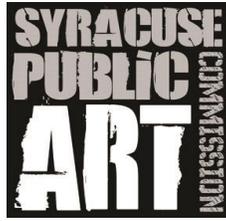


Approved as submitted



REGULAR MEETING

May 9, 2017

SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)

5:30 pm

I. Attendance

Present: Bob Doucette, Kerry Kennedy, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Dan Ward, Bahar Zaker

Absent: Karen Convertino, Rick Destito, Corky Goss

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

The Commission reviewed the minutes of April 11, 2017. J. Spitzner made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by N. Keefe Rhodes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

No Old Business

IV. New Business

SPAC 17-04 Street Painting Fair. Greg Lothridge and Peter Nicolini presented the application to paint a mural in the intersection of Kirkpatrick Street and Grant Avenue as part of a "street painting fair". The design of the mural is of a compass with an image of the earth at its center. The mural will be painted by middle school students under the direction of Grant Middle School art teachers. K. Auwaerter explained that she and the City's transportation planner, Neil Burke, had developed with the Department of Public Works specific guidelines for the design of street murals. For example, the mural must be contained within the crosswalks and there can be no continuous white or yellow lines within the mural that might confuse drivers. The Commission reviewed the proposal and was supportive of the involvement of the school students and teachers in the project. B. Doucette made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by N. Keefe Rhodes. The motion passed unanimously.

SPAC 17-05 Immersive Cloud. Anthony Rojas, CNY Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), presented the proposal for *Immersive Cloud*, a sculpture by Daikwan Park, proposed for city property located at the corner of E. Genesee Street and S. Townsend Street. The sculpture consists of over 100 stainless and galvanized steel disks of varying sizes mounted on thin poles of varying heights that together create an undulating form that curves in and around the trees on the site. Wheelchair-accessible paths allow people to move through the

sculpture. The highest section of the sculpture is approximately 10' above grade. The lowest disks are approximately 3' above grade, which double as seating areas within the sculpture. A. Rojas stated that the disks are not designed to be walked on, but are nonetheless engineered to support the weight of a person. The artwork is funded through the Connective Corridor. Maintenance for the piece – which consists primarily of power washing the sculpture and litter and debris removal from the site – will be the responsibility of the AIA for the first five years. After that, the City will be responsible.

Commission discussed the proposal and asked questions about potential glare from the stainless steel disks and about potential heat conduction. A. Rojas stated that the disks were angled so that they would not shine into traffic along E. Genesee Street or S. Townsend Street, nor would any of the disks shine into office or residential windows. In addition, the tree canopy would cut down on both glare as well as any heat accumulation on the metal surfaces. J. Spitzner made a motion to approve the application as submitted and to recommend to the Common Council that the artwork be adopted into the permanent public art collection. This motion was seconded by N. Keefe Rhodes and approved unanimously.

SPAC 17-06 *Seek to Advance*. Josh Luke and Meredith Kasabian via conference call presented the design for a mural proposed for the West Street-facing wall of the single-story addition on the Nancy Cantor Warehouse building. The mural is one of four text-based murals commissioned by the Connective Corridor. The mural includes the text “Seek to Advance” with the letters of the word “advance” depicted in circles resembling typewriter keys, a reference to the Syracuse’s technological history. The Commission discussed the composition with the artists, noting that it was simpler and less dynamic than some of their other work and that it did not appear that they had taken advantage of the texture of the wall. The artists described their inspiration for the graphic and lettering style and discussed their other work in relation to the proposed piece. They also explained that the texture of the wall would come through with the painting, which was hard to depict in the Photoshopped version included in the application. J. Spitzner made a motion to approve the mural, which was seconded by B. Doucette. In discussion, N. Keefe Rhodes stated that in her opinion the mural was graphically weak, especially in comparison to the artists’ other work, and also voiced her concern regarding the number of text-based murals that had been commissioned by the Connective Corridor and were all located downtown. The Commission discussed the Connective Corridor’s RFP process for the murals. It also they also discussed the Commission’s charge in regard to murals on private property. The chair called for a vote. The motion passed on a majority vote, with N. Keefe Rhodes voting to deny the application.

SPAC 17-07 *Southside Art Mural Project*. Camille Coakley (Southside TNT) presented the application for a railroad bridge painting project at South Salina and Taylor streets. The University Neighborhood Service Agreement Advisory Committee (UNSAAC) provided funding to the Southside TNT which is implementing the project. C. Coakley explained that the TNT had decided to use the bridge as a way to beautify the gateway into the Southside community. For the pedestrian underpass portion of the bridge, they selected two images that pay homage to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Fredrick Douglass, both of whom spent time in Syracuse.

Artist London Ladd created the images and will paint the murals. The King mural will be painted on the west wall of the underpass and includes an image of Dr. King and a quote from a speech he gave at Syracuse University in 1965. The image of Douglass will be painted on the east wall and includes text from a speech he made in Syracuse in 1861.

In addition to the underpass, the project includes two text-based murals on the bridge itself. These images will be painted by Ken Burke. The north-facing side of the bridge will include the text "Change is Necessary", which is a quote from Dr. King's speech in 1961. The south-facing side of the bridge will include the words "Welcome to the Southside" and include the emblem of the Southside neighborhood. C. Coakley explained that the TNT had used a community-based selection process to identify and select the text and images for the bridge art.

N. Keefe Rhodes made a motion to approve the application with the condition that a final rendering of the bridge murals be submitted prior to installation. The motion which was seconded by B. Zaker and approved unanimously.

V. **Discussion**

Land Bank Mural Project: K. Auwaerter reported that she had discussed the Land Bank's "mural" project with the executive director of the Land Bank, Katelyn Wright. The Land Bank has invited a school group, community groups and the 40Below Public Art Task Force to paint plywood boards that will be used to cover window and door openings of Land Bank-owned structures that are awaiting either rehabilitation or demolition. As this was a temporary "beautification" measure, K. Auwaerter noted that she did not believe it fell under the Commission's purview. N. Keefe Rhodes stated that even if they are not required to come before the Commission, she would like to have organizations and individuals use the Commission as a resource for public art projects. She noted that for the school students it could have been a useful lesson in civic participation if they had been brought to the Commission to discuss the project.

SPAC Outreach Meeting: D. Ward noted that the July 25th SPAC meeting will be during ArtsWeek. He recommended that the meeting include an outreach presentation for artists and groups interested in public art in the city. The Commission agreed that this would be a good opportunity to promote the public art program to the community.

VI. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.