

Approved as submitted



**REGULAR MEETING**

July 27, 2016

SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)

5:30 pm

Attendance

Present: Karen Convertino, George Curry, Bob Doucette, Corky Goss, Kerry Kennedy, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Dan Ward, Bahar Zaker

Absent: Rick Destito

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

The Commission reviewed the minutes of June 14, 2016. N. Keefe Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by G. Curry. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Old Business

SPAC 16-07, *Strange Ride*, Charlie Sam and Jacob Roberts. The artists were not present. K. Auwaerter presented a revised design for the mural. The Commission noted that the revised design was much plainer with fewer figures. C. Goss noted that the composition had lost its energy and was not compelling. G. Curry made a motion to table the application pending a presentation by the artists of the revised design.

SPAC 16-04 *Seattle*, Dewitt Godfrey. K. Auwaerter noted that the artist, Dewitt Godfrey, was continuing to work on the logistics and engineering of his sculpture, in particular the issue of the vault beneath the proposed site of the sculpture. Other outstanding items include a detailed maintenance plan, owner agreement letter and lighting specifications. The Commission held the application open.

III. New Business

SPAC 16-11 *Fireworks (Archives)*, Apichatpong Weerasethakul (UVP). Mary Lee Hogdens (Light Work) presented the application for the screening of *Fireworks (Archives)* by Thai filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul. The approximately 7-minute video is an abstract exploration of a key setting from the artist's larger feature film, *Cemetery of Splendor*. The UVP video will be screened at the Everson Museum UVP site from September 15 through October 27. The full-length film from which the video is inspired will be screened at the Everson Museum's Hosmer Auditorium on October 10. G. Curry made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by N. Keefe Rhodes. The motion passed unanimously.

SPAC 16-09 *The Sky's the Limit*, Mike Myers. The Commission reviewed the application for the mural at the AXA garage. K. Auwaerter noted that the garage and aboveground plaza area are under separate ownership and the City had not yet resolved who owns the aboveground wall to the garage. Without the permission of the owners (either the City or CenterState CEO), the Commission would not be able to make a final determination about the mural design. Nonetheless, the Commission discussed the application. In general, the Commission was satisfied with the design; however, C. Goss questioned the orientation of the clouds, which appear to be upside down in the image provided. G. Curry made a motion to table the application until the ownership issue was finalized.

SPAC 16-10 *Mark a Mark*, Best Dressed Designs(mural). The Commission reviewed the application for a mural located on the west-facing façade of the Warehouse, facing West Street. The Commission reviewed the proposed design and the artists' previous work. It also discussed the site, noting its prominent location as a gateway into downtown and Armory Square in addition to being located on the building housing the SU's Design School. The Commission commented that the design of the proposed mural was not as strong or dynamic as the artists' previous work (as illustrated in the work samples). The Commission stated that a mural located in such a highly visible and important entrance into Downtown Syracuse should provide the public with an interesting visual experience. The Commission was not opposed to the concept of the mural; however, it felt that the artists had not taken full advantage of the site in terms of its location, the dimensions of the site, or even possibly the texture of the wall itself (with its pattern of raised blocks). G. Curry made a motion to deny the application, which was seconded by B. Doucette. The motion passed unanimously.

SPAC 14-07 *Let Us Continue*, Quinton Fletchall. K. Auwaerter reminded the Commission that in 2014, it had approved the installation of the four-panel mural along the Creekwalk across from the Warehouse. The first three panels marked the evolution of the community from pre-Colonial times to the present. The fourth panel was a chalk board upon which people wrote down their desires for the future of Syracuse. Over the course of about a year, the artist Quinton Fletchall collected the writings and used them to develop a depiction of the collective vision of the future of the community. This application is the finalization of the project with the submittal for the final design of the fourth panel. The panel includes a depiction of what Syracuse's future will be along with a title and text explaining how the vision was derived. The Commission was pleased with the graphic, but recommended that the artist simplify the text. Specifically, the Commission recommended revising the title to read "Onward Together" and simplifying or eliminating the descriptive text in its entirety. It was the opinion of the majority of the Commission that the artwork spoke for itself and that the descriptive text was not necessary. K. Convertino made a motion to approve the application with the recommendation that the descriptive text be modified as recommended and resubmitted for approval. The motion was seconded by G. Curry and was approved unanimously.

V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.