



**Columbus Art Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2015
50 W. Gay Street (Beacon Building)**

Commissioners Present: David Barker, Malcolm Cochran, Chip Santer, Sarah Rogers, and Barbara Nicholson (late)

Commissioners Absent: DeeDee Glimcher and Diane Nance,

Planning Division Staff: Lori Baudro, AICP

- I. **Call to Order** – 5:00 p. m.
Vice Chairman Santer welcomed guests and called the meeting to order.
- II. **Next Scheduled Commission Business Meeting** – May 13, 2015 at 8:30 a.m., King Arts Complex
- III. **Next Scheduled Commission Hearing** – May 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., 50 W. Gay Street (Beacon Building)
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - January 27, 2015 (held pending distribution)
 - February 24, 2015 Approved 4-0-0 (Rogers/Cochran)
- V. **Applications**

CAC Application # 15-04-01

Project: *Find me in the Park, It's TREEmendous*
Location: Multiple city park locations
Applicant: City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department

Presenter: Geoffrey Martin, Arts Administrator, Cultural Arts Center, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD)

Following a Preliminary Project Discussion in February, applicants returned to present the proposals selected for the temporary installation of treehouse-themed artwork in five Columbus parks. The RFP was released 3/23 and closed 4/24. The Art Panel reviewing the submissions met April 24th. The art will be displayed from June 22nd thru September 21st. A total of five art pieces will be commissioned one for each of the following five parks:

- Schiller Park (south – German Village);
- Westgate Park (west - Hilltop);
- Park of Roses (north - Clintonville);
- Wolfe Park (east - Old Town East); and
- Goodale Park (central - Short North).

Discussion:

Martin informed Commissioners that six proposals were received and five were selected by a five member panel that included Commissioner DeeDee Glimcher. The Department's Forestry staff will oversee installation of the houses. Some concern that the houses may be stolen or vandalized was expressed by Commissioners. Martin stated that CRPD will maintain the houses. Friends of the parks where the houses are to be placed are all on board and will help keep an eye on the pieces. Martin introduced the selected proposals by artists: Justin Reed, Darrick Gill, Cynthia J. Bryden, Sharon Dorsey, and Terri Maloney-Hutson.

Commissioners focused on the Reed proposal, which did not appear to be as professionally rendered and for which, concern was expressed about its durability and ability to hold-up in an outdoor setting. Martin felt that the concept might not be there as strongly as the other proposals, but the idea was good; the Cultural Art Center works to nurture and encourage artists, but he understood the Commission's quality concerns. He believed that they could find an artist experienced with outdoor installations to assist Reed.

Action Requested:

Approval of the design of the *TREEmendous* public art proposals as submitted for placement at the Department of Recreation and Parks' discretion at Schiller Park, Westgate Park (west - Hilltop), Park of Roses, Wolfe Park, and Goodale Park per Code Chapter 3115.04 (A & B)

Commission Action:

A motion was made to accept all of the proposals submitted with the exception of the proposal submitted by Justin Reed.

Cochran/Rogers 4-0-0

CAC Application # 15-04-02

Project: *Livingston Park Public Art Project*
Location: Livingston Park, across from the Children's Hospital Emergency Room
Applicant: Neighborhood Design Center/Columbus Public Art Program

Presenter: Lori Baudro, Columbus Public Art Program Coordinator

The City of Columbus Public Art Program contracted with the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) on the development of a streetcar themed public artwork for Livingston Park. The project is the second in a series to celebrate Livingston Avenue as the location of the first streetcar line in Columbus.

The NDC, with support from The Columbus Public Art Program, the Greater Columbus Arts Council, the Columbus Foundation and the Dailey Foundation launched a Request for Qualification/Artist Call for the project at the beginning of the month. Submissions are due May 1st. The art budget is \$50,000, all inclusive. The Design Center has seated a Public Art Panel and has submitted the names for CAC approval.

Discussion:

Baudro submitted the Art Advisory Panel Roster to Commissioners and read the names into record. The list included voting and nonvoting members.

Action Requested:

Approval of the Art Advisory Panel members as Panel submitted for the Livingston Park Public Art Project.

Commission Action:

A motion was made to approve the Livingston Park Public Art Project Artist Advisory Panel members as submitted. **Rogers/Cochran 4-0-0**

VI. Other Business

Preliminary Project Discussion: COTA Cleveland Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project (follow-up).

Presenters: Brian Weiss, COTA, Matt Selhorst, A/CP, HDR

On May 22, 2014, project planners first presented the COTA Cleveland Avenue BRT project to the CAC and sought input on ways to integrate public art. Since that time COTA has determined that the artwork will be incorporated into the rear windows of 33 CMAX stations extending from Cleveland Avenue in Downtown Columbus, 15.6 miles north to Polaris Parkway and Africa Road. Project planners have returned to discuss the process drafted to obtain the artwork designs.

Discussion:

Project planners stated that since their last meeting with the CAC it was determined that the public art associated with the project would be placed in the rear walls of the bus shelters through a process using vinyl between two tempered glass panels. Planners have conducted multiple community meetings with Area Commissions and Township representatives about the project and the plan for incorporating artwork. Unanimously, representatives stated that they had artists in their neighborhoods that they would like to see engaged in the project. Area Commissions will serve as the first contact for the art and will talk to artists to get ideas for shelters within their Commission boundaries. Each Area Commission will appoint a contact person to work with the artists, COTA and larger Commission membership. The schedule they are following will have the final designs completed by November 2015. They will be seating an Art Panel to review the Area Commission approved artist proposals prior to review by the Art Commission. Planners have reached out to CCAD to possibly get students involved and seat a faculty member on the Art Panel.

Commissioners questioned why the Area Commissions were developing the art proposals. Planners stated that Area Commissions would be choosing artists and proposals, but not designing the art themselves. Planners emphasized the need for neighborhood buy-in for the art and project. A question was asked about the possibility of other glass treatment such as etching or fretted glasswork – Planners said those approaches were ruled out because of cost and maintenance. It was noted by Commissioners that the strong, black and white graphics like the wood carving prints in the Long Street Bridge Culture wall have worked particularly well in that locations.

Commissioners complemented the Planners for returning to update the CAC on their progress and process, but noted that putting the Art Commission at the end of the approval process puts Commissioners in the awkward position of possibly not approving art that has been endorsed by the project Art Panel and Area Commissions. Art Commissioners asked to be able to review the qualifications of the artists selected to create the art proposals, which is the usual step for the City’s Public Art Program. They also felt that the Area Commissions needed help getting successful proposals and that guidelines should be established to assist them in their work. Planners stated that they would be available to work with Area Commissions.

Commissioners also felt that some of the artists may not have public art experience and would need assistance developing their artwork for the project. For example, Planners stated that they wanted the artists to deliver full-sized art work and Commissioners felt strongly that they would need assistances getting their art to the required scale. COTA needed to be clear and consistent about project requirements, such as size, background, color, etc.

Commissioners requested that based on the schedule provided, Planners return to the May or June meeting with the art proposals.

Action Requested: None required.

VII. Other Business

- Public – None

- Commissioners –
 - Commissioner Santer stated that he met with Betsy Pandora, Executive Director of the Short North Alliance thru his position with Vogt Santer Insights and had lunch with Pandora and Michelle Brandt, Public Art Committee, Short North Alliance to discuss public art. Santer, Cochran and Nance are scheduled to meet with Pandora and Brandt on May 5th. Staff cautioned Commissioners to be mindful not to have four or more people at a meeting as that would constitute a quorum. Santer felt that was not a concern because only three Commissioners would be in attendance.
 - Commissioner Nicholson updated Commissioners on some of the Convention Authority and Hilton’s public art activity. The Hilton is considering a \$70-75,000 public art project to replace plantings along the front façade of the building. The plant material has not been able to withstand the intensity of the sun reflection from the Convention Center. The Convention and Visitor Authority has retained the Reese Brothers to manage their public art program. Artist calls will be issued through GCAC for art for three garages. They are seeking tiles of various sizes that could be ceramic or metal for application to walls within the garages – one garage will feature youth created art and another will feature art by adult artists. The Cultural Art Center will assist with creation of the tiles
 - Commissioner Cochran stated that the first Bold Booth will be installed at the Westin Parking lot by the Great Southern. The booth was designed by Blostein Overly and the dedication will be on Sunday, June 7th.
- Staff – None

VIII. Adjournment