

December 2016 Staff Reports and Project Updates

New or Now

- Arts Plan

Final Report given at 01/18/17 meeting. A few suggestions and minor changes were requested.

- Herzenberg Memorial Bench Project

The Friends of Parks & Recreation funded artist-designed bench in honor of Joe Herzenberg, a former town council member and activist for CH environmental, racial and other causes is being created by Mike Waller & Leah Foushee (Hillsborough). The artist's construction drawings were reviewed and accepted by the design review committee. The bench when completed will be installed on the new section of the Bolin Creek Trail in late March or early April 2017.

- Americans for the Arts Membership (AFTA)

An organizational membership has been set in the name of the Chapel Hill Cultural Arts Commission. All Commissioners and Council liaison have basic privileges and access to a variety of list serves. Go to <http://www.americansforthearts.org/> then under "membership" button, then "log in" button, then "create new account" button to register and sign up for any listservs you wish to join.

Shimmer: Art of Light Exhibition

Shimmer took place on February 10th. There were 24 exhibits from 300 E. Main St. in Carrboro to Graham St. and beyond in CH. Parks & Rec staff, cultural arts commissioners, and 36 volunteers over saw a successful event. A constant stream of people were walking the streets and taking in the light exhibits even on a cold February night. Moving forward the Shimmer event will need to be evaluated and a decisions made about making it less labor intensive and more sustianable.

On-Going/Completed

- Crosswalk Project

Three of the five artist design crosswalks at Cameron & Wilson, W. Rosemary Street at Henderson; and mid- block between Church and Mitchell have been completed. They are colorful and hopefully will draw attention to vehicular and pedestrian safety. The crosswalks have received mostly positive response from the community. A citizen and council member concern was raised about visibility and safety. This was discussed at the 2/7 Bike & Pedestrian Champion's meeting and it was agreed that to address the safety issue, the white horizontal bars on either side of the painted designs would be made thicker. This would not impact the design and bring the thickness to a standard with other crosswalks in CH. Traffic engineering will contract with the company who originally did the painting to return and increase the thickness of the white lines on all four painted crosswalks. The crosswalks at the intersections of Cameron/Country Club has been rescheduled long-range due to a 1-2 year out plan to resurface that roadway. Due to hotel construction, crosswalks at Rosemary/Church will need to wait until fall of 2017.

- Community Clay Studio

Winter/Spring Session A classes are ongoing with record numbers: 127 participants, \$15,000 in revenue, \$4,500 in profit. Contract for April masters' workshop collaboration with ArtsCenter is collecting Town signatures.

- Northside Community Wall

Staff continues to work with the community representatives to include 8 photo etched panels to the wall. Estimates have been received. A local panel layout designer has been selected and is working on the designs. A community committee is identifying the photographs and wording for the panels. A tentative May date has been set for completion.

- Vets Memorial

The memorial concept to fit the new Orange Co. proposed site in Chapel Hill was approved by the Orange County Commission. The committee has not met since the October approval.

Committee Reports

Exhibitions Committee

The paintings of Charlotte-based artist Abigail Ditesheim are now on display at the Library. Town Hall is exhibiting posters of the Word Project poetry and the sculptures of May Britton. Commissioners will meet soon to discuss how the Sculpture Visions program may be improved for the upcoming exhibit.

Artist in School Residency

The second teacher workshop with Donovan Zimmerman of Paperhand Puppet Intervention was held on 1/23 at the Hargraves Center, due to no heat in the artist's warehouse. 11 teachers from CHCCS elementary schools attended and completed, with Donovan's advice and instruction, their rod puppets (see images shown at the 02/15 meeting). The puppets are imaginative. Staff is working with Kidzu and FRANK to find a space and time in the late spring to exhibit the student creations based on the teachers replicating what they learned in their classrooms.

Into the Streets: Community Art Projects (CAP) and Creative Projects Program

Planting has begun on the florafitti project by artist Carter Hubbard. At-risk teens from Boomerang and participants in the Art Therapy Institute will be working with the artist on 2/18 and 2/23 to develop the words and plant the seeds. An agreement with the CH Library will extend the project to beds along the library parking lots.

The other Into the Streets project coordinated by artist Hollie Taylor to conduct a series of 10 hands-on work sessions with a group (12-15) of youth from the Corner Teen Center and Volunteers for Youth Programs began in Late January.

The Creative Projects commission with Daniel LeClaire to paint signal boxes will take place in April.

A second round of Creative project proposals were due 2/3. Nine proposals were received and will be reviewed by a committee with commissioner representatives.

Permanent Collection

The misting pump of the Exhale sculpture at 140 West was shut off and winterized in mid-November. Lights will continue to function through the early-April reactivation.

Events

The events staff has been extraordinarily busy with a number of public and internal events in January and February and for planning future sponsored and co-sponsored programs.

Winning poems for the 6th annual *WORD* employee poetry contest in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were read on January 13 at the employee MLK celebration. Small cash awards are offered to the

winners and winning poems appear on posters currently exhibited in Town Hall and soon to be installed in Transit buses. Events team also served on the planning committee for this event and handled set up.

LIGHTUP Lantern Festival (<http://www.chlightup.org>) was held Saturday, January 28, 2017 at University Place from 11 - 6. Cultural Arts staff delivered tables, chairs and signacades to the event; assisted during the event; and retrieved equipment the following Monday. Involved organizations include FRANK, Kldzu, The Confucius Institute, UNC and Duke Asian Studies Departments, Chapel Hill Chinese Language & Culture School, RedApple Learning Campus, and Cary Chinese School. Successful event with over 10,000 in attendance.

“Rodeo on Rosemary”, a new food truck event will take place on March 26th. It would include 12 trucks in front of the Wallace Parking Deck. It’s a collaboration between the Downtown Partnership and the Triangle Food Truck Association and P&R.

The Community Egg Hunt will take place on April 8th at Southern Community Park. Over 2000 in attendance each year.

The UNC Science Expo will take place April 22nd. We will provide a stage, several interactive art activities and stage shows in addition to 16 exhibitors. The theme this year is “art & design”.

The town’s employee appreciation event will be on June 9th at the Friday Center. Committee meetings and planning have commenced.

The schedule for 5 events at the 140 West Plaza this spring is being developed with Depp South Productions beginning in early April and lasting until late May

Meetings to discuss a May Day community celebration for Rosemary St and the Northside have also begun.

Amanda Fletcher attended year 2 of “Event Management School” produced by the International Festivals and Events Association in January. She earned her CFEA (Certified Festivals and Event Associate).