers. The artwork is attractive and meaningful, multilayered and fun to interact with. The installation remains popular.

- Shimmer Light Art Project

The Shimmer event took place as scheduled on 2/12 it featured 22 illuminated art, video and projections, along an 8-block area on the border between CH & Carrboro. A report on a debriefing session with the organizers will be presented and is attached. The event's success may mean organizing it to be an annual event, perhaps at slightly later time of the year.

Committee Reports

- Exhibitions Committee

The drawings of Mary Anderson are now on display at the Library. Town Hall features the paintings of Joy Meyer and the fused glass pieces of Trudy Thompson. The Committee met 4/14 to review Sculpture Visions submissions and recommend particular sculptures to 14 host sites. Host sites are to reply with final selections by Friday, 4/23. Then contracting with artists will commence. Current SV exhibit will deinstall in June and new sculptures install in July.

- Artist in School Residency

A new type of teacher training artist residency has been planned for 2016-17. Two teacher workshops with Donovan Zimmerman or Paperhand Puppet Intervention is scheduled for August and October. 11 teachers will take part and then create puppet making activities for about 1,000 students throughout the school year. The 2015-16 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)

Contracts have been initiated with, Mary Lamb and Nerys Levy to publish a dual language book illustrated by Karen youth about family and farming. The second project connects artist Peg Gignoux with art risk youth also in the Roger Road neighborhood to provide after school art classes with the goal of an illustrated book. Both projects are underway.

- Permanent Collection

An RFQ for artists to replace birdhouses at Southern Community Park (SCP) has been issued with a deadline of 4/29. A landscaping company will create a new ring for the *Pine Datum* at SCP once Parks Maintenance provides logs. A final decision about whether to recreate the *Fire Ladder* as a freestanding sculpture at SCP is needed. Artist Riley Foster is repairing *Sharing the Education* for resiting at Library this spring. Negotiations with a local artist to repaint *Reach* (the hands sculptures at P&R Administration) is on-going. *Promethean Honor Guard* will be resited from Fire Station #5 to Fire Station #1 prior to June 30.