

August 2016 Staff Reports and Project Updates

New or Now

- Arts Plan

Now that the plan was adopted, we need to now begin to work on implementation strategies for reaching the various goals. Commissioner Kass and staff will work on the draft implementation plan to bring to the Commission for feedback in September

- Arts & Economic Impact Study

The study continues with data being slowly collected. To date 425 surveys have been collected. The goal is 600 with one quarter (Sept. - December) remaining in the survey period. A second part of the study is proving more difficult to implement. The Organizational survey which began in mid-July asks organizations a lot of 2015 financial data. At present only 5% of the organizations have responded despite multiple AFTA and myself. A phone call phase will need to be implemented if the numbers don't increase.

- 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. After review three interesting proposals on 8/4, Mike Waller & Leah Foushee (Hillsborough) were selected to complete the memorial bench project. The bench when completed will be placed on the new section of the Bolin Creek Trail scheduled to open at the end of 2016.

- Civil Rights Commemorative Bus

Planning is underway for a joint Dept. of Transit, Library and Parks & Recreation effort to create an artist wrapped bus to honor Rosa Parks and civil rights in Chapel Hill.

- Banned Book Trading Card Project

Solicitation for book cover designs for the annual banned book trading card project has been distributed in the five county region. Entries are arriving. A jury with Commission representation by Sally Stolmack will meet on 9/1 to select the 8 winners of the contest.

- Alleyways and murals

Michael Brown is under contract to refurbish his mauls in Varsity Alley and on the Pantana Bob's building. A group of town staff and Commissioner Kass has been meeting regarding design and art ideas for the post office alley, Amber Alley and others. Kass will report on information and progress at the August Commission meeting.

On-Going

- Crosswalk Project

The 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 which was supposed to be implemented this summer has been postponed to the fall due to the high temperature affecting the road surfaces. Church and W. Rosemary Sts.; Church & Henderson; and mid-block between Church and Mitchell Sts. On Rosemary will occur when Rosemary Street is repaved.

- 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

Summer Session ended August 19 with all camps having waitlists and all adult classes full. 104 individuals participated and another 34 were on waitlists. Fall Session A classes begin September 6 with a new Monday morning wheel class. P&R has pushed up fall classes by one month; classes previously began in October. The Studio is collaborating with the ArtsCenter to organize a “masters’ class” with a visiting ceramic artist to be held at both facilities in the spring.

- 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. Thee full Veterans Memorial Committee reviewed and accepted the design on 6/9.

- 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 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.

Committee Reports

Exhibitions Committee

The paintings of Liz Bradford are now on display at the Library. Town Hall features the photography of JJ Raia and the stone work of Darcy Meeker. A new slate of 16 artists to exhibit in the Juried Exhibitions Series at the Library and Town Hall through November 2017 was selected by representatives of the sites and Commissioner Drysdale. For Sculpture Visions 2016-17, 10 sculptures are now installed, with two more to be installed end-August / early-September. Print brochure and webpage to follow.

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 24 and October. 11 teachers will take part and then create puppet making activities for about 1,000 students throughout the school year.

Into the Streets: Community Art Project (CAP)

A Request for Project Proposals is being prepared and will be vetted through the Commission. Once approved it will be widely distributed. Once proposals have been received. They will be reviewed by a panel and the 2016-17 project(s) will be selected.

Permanent Collection

New artistic birdhouses and Pine Datum ring have been completed at Southern Community Park. Mike Roig *Promethean Honor Guard* was moved from Fire Station #5 to Fire Station #1 and a rededication event is scheduled for September 7 at 5:30 p.m.. 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.

A few maintenance issues have arisen with the Exhale sculpture at 140 West. There are problems with the lighting. Computerized diagnostics and physical testing showed that an electrical outflow connector to the 4th bank of lights was beginning to corrode causing the 5th banks of lights to malfunction. The connector was cleaned the best it could be and reattached. All the lights now work and the system has been restored to its original program (on at 5p.m. and off at 10 p.m.) This is probably a more temporary fix, as eventually the connector to bank 4 which is part of the closed light system base, will fail and the entire #4 light until will need to be replaced at a much higher cost. The warranty is no longer in effect. Another minor issue is the off the shelf light timer. It is not keeping good time and may also need to be replaced. Low pump pressure is causing the system to automatically shut off. The RO system seems to be leaking water. Our water system contractor is looking into the situation and will attempt to remedy it as quickly as possible.

Events

The 140 West Plaza programs will commence 9/9 and run through mid- November. The plaza series has been scaled back to 5 event. The schedule of activities is forthcoming.

“Movies Under the Stars”, a series of 6 Thursday Night movies, co-sponsored by the Downtown Partnership, shown on top of the Wallace Deck, was successful with between 150-300 people attending each film. The last film was shown on 8/18

The 4th of July celebration at Kenan Stadium will took place 7/4 to a record crowd of 34,000.

A later summer early fall farmers market is begins 8/24 at the 140 west plaza and Church Street. The 8-week runs through mid-October

Festifall 2016 which will take place on Saturday October 1. 110 artist will participate in the artist market. Entertainment on 3 stages, lots of activities, a living sculpture and a food truck court are just some of the fun of the day.

Tar Heel Downtown will be held October 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.