

Approved as submitted



REGULAR MEETING

March 8, 2016

SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)

5:30 pm

Attendance

Present: Karen Convertino, Rick Destito, Bob Doucette, Kerry Kennedy, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Dan Ward

Absent: George Curry, Corky Goss, London Ladd, Bahar Zaker

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

I. Meeting called to order at 5:38 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of February 9, 2016. N. Keefe Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by K. Convertino. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Old Business:

SPAC 16-03: *Current* (Blessing Hancock) and SPAC 16-04: *Seattle* (Dewitt Godfrey).

Quinton Fletchall provided a brief update for the projects; specifically, both Hancock and Godfrey are conferring with their engineers on their respective projects. Both artists hope to make a final presentation the Commission at the April meeting.

III. New Business

SPAC 16-05: *Chima Cloud*, Saya Woolfalk. Anneka Herre (Light Work) presented the application for the screening of *Chima Cloud* by Saya Woolfalk, the Light Work's video artist-in-residence. It is the last film in the Urban Video Project' year-long series, titled *We Were Never Human*. The video will be screened from April 7 through May 28, 2016 at the Everson UVP site. It will run in tandem with a multi-media exhibit of the artist's work also at the Everson Museum. A. Herre provided information about the work as well as the artist's biography. J. Spitzner made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by N. Keefe Rhodes. The Commission approved the motion unanimously.

IV. Discussion

Connective Corridor Public Art program: *STORYTIME*, Wesley Heiss & Marek Walczak. Marek Walczak provided an update on the project to install a text-based "clock" on the Powelson site in Columbus Circle. The clock is a black, powder-coated steel monolith with a large, toughened-glass screen, behind which a dot matrix screen of LEDs will display text that tells stories about time. The text will change every minute. M. Walczak explained that part of the purpose of his

visit to Syracuse was to collect quotes from the local community about time and that he hoped to gather over 1000 quotes over the course of three local workshops and from people submitting ideas on the Web. These quotes will be supplemented by famous quotes and/or historic events featuring time. The artists hope to gather over 5,000 quotes or pieces of text in all. M. Walczak also noted that the original concept included a stone bench that was integrated into the structure under the screen. The new concept eliminates the bench and, instead, includes a circular seat located facing the clock. K. Auwaerter noted that City Engineering and Skilled Trades should be involved in the maintenance planning for the project so that the City would know how to maintain the work and also how to update the content as needed. M. Walczak stated that they are shooting for a mid-September installation date.

Sculpture Relocation Proposal: Jim Emmons, Heather Schroeder and Brendan Rose presented a proposal to relocate an untitled art work by artist Stephen Calcagnino from underneath an overhang at the 444 Building at the corner of N. Townsend and E. Genesee Street to a piece of Parks Department property located across the street. They explained that the piece was poured in place at the building's construction in 1975. Calcagnino is a Nottingham High School graduate, who has had a successful career as an artist and is living in the Hudson Valley. The artist has indicated that he does not object the relocation of the piece. In addition the new property owners are also willing to donate the piece to the City. The work measures 5.5'x7.5'x2' and weighs approximately 8,000 lbs. J. Emmons explained that they anticipate the move will cost approximately \$5,000 - \$7,000 and that they are seeking funding for the relocation. The Commission was supportive of the proposal. K. Auwaerter will work with the group to contact the Parks Department and to work on siting the work.

SU Public Art Studio: Temporary installations Downtown. As a continuation of the discussion from the February Commission meeting, four students presented preliminary proposals for temporary installations in Columbus Circle (the Powelson site) and along Montgomery Street. The Commission discussed at length a proposal to install traffic signs on the parking sign poles along Montgomery Street. Each sign (at least 5 signs) would be the approximate size and color of other traffic-related signs. The text of each sign would be excerpts taken from a novel by Edith Hough titled "The Blue Eyed Iroquois." The Commission members noted that without proper context and explanation, the excerpted text would provoke a strong reaction from the public, noting that some of the references to Native Americans were overtly racist. Although understanding the concept behind the installation, the Commission recommended that the student rethink the text, possibly reaching out to local Haudenosaunee for assistance. It was also noted that there were strict guidelines about what colors can and cannot be used on transportation-related signage.

The other students also presented their work, including sculptural pieces representative of the erosional forces and geology of the region; a large circle of aluminum ring that references to Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man and an installation involving compasses.

New Urban Space Update: K. Auwaerter reported that the design team for the park project was returning on March 17 to present the design concept for the park.

- V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.