

April 2017 Staff Reports and Project Updates

New or Ongoing

- 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 50% fabrication materials 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 time for the June 3 National Trails Day Celebration and Trail dedication. 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.

- 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. She has also been gathering collection data to submit to the National Public Art Database.

- 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. 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.

- Sculpture Visions

The Sculpture Visions Committee met on April 5 to discuss possible changes to the program. Many ideas were discussed as ways to move forward. Commissioner Emily Kass will present a report and lead a discussion at the April 19th meeting of CHCAC. Staff will develop a plan to present to the Commission in May.

- Police Headquarters Art Exhibition

A partnership between FRANK artists Nerys Levy, Mary Lamb and Dennis Szerszen has brought art into the Chapel Hill Police Headquarters. Paintings and photographs are being displayed in some of the administrative areas. A reception to announce the hopefully on-going partnership will take place at police headquarters on April 25 at 5:30 p.m.

- Community Clay Studio

Winter/Spring Session B is halfway through its 8-week schedule. 129 participants are enrolled in 17 classes and income for this session is 30% greater than WSB 2016. 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

April masters' workshop collaboration with ArtsCenter will take place April 22, 23 29 and 30. 14 participants are registered - seven at each location.

- Northside Community Wall (Freedom Fighter Memorial)

Staff continues to work with the community representatives to include 8 photo etched panels memorializing the civil right activities in CH on the wall. Designs have been sent to a monument company and bronze dedication plaques are also being produced. 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.

Artist in School Residency

Workshops with Donovan Zimmerman of Paperhand Puppet Intervention taught 11 art teachers from CHCCS elementary schools the art of rod puppets. Teacher then instructed their classes in puppetmaking. A one night exhibition and reception will be held at Kidzu on May 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. to showcase 105 of the almost 1,000 puppets completed by the elementary students from the schools.

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. They are sprouting along Franklin and main Sts., the CH library and in other parking medians Video to be shown at the April 19 meeting.

The 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 is near completion. 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 is moving forward. Boxes at Rosemary/Henderson and Rosemary/Roberson will be painted in later April or May.

A second round of Creative project proposals were reviewed by a committee with commissioner representatives on 3/2. Four projects were partially funded.

Permanent Collection

The Exhale sculpture at 140 West was reactivated on 4/7, along with the new season of arts & entertainment events on the plaza. The Permanent Collection Committee is considering two works of art separately offered as possible 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 took place on March 26th. The 13 trucks in front of the Wallace Parking Deck was well received. Additional rodeos are being planned as a collaboration between the Downtown Partnership and the Triangle Food Truck Association and P&R.

The Community Egg Hunt took place on April 8th at Southern Community Park. Over 2000 were in attendance.

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 Northside Community Festival and dedication of the Freedom Fighter Memorial will be held on April 29 on Rosemary St. between Graham and Robeson. Lots of art performances and activities are planned.

The town’s employee appreciation event will be on June 9th 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 20th 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