

Approved as submitted



REGULAR MEETING

April 14, 2015

SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)

5:30 pm

Attendance

Present: Karen Convertino, George Curry, Rick Destito, Corky Goss, Kerry Kennedy, London Ladd, Dan Ward

Absent: Bob Doucette, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Bahar

Zaker

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.
The Commission reviewed the minutes of March 10, 2015. K. Convertino made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by C. Goss. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.
- II. Old Business:
SPAC 15-01: *Crow Requiem* (UVP), Cauleen Smith. K. Auwaerter reported to the Commission that she had received a link to the final cut of the video for *Crow Requiem*, which she had forwarded to the Commission with the April meeting announcement. The Commission engaged in a brief discussion of application procedures. Recognizing the extenuating circumstances around the creation of *Crow Requiem* and the overall quality of the curation of the Urban Video Project, the Commission nonetheless agreed that moving forward it must have access to complete works from the UVP prior to approval in order to do its due diligence and to be fair to other applicants.
- III. New Business
Connective Corridor Public Art RFQ. Quinton Fletchall was unable to be present at the meeting. However, he sent a report to K. Auwaerter who reported back to the Commission. K. Auwaerter summarized as follows: The jury finished its first round of voting and has selected 16 semi-finalists. An official announcement listing the artist should be made later in the week. Of the artists, one artist is local, one is international, and four are from New York State. On May 5, from 10am-12pm there will be a public outreach meeting at the Warehouse where the work examples of the semi-finalists will be on display and provide opportunity for community members to weigh in.
- IV. Discussion
New Urban Space Project Update. K. Auwaerter reported that the SURA is currently under negotiation with the selected design team, melk and artist Cecil Balmond. She

also reported that the team's first task will be to develop a public participation plan that can also be shared with the Commission. She reiterated that the Commission as an important stakeholder will be involved in the development of the design of the space and the artwork through to the selection of the schematic design.

The Commission briefly discussed Cecil Balmond. K. Auwaerter noted that he was trained as an engineer and that he has made a name for himself working in collaboration with architects and other designers to create works of art. The Commission discussed the current national conversation about architects and engineers moving into the public art realm and how public art differs from other design fields. K. Auwaerter promised to keep the Commission informed as the process unfolds.

Airport Public Art. K. Auwaerter reported that she had spoken to Beth Rougeux from the Mayor's office who sits on the Airport Authority Board about the Commission's interest in building a public art program at the airport. B. Rougeux stated that the authority board is in favor of public art at the airport and that they rely on the Executive Director to keep them up to date on the subject. She also suggested that the issue of jurisdiction (regarding the installation of public art at the airport) should be investigated further – the airport authority had entered into a long-term lease agreement with the City over the physical property, which may impact Commission jurisdiction. K. Auwaerter said that she would check into this with Corporation Counsel. Jurisdictional issues aside, the Commission agreed that the most important end result should be an active and exciting public art program that provides a great image of the city.

The Commission discussed how to move forward with the program and encourage the airport administration to embrace a more active program. K. Auwaerter noted that given their limited staffing, the ideal situation would be to have a designated curator who could help find artists and select suitable artwork for the airport. N. Keefe Rhodes suggested setting a goal around a specific event or date to commission a new work. For example, the airport could commission a new mural in time for the Global Mural Conference to be held in Geneva, NY in 2016. K. Auwaerter said she would make this recommendation to the staff at the airport and will get back to the Commission.

V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.