

## **Public Art and Cultural Commission**

July 10, 2013

### **Members Present**

Robert Todd, Chair

Guillermo Rodriguez, Vice-Chair

Sharon Trammel

Julie Calhoun-Roepnack

Gwynne Rukenbrod

Jaan Ferree

### **Staff Present**

Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director

Basil Punsalan, Cultural Arts Administrator

Christy Bass, Interim Business Services Superintendent

Guillermo called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

### **1. Approve June Minutes**

Gwynne motioned to approve the June minutes, with corrections. Jaan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all were in favor.

### **2. US Cellular Center Terrazzo Floor Artist Recommendation**

Basil stated that the final artist selection is complete. The selection committee consisted of 11 people and was made up of PRCA staff, US Cellular Project Managers, and a PACC member. Jaan stated that one of the finalists, Scott Parsons withdrew from consideration. Another finalist, Carolyn Braaksma, was not selected due to her design and bold color palette. The artist selected was Joan Weismann because the design she prepared had nice visual appeal and a broad color palette. The selection committee recommended reconfiguring her design by turning it upside down and then applying it to the floor. Basil stated that the artist is being asked to use the same colors that will be used in the re-design of the US Cellular Center. Robert recommended not staying too close to the color palette on the walls because the floor will remain for at least 50 years, but the walls will be repainted every 12 years. Jaan said that the intent is to ask the artist to use fewer colors because it will take each color one day to install and cure.

Julie asked if the terrazzo comes in a full spectrum of colors. Basil responded yes, the terrazzo aggregate can come in a variety of colors, and that the artist had proposed Mother of Pearl, however the Project Manager has said this option will be costly. Debbie added that Joan Weismann had already outlined in her proposal letter her ability to be flexible and make adjustments to simplify the work because her initial design proposal included the maximum amount of detail. The next step is to communicate the recommended changes to Joan and ask her to submit a final color palette.

Debbie reported that the timeline for ordering the floor materials is July 20. Sharon asked if mica can be used as an aggregate. Basil responded that it is too soft of a material. The sub-contractors also recommended against using granite because it is hard to grind down, but agreed that using a local

product would be ideal. Debbie said that the floor installer is providing some recommendations on the best products to use based on cost, maintenance, and wear and tear.

Jaan recognized that this is the first selection process to work through an official committee and that the panel expressed interest in working on the next projects such as the Biltmore Garage, the Nature Center Entryway, and greenways. Debbie added the selection committee will be asked for to help make the process better. She added that once all of the terrazzo floor details are finalized with the artist, a webcam will be installed so the public can see the process, and to document the installation process.

Robert asked if the color of the cement/infill mix is a selected color, or if it is a basic grey or white. Debbie responded that the epoxy can be colored by paint. Julie asked if there was a budget for this project. Debbie responded that the budget was set at \$20,000 and that the final contract will further define the details of how the budget will be broken down. Basil added that the sub-contractors already working on the construction project will be installing the floor, with the remaining money going to the artist. Gwynne expressed the need to clearly explain to the artist what she can expect as compensation. Debbie stated that the construction manager overseeing the flooring does not expect the terrazzo floor installation to cost much more than the initially proposed design.

Robert said that they may want to consider crafting the language in the call for artists for the Biltmore Garage so that the artist is fully aware of the compensation. Gwynne said that it would be great if the City could offer some engineering cost and support to help ensure that an artist's work could be installed. Debbie responded that typically this type of request would be at the expense of the artist.

### **3. PACC Applicant Recommendation**

Debbie said that there were three new applicants for 2013 and six from 2012 who are eligible for the current PACC vacancy.

Guillermo motioned to recommend Denise Drury, Victor Palamino, and Constance Richards as their top applicants for the City Council Boards and Commission Committee to interview for the Public Art and Cultural Commission vacancy. Julie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all were in favor.

Guillermo asked when the interviews would take place and Debbie responded that she was not sure when the next Boards and Commission Committee will meet; it could be as early as August for an approval from Council.

### **4. Assistant Director Report**

No Report.

Robert asked for a recap of the new organizational structure of the PRCA Department. Debbie reported that City Council had adopted a full year budget for the department. She added that the Cultural Recreation Authority (CRA) had not yet become law at the time of adopting the budget, and due to the language in the proposed bill, Buncombe County will be allowed to form this new entity but it is still unclear if the City will be allowed to participate in the future. The Cultural Art Division is being restructured due to the Superintendent of Cultural Arts position being deleted and festival operations ending at the end of September. The elements of the Cultural Arts Division are still being evaluated to determine what will go to the Office of Economic Development, such as new public art acquisition, and what will remain in PRCA. Gwynne added that she and Guillermo met with Brenda Mills to discuss ideas and recommended the PACC support both departments, if possible. Debbie stated that any events will

now be handled through the Office of Economic Development, and that the Mobile Art Lab will now be operated through LEAF.

#### **5. Old Business**

No Report.

#### **6. New Business**

Gwynne asked about the Buncombe County Cultural Alliance and if they need to recommend a PACC member for representation. Debbie responded that she is working with Tracy Kungler, Kitty Love, and Brenda Mills to discuss the tier one stakeholders and then will share information with additional stakeholders. Tracy will be the facilitator for the first six months of the alliance.

Robert adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.