

**Columbus Art Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2015
50 W. Gay Street (Beacon Building)**

Commissioners Present: DeeDee Glimcher, Diane Nance, David Barker, Malcolm Cochran, and Chip Santer

Commissioners Absent: Sarah Rogers, Barbara Nicholson

Planning Division Staff: Lori Baudro, AICP

- I. **Call to Order** – 5:00 p. m.
Chairman Nance welcomed guests and called the meeting to order.
- II. **Next Scheduled Commission Business Meeting** – March 11, 2015 at 8:30 a.m., King Arts Complex
- III. **Next Scheduled Commission Hearing** – February 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., 50 W. Gay Street (Beacon Building)
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - June 26, 2014, Approved 3-0-2 Cochran /Barker (Glimcher, Santer abstained)
 - September 23, 2014, Approved 5-0-0 Glimcher/Cochran
- V. **Applications**

CAC Application # 11-02-01/14 (Annual Continuation)

Project: *Annual Re-design of the Daymon Day Mural 2014*

Location: Tuttle Park, 240 W. Oakland Avenue – south side of the tennis wall at the southeast corner of the park.

Applicant: Tony Collinger on behalf of the Daymon Day Organizers

The redesign of the Daymon Day “RIP” mural at Tuttle Park is an annual event occurring each September. The mural is painted on the south side of the tennis wall located at the southeast corner of the park. Per the agreement reached between the Columbus Art Commission and the Daymon Day organizers, an application was filed to approve the 2014 redesign/alterations to the mural.

Presenter: Tony Collinger, Daymon Day Organizer

Discussion:

Collinger stated that the Daymon and Daymon Day Date images were unchanged. Organizers are considering ways to re-emphasize the event and mural’s focus which is inclusive and positive. The event is nearing its ten year anniversary and newer participants are sometimes less familiar with Daymon Dodson and his message. As they rethink the day’s events, they may also rethink their approach to the 2015 mural. There is interest in becoming more topical with a focus on story telling. Collinger stated that he would return to the CAC if organizers decided to take a different approach to mural design. Anecdotally, he believes that many people see the wall. Commissioners expressed their support of the mural project.

Action Requested:

- 1) Approval of the alteration of an existing work of art per Code Chapter 3115.04 (D)

Commission Action:

Motion to approve the alteration of an existing work of art per Code Chapter 3115.04 (D) **Approved Santer/Cochran 5-0-0**

CAC Application # 15-01-01

Project: *Scioto Lounge II*

Location: Rich Street Bridge – mid-point location along the north rail

Applicant: Columbus Public Art Program

Presenter: Lori Baudro, Coordinator, Columbus Public Art Program

Terry Allen completed the first phase of the Scioto Lounge Public Art Project with the installation of the sitting and reclining deer in September 2014. Per Allen’s contract, three related public art proposals were completed. The City wishes to move forward with fabrication and installation of a third deer proposed for placement along the north rail of the Rich Street Bridge. This piece will complete the Scioto Lounge Public Art Series.

Discussion:

Commissioners were pleased with the art proposal and felt that it completed the Scioto Lounge art installation started at Genoa Park.

Action Requested:

Approval of the final design and placement of the *Scioto Lounge II* public artwork per Code Chapter 3115.04 (C)

Commission Action:

Motion made to approve final design and placement of the *Scioto Lounge II* public artwork as presented. **Santer/Cochran 5-0-0**

CAC Application # 14-06-02

Project: *African Portal*
Location: English Park/Kwanza Playground
Applicant: Columbus Public Art Program

Presenter: Lori Baudro, Coordinator

The design for the replacement African Portal was approved by the Columbus Art Commission on June 26, 2014. Replacement of the original Portal was necessary because of extensive wood rot. Artist Queen Brooks created a redesign of her original artwork to be fabricated in powder coated steel. The piece was installed in the Park fall 2014. Artist expressed concern that the Adinkra symbol for “welcome” was missing from the artwork. The symbol had been integrated into the arch of the Portal as specified, but the color and weight of the symbol caused it to recede into the overall Portal design. Public Art and CRPD Staff worked with the fabricator to address the problem and arrived at the solution to add the symbol to the portal using the same cut-out and color format as the column symbols. The work can be completed under the original contract. Work will be completed pending artist approval.

Discussion:

Baudro stated the Portal was fabricated to the artist’s specifications, but the results weren’t what she expected. Staff believes that this solution will work and will meet with the artist to review. The work can be completed under the existing contract. Commissioners were supportive of the approach, pending artist agreement.

Action Requested:

Pending artist approval, the request is for the CAC to approve the alteration of an existing work of art. Code Chapter 3115.04 (D)

Commission Action:

Motion made to approve, pending artist agreement, the alteration of the African Portal artwork at Kwanzaa Playground per Columbus Code Chapter 3115.04 (D).

CAC Application # 15-01-02

Project: *Harrison Park Public Art Project*
Location: Harrison Park, along the Scioto River in the vicinity of First Avenue
Applicant: Columbus Public Art Program

Presenter: Lori Baudro, Coordinator

The Artist Advisory Panel approved by the CAC for the Harrison West public art project met Monday afternoon, January 26, 2015. Twenty-one artist submitted qualifications that met the RFQ criteria. The Panel voted 6-0-1 (Bole abstaining) to recommend the following three artist finalists be approved by the Art Commission and offered the opportunity to create site specific public art proposals:

1. Jon Barlow Hudson, Yellow Springs, Ohio
2. Xan Palay, Columbus, Ohio
3. Todd Kime, Ottawa Hills, Ohio

Discussion:

The City released a statewide artist call for qualifications and the deadline was extended a week to increase the number of submissions. Twenty-one responses were received and nine artists moved on to the second round of voting. Staff presented the three artist finalists; the votes for which were unanimous with the exception of panel member MJ Bole’s abstention. Commissioners Nance and Cochran expressed concern about Bole’s abstention and what that said about the finalists. Staff had no details on Bole’s abstention. Santer, a member of the Panel, said that there was good discussion amongst the panelists, although he felt there should have been an evaluation criteria addressing subjectivity. He noted that a neighborhood-based artist he supported did not make the final cut, but overall, felt the process worked.

Cochran was felt that the pool of artists was not very strong and he was concerned by the plan to present the proposals for a public vote prior to Commission review. He felt put the CAC in the position of potentially voting against projects brought before them. The Short North Alliance’s Buttles Avenue project was referenced. Staff reminded Commissioners that they approved the Harrison West Public Art Artist Advisory Panel and reviewed and provided comments on the RFQ that outlined the voting process. Changing the process now would be very difficult given artist and community expectations.

Staff stressed that the artist selection process used was the one provided by Shelly Willis, Executive Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, who had been retained to lead the North Bank Public Art Project. Staff deviated from Willis’ process at the point of proposal review because: 1) Harrison West Society (HWS) is partnering with the City and paying 1/3 or \$30,000 of the project cost; 2) HWS has an established a history of funding and running successful neighborhood public art projects without neighborhood issue; 3) Public Art projects in Harrison West are traditionally celebrated with a community gathering to view and vote on the art proposals; 4) HWS agreed to a City run, statewide RFQ; 5) HWS agreed to artist presentations at the community event, which will be videotaped and available on the City’s web site during a two week on line voting period. The Harrison West Public Art Project is a special situation and it is unlikely that other neighborhoods will bring the same level of both funding and experience to a public art project.

Commissioners Nance and Cochran raised the possibility of having all public art proposals come before the Commission before being presented to art advisory panels. Staff did not support this approach – it diminishes the role of the art panels seated by the Commission and represents a major shift from the process established with the North Bank Public Art Invitational. The duty of the Commission is to approve or deny the design and placement of art. There is always a chance for tension between what a panel and community supports and what the Commission will approve. Staff agreed to discuss these concerns with Willis.

Action Requested:

Approval of Hudson, Palay and Kime as the three finalist artists for the Harrison Park Public Art Project and to invite the artists to each submit a site specific public art proposal.

Commission Action:

A motion was made to approve the selection of Hudson, Palay and Kime as the three finalist artists for the Harrison Park Public Art Project and to invite the artists to each submit a site specific public art proposal. (Santer/Barker) 4-0-1 (Cochran abstained)

IV. Other Business - None

VI. Other Business

- Public – None
- Commissioners – None
- Staff - None

VII. Adjournment