

## March 2017 Staff Reports and Project Updates

### New or Now

- Percent for Art Priorities Plan

The plan will be reviewed at the March meeting.

- Herzenberg Memorial Bench Project/Merritt 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. A second bench funded by the Merritt family is being considered for Merritt pasture. The family has also selected Waller & Foushee to design the bench. The preliminary design, when submitted will be reviewed by the Arts Commission.

- 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 10<sup>th</sup>. A Powerpoint report will be given at the March meeting

- Arts Intern

UNC Junior Lindsay Nevitt is working 10 hours per week this spring semester for Cultural Arts through the Town's Thorpe Internship program. Lindsay is learning about current arts programming and how it is communicated, and later she will make recommendations for improving these processes.

### 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 raised about visibility and safety. Was addressed by increasing the thickness of the white horizontal bars on either side of the painted designs. 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 B classes begin this week. As of March 9<sup>th</sup> 121 participants are enrolled in 17 classes and income for this session is 20% greater than in 2016. We hope to run a new class for the visually impaired at the Community Center called Clay by Touch. The Department is requesting funds in the new fiscal year to run Clay by Touch in the fall and spring, and also to run a new Tuesday night adult

wheel class year-round and an additional Session A of the afternoon children's clay camp. The contract for the April masters' workshop collaboration with ArtsCenter has been executed and both the ArtsCenter and the Community Clay Studio workshops have enough participants enrolled to run them. Staff is currently coordinating publicity, materials and logistics with the artist and ArtsCenter.

- Northside Community Wall

Staff continues to work with the community representatives to include 8 photo etched panels memorializing the civil right activities in CH on the wall. A local graphic designer has completed the panel layouts. Estimates are being received for the stone, photoetching and the engraving. Samples are being shipped to be reviewed by the committee. Expected completion date is end of April. A dedication will be held on April 29 at the Northside Community Festival currently being planned.

- 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 watercolors of Durham-based artist Katie Ree are now on display at the Library through April. Town Hall is exhibiting through May the wildlife art of Chapel Hill's Torey Wahlstrom and ceramics made by recent adult participants from the Community Clay Studio. 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. A one night exhibition and reception will be held at Kidzu on May 9 to showcase 100 of the almost 1,000 puppets completed by the elementary students from the 11 schools (more information forthcoming).

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

Planting has been completed on the Florafitti project by artist Carter Hubbard. At-risk teens from Boomerang and participants in the Art Therapy Institute worked with the artist 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. In places the words are already starting to appear.

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 project will conclude with an exhibition and reception at Frank Gallery on May 27 (more information forthcoming)

The Creative Projects commission with Daniel LeClaire to paint signal boxes has been delayed due to receiving all the appropriate permission. Boxes at Rosemary/Henderson and Rosemary/Roberson will be painted in later April or May. The originally selected box at Rosemary/Columbia is in a NCDOT right of way and will not be painted.

A second round of Creative project proposals were reviewed by a committee with commissioner representatives on 3/2. Four projects were partially funded. Commission Josh Rothstein will present a report on those projects funded at the March meeting.

## Permanent Collection

The Exhale sculpture at 140 West will be reactivated on 4/7, along with the new season of arts & entertainment events on the plaza. The Permanent Collection will soon consider two works of art separately offered as donations to the Town: a 7' stainless steel sculpture by Edwin White and a massive sculpture by Thomas Sayre called "Arcanum".

## Events

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

"Rodeo on Rosemary", a new food truck event will take place on March 26<sup>th</sup>. It will include 13 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 8<sup>th</sup> at Southern Community Park. Over 2000 in attendance each year.

The UNC Science Expo will take place April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup> at the Friday Center. Committee meetings and planning have commenced.

The Live & Local series for the plaza has been booked:

**April 7th: Spring Fling.** Spring themed Stilt Walker, Spring Crafts; the Easter Bunny, Balloon Artists, Face Painter, and Games.

**April 21: Folk Exploration.** Folk/Americana music from Christiane; a Pinwheel Creation Station in celebration of Earth Day; and Games.

**May 5th: Cinco De Cycle:** Bluegrass music from Ellis Dyson & The Shambles

**May 12th: Cirque du Plaza.** Two (2) Aerialists from Down to Earth Aerials; a Caricature Artist; Face Painter; Balloon Artist; Crafts; and Games

**May 19th: Open Mic Teen Night.**

The "Movies Under the Stars" planning is underway. The theme this year is "sports movies". There will be an additional movie night at UNC's Boshamer stadium on May 20<sup>th</sup> featuring a baseball movie.

6/15: The Mighty Ducks

6/29: The Karate Kid

7/13: Kicking & Screaming

7/27: Cars

8/10: Space Jam

8/17: Remember the Titans