

May 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 5/05 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 over 400 surveys either on-line or at an event. The final draft of the Plan is scheduled to be presented to Council on 5/23. Commissioner Emily Kass will do the majority of the presentation

- 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 forms 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. The selected artists - Caroly VanDuyn (CH), Mike Waller & Leah Foushee (Durham) and Todd Frahm (Swannanoa) met with the Project Manager and Contractor on-site and are preparing proposals to be reviewed by the selection committee in early August. The bench when completed will be placed on the new section of the Bolin Creek Trail scheduled to open at the end of 2016.

On-Going

- Crosswalk Project

A joint project with traffic engineering, public works, police and the bike and ped planning team for 5-artist-designed crosswalks 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. 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.

- Events

The UNC Science Expo featured the Town's Sustainability Stage and entertainment organized by Events. The festival was a huge success with over 5,000 people in attendance. The living tree sculpture, giant spider performance and Piedmont Wildlife live animal activities were a big hit.

Due to cooler and rainy weather, turn out for the 140 West Plaza programs has thus far been slight. The events every Friday continue throughout May. A colorful carnival of family fun and games is planned for May 20. A special Shakespeare on the plaza performance by Bare Theater is scheduled for June.

“Movies Under the Stars”, a series of 6 Thursday Night movies to be shown on top of the Wallace Deck is planned throughout the summer beginning 6/9. An exciting line up of space themed movies has been planned including the most recent Star Wars film. This has proven to be a popular offering of the Cultural Arts Division

Planning for the popular 4th of July celebration at Kenan Stadium is for the most part finalized

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.

Planning is underway for two Tar Heel Downtown Events this fall. The event moves the pre-football game pep rally to the 140 West Plaza area with band and games and plenty activities for the fans.

- 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 is ongoing with 102 participants in 15 classes and an anticipated \$3,700 profit for the Town. Summer camps are all full, with 23 more children on waitlists, the equivalent of 3 full camp sessions. The 3 summer adult classes are filling up. For the new fiscal year beginning July, additional staff hours have been approved to provide for glaze mixing and other studio support work and new fees have been approved to allow for 1-time and other types of short-term (non-class based) clay workshops and activities in the Studio.

- 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. In May, the design will be shared with Orange Co. Officials. Sharing the design with the full Veterans Memorial Committee will take place in early June.

- 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 decorative plates of Michelle Davis Petelinz are now on display at the Library. Town Hall features the paintings of Joy Meyer and the fused glass pieces of Trudy Thompson. For Sculpture Visions 2016-17, contracting has begun for 12 sculptures, with a 13th one for a new Franklin Street site under consideration by the Town. 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 was completed at Phillips Middle School.

Into the Streets: Community Art Project (CAP)

The Karen Book Project with, Mary Lamb and Nerys Levy and the Rogers Road Planting Hope Project that connects artist Peg Gignoux with art risk youth provide after school art classes with the goal of an illustrated book are in full swing (see report on the activities).

Permanent Collection

At Southern Community Park an artist Brenda Brokke is going under contract to create 4 new artistic birdhouses to replace 4 damaged/missing ones, and a landscaping company will create a new ring for the Pine Datum at SCP once Town provides the logs. Mike Roig is going under contract to touch up and move *Promethean Honor Guard* from Fire Station #5 to Fire Station #1. *Magnolia Exotica* will be moved from Library Sculpture Trail pad #1 to the Seymour Center, freeing up the Library pad for Sculpture Visions. Artist Mary Carter Taub is being contracted to repaint *Reach* (the "hands" sculptures) with her own design. Artist Riley Foster has completed maintenance and touch-up of *Sharing the Education* and awaits the pouring of a pad at the new Library location.