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SYRACUSE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

February 12, 2013 5:30 pm Syra-Stat Office, 215 City Hall

Attendance

Present: Chris Capella-Peters, Karen Convertino, George Curry, Rick Destito, Bob Doucette, Corky Goss, London Ladd, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Dan Ward, Bahar Zaker

Absent: n/a

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

I. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting. J. Spitzner moved to approve the minutes and B. Zaker seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously as submitted.

II. Old Business
No Old Business

III. New Business
SPAC 13-01 *in Court*, Yvonne Buchanan (UVP) Anneke Herre presented the proposal for a UVP installation Yvonne Buchanan at the Everson UVP site. She described the artist's background and work and noted the juxtaposition of the images of the "caged" basketball players with the audible presence of the basketball court in the neighboring County's Justice Center. D. Ward made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by L. Ladd. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Discussion
Mural repair/refurbishment: Columbus Circle and S. Clinton Streets. K. Auwaerter presented a proposal for two mural restorations/refurbishments: *Art Masters* by the Syracuse Art Squad (Andy Matlow) on the railroad wingwall on S. Clinton Street near Adams, and the untitled mural on the Chancery Building in Columbus Circle also by the Art Squad. The Downtown Committee received funding from the Catholic Diocese [for the Chancery Building] and from CNYArts [for both murals]. Through an RFP process, the Downtown Committee has selected muralist Kelly Curry to perform the repairs/repainting. K. Auwaerter noted that the artist was prepared to

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come discuss the projects with the Commission and that this was an opportunity to formulate some of the questions they have about the projects.

The Commission discussed the projects and had the following questions and concerns. The proposal calls for “fixing” the perspective on the Chancery mural. C. Goss noted that the murals had a “folksy” character and changes to the perspective would alter that character. The repair/repainting should not include this type of alteration without the consent of the original artist. D. Ward commented that earlier “refurbishments” had included some inappropriate updates and that a restoration of the Chancery mural to its original appearance was desirable. This could only be accomplished with original images of the mural.

C. Goss also had questions about the materials proposed. He suggested that the artist use 100% acrylic paint rather than latex paint. He also said that the proposed sealer (Bondago) appeared to be an expensive interior craft sealer. There were also further questions about the wall preparation. It was agreed that the sponsors should want the best preparation and materials for the project. K. Auwaerter reminded the Commission that if the project was a repair only of the existing murals with no alterations, then it was akin to maintenance and the Commission’s role would be to comment only (no application required).

In conclusion, the Commission requested the following information from the project sponsor/artist: a full explanation of the preparation of the wall surfaces and the proposed paint and sealer; an explanation of any changes to the murals as they appear now; and further explanation of the project sponsorship.

Airport Initiative: C. Capella-Peters reported that the subcommittee of the Commission had met with the Commissioner of Aviation to discuss an airport public art program. The response was entirely positive with the Commissioner stating that she planned to include funding for the program in the coming fiscal year’s budget. Subsequent to the meeting at the airport, the subcommittee had also formed a larger working group that includes a number of interested individuals, including artists Arlene Abend and Ann Cappuccilli who had made a presentation to the Airport Authority Board about the possibility of a program to improve the quality of the aesthetic environment and experience at the airport.

The subcommittee is now working on two parallel tracks: to develop a public art plan specific to the airport and to pursue installing one or more works at the airport this year. To that end, the subcommittee is developing an RFQ for public artists. The purpose of the RFQ is twofold: to locate potential artists for the airport installations and to develop a database that the Commission can use for subsequent installations throughout the city.

The subcommittee also noted that it hoped that the UVP might be able to have a temporary or more permanent presence at the airport. Anneke Herre noted that the UVP mobile unit had specific power requirements; generally speaking a generator is needed to power the projector which means that “one-off” events were extremely expensive. She has sent the technical requirements to K. Auwaerter who will share them with the airport. The Commission discussed the possibility of building the video capabilities into the finished design of the airport.

G. Curry noted that the airport offered opportunity for both interior as well as exterior public artworks. C. Capella-Peters stated that the proposed plan will include not only goals and objectives for the airport public art program, but recommendations about the broader issue of the overall aesthetic environment at the airport.

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Perseverance Park/Common Center: K. Auwaerter reported that the Perseverance Park/Common Center redesign project was being folded into the Administration's department of Mayoral Initiatives. She noted that a meeting was scheduled shortly with interested parties including representatives from the Downtown Committee and the Connective Corridor to lay out the strategy for this project.

- V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.