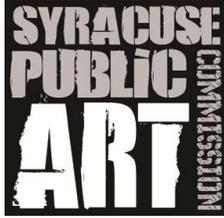


Approved as submitted



SPECIAL MEETING
September 21, 2017
Room 215 City Hall
5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Present: Ellen Blalock, Karen Convertino, Rick Destito, Bob Doucette, Joanna Spitzner, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Bahar Zaker and Dan Ward

Absent: Corky Goss, Kerry Kennedy

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

The Commission reviewed the minutes of July 25, 2017. K. Convertino made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by B. Doucette. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions (E. Blalock, B. Zaker).

The Commission reviewed the minutes of August 4, 2017. J. Spitzner made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by B. Doucette. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions (E. Blalock, B. Zaker).

III. Old Business

No Old Business

IV. New Business

Welcome New Member: D. Ward welcomed new member Ellen Blalock to the Commission.

SPAC 17-14 *Syracuse Stripes*, Erwin Redl. K. Auwaerter presented the Connective Corridor's application for a light sculpture to be installed in the Merchant's Commons Building at 220 S. Warren Street. The sculpture by artist Erwin Redl consists of 304 vertical, LED-light tubes mounted against the glass window walls that wrap the ground and second floors of the building. The tubes are 24" tall and 1.25" wide. Each of the 158 window panels will feature one tube on the bottom and one on the top centered within the window panel. The tubes are networked and synchronized to change color through a slow and gradual sequence. There will be no flashing or strobe lighting effects. The artist indicated that the maintenance of the piece will be

minimal and that the owner of the space has access to 20% extra inventory should a LED bulb need to be replaced. K. Auwaerter noted that both the tenant and the owner approved of the installation.

K. Auwaerter reported that she and the Zoning Administrator had determined that this project should be reviewed as a public art project – an electronic mural – rather than as a zoning application. K. Auwaerter indicated that the precedent for Commission review is the interior LED-light screen at the Syracuse Stage, which was the original site of a Jenny Holzer installation.

In discussion, E. Blalock questioned whether the aesthetic intent of the project could be achieved given that the lights in the tenant space (currently occupied by Syracuse.com) are on at all hours including overnight. Other Commission members acknowledged that a bright backdrop may reduce the effectiveness of the installation. However, K. Auwaerter noted that the artist had tested the lights under those conditions (as indicated by the images included in the application). After further discussion, B. Doucette made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by N. Keefe Rhodes. The application was approved unanimously.

SPAC 17-15 *StoryTime*, Merek Walczak and Wesley Heiss. D. Ward noted that this application had been before the Commission in 2016 for discussion. K. Auwaerter confirmed that Merek Walczak had presented the proposal to the Commission at its March 8, 2016 meeting. K. Auwaerter recapped for the Commission that the proposal is for a text-based “clock” to be located on the former Powelson site in Columbus Circle. The clock is a 10’-tall, black, powder-coated steel monolith with a toughened-glass LED screen that will display text that tells stories about time. The text will change with every minute. The minute “quotes” were collected by the artists through local workshops and from people submitting ideas on the web. These quotes are 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. The clock will be installed next to the diagonal path through the Powelson site and will face Montgomery Street. The installation includes a circular steel seat located facing the clock on the other side of the path.

In discussion, the B. Doucette commented on the unique character of Columbus Circle and his concern about the location of the piece in this location. K. Convertino reminded the Commission that the Powelson site is a development site and that should a viable proposal be accepted by the City that the sculpture will have to be relocated. She also noted that City Information Technologies staff must be educated on the software and hardware of the piece so that it can be repaired and/or updated as needed. E. Blalock stated that it was essential that the clock tell the correct time and that it not have to be updated manually. K. Auwaerter noted that the text for the minutes had not been submitted yet, but must be reviewed prior to installation.

K. Convertino made a motion to approve the application with the following contingencies:

- 1) A detailed maintenance manual shall be submitted to the City upon installation. Both City Skilled Trades and IT staff shall be informed regarding the technology (hardware and software) of the installation.
- 2) All minute texts must be submitted for review prior to installation.

3) Acknowledgment of the artists that the Powelson Site is a development site and that the artwork may need to be relocated.

N. Keefe Rhodes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

K. Convertino made a motion to recommend to the Syracuse Common Council that *Story Time* by Merek Walczak and Wesley Heiss be adopted into the permanent art collection. E. Blalock seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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