



SYRACUSE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

April 17, 2012 5:30 pm Syra-Stat Office, 215 City Hall

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Present: Chris Capella-Peters, Rick Destito, Corky Goss, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, London Ladd, Dan Ward, Bahar Zaker

Absent: Karen Convertino, George Curry, Bob Doucette, Joanna Spitzner

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.
The Commission reviewed the minutes from the March 13, 2012 meeting. D. Ward moved to approve the minutes and B. Zaker seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- II. Old Business
SPAC -12-03 *Resourced Mural at ArtRage*, Chris Stain. K. Auwaerter reported that she had heard from Rose Viviano (ArtRage) that the artist had withdrawn from the project so the gallery is considering how to move forward. At this time the application is withdrawn.
- III. New Business
SPAC -12 -04 *Transitions*, Timothy Frerichs. Deborah Ryan (Everson Museum) presented the application to the commission for a temporary installation that will be part of the *The Other New York* exhibition. She provided some background about the artist and similar work that he had completed. The 20'x 8'x 8' container is proposed for the 200 block of Erie Boulevard E. across from the Erie Canal Museum. The installation consists of two sculptural pieces made of Tyvek in the shape of boat sails. On each sail the artist will attach drawings or collages of material that he has collected along the Erie Canal. The installation will be lighted with battery powered lights, no generators will be needed.

The commission requested additional information including a plan view drawing of the interior of the container so that it was clear how people would move through the installation. The commission also asked for specific information about the sculptures themselves. C. Goss commented that the commission needed to be consistent in what it requires of artists. While respecting the creative process, he noted that the commission needs to understand what was being approved on behalf of the city.

SPAC -12 -05 *Journey*, Misha Rabinovich. Misha Rabinovich presented the application for a temporary installation in Columbus Circle, which will be part of the *The Other New York*

exhibition. He described the broad conceptual themes of the installation including voyage and immigration, alchemy and sustainability, and how these connected to Columbus Circle site. He explained how viewers will be able to interact with the space and get the sense of moving into a distant life or a portal into a new world. He also described some of the features of the installation including the small aqua-farm toilet as well as a bike that will generate electricity.

C. Capella-Peters questioned how the container would be installed without damaging the trees, and stated that a site plan would be needed to show where exactly the container would be placed within the site.

B. Zaker asked how viewers could access the background and conceptual information about the installation. Pam McLaughlin (Everson Museum) said that the Everson planned to include QR code technology as well as cell phone audio at each site.

M. Rabinovich explained that the container would be closed and locked at night and manned during all hours it was open, either by him or by volunteers. D. Ward asked about the fish that will be living in the toilet under what could be extreme conditions. The artist explained that a heater would keep the fish bowl at an even temperature. The container will need electricity which could be run from a small generator or from neighboring light poles. K. Auwaerter will help facilitate this.

K. Auwaerter also asked about wheelchair accessibility, which M. Rabinovich explained would still need to be figured out. L. Ladd recommended that a first aid kit be available at all times too.

C. Goss noted that the contents of the container still need to be finalized and the commission would need to see a drawing or model of the final arrangement and design.

N. Keefe Rhodes asked M. Rabinovich if he had other ideas of where the container could go if the Powelson site was not approved for any reason. He suggested that the new "Lemp Park" might be an alternative site, although it did not resonate in the same way as the Columbus Circle site.

SPAC -12-06 *Bells of Surrender*, Brendan Rose. B. Rose explained that he had identified two new locations on University Avenue for the bell sculptures. The new proposal is to install the works near the intersection Madison Street and University Avenue – one on the west side of University Avenue adjacent to Grace Episcopal Church and one on the east side of University Avenue adjacent to Temple Concord. He had received permission from both the church and temple congregations for the installation.

As for the new locations, B. Rose said that they will be well integrated into the Connective Corridor infrastructure. He noted that the bell next to the Temple will be at the entrance to a new garden path that the congregation is installing with a Connective Corridor grant. The piece near Grace Church is located in the vicinity of the church garden and in the City ROW. The piece

adjacent to the Temple may be within the ROW or may be placed on Temple property depending on the exact location of the ROW line.

The commission discussed the works and inspected the models as well as the sample bell that B. Rose had brought to the discussion. B. Rose noted that the pieces of Syracuse China will be scattered in a random fashion around the base and are not supposed to look like a mosaic. The words "I leave my love here" will be water jet cut into the steel. The concrete will be built into the sidewalk and B. Rose is coordinating the installation with the Connective Corridor.

D. Ward made a motion, which was seconded by B. Zaker to approve the installation of the Bell of Surrender next to Grace Church and to recommend that the Bell be adopted into the City's permanent public art collection. The motion was approved unanimously.

N. Keefe Rhodes made a motion, which was seconded by L. Ladd, to approve the installation of the Bell of Surrender next to Temple Concord and to recommend that the Bell be adopted into the City's permanent public art collection, if it was determined that the installation would be in the City's ROW. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Discussion

Mapping and Downtown Moratorium. K. Auwaerter presented a map of downtown depicting the location of all publically owned properties and of all the designated historic districts and identified historic properties. She provided the following summary of the mapping, which was also provided as a memo to the commissioners:

- The number of large-scale public spaces or parcels owned or controlled by the City is limited. Among the short list though are some iconic public spaces (such as Clinton Square and Columbus Circle) or key gateway or "presentation" sites (such as Fayette/Salina Street corner).
- Although the City does not control large vacant spaces, it does control substantial "linear" property, i.e. the right-of-way and sidewalks.
- Also significant are the major entrances and pathways into downtown: E. Genesee Street to Fayette Street (the Connective Corridor Route); South and North Salina Street; and Harrison Street and Adams Street. These all could be subject to interesting art installations that take advantage of the linear corridors (murals, banners, sidewalk artwork)

From the mapping, K. Auwaerter noted that the following locations are recommended priority locations that should be under special consideration for new installations: Salina Street and Fayette Street (former Common Center), Clinton Square, City Hall forecourt, Columbus Circle, Hanover Square including City Hall Commons plaza area, Fayette Park, Billings Park, and the Onondaga Creekwalk.

To this list, C. Capella-Peters added the overpasses that provide a sense of entry into downtown including at E. Genesee Street, Harrison Street and W. Genesee Street at West Street. There was also discussion about the forecourt at the MOST, which K. Auwaerter noted was not City-

owned, as well as other private spaces such as the plaza in front of the Hotel Syracuse at the intersection of S. Salina and E. Onondaga Streets, which are important locations for art.

The commission discussed next steps including the development of a philosophical approach to the “primary” locations, specifically identifying which sites should be a top priority, criteria around each site, and how artwork should be procured. C. Capella-Peters noted that the master plan should layout a systematic approach to these downtown sites. She also noted that the list of key sites would not be formalized until the entire commission had the opportunity to review the mapping.

- V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.