

ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RDA



BEN KOLENDAR
ACTING DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City Art Design Board Meeting
June 25, 2020
4:00 – 6:00 pm
Webex Online

MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING APPROVAL

PRESENT: Larissa Trout Aurelio Velazquez
Justin Johnson Kelsey Harrison
Nancy Rivera Jann Haworth
Joe Jacoby

Staff Members

Felicia Baca, Arts Council Executive Director
Kat Nix, Public Art Program Manager
Abby Draper, Public Art Program Assistant

EXCUSED:

GUESTS: Jason Stevenson, Co-Chair of East Liberty Park Community Council
Chien Hwang, Salt Lake City Department of Engineering
Tom Millar, Salt Lake City Department of Transportation
Stephen Kesler, 9th South Roundabout project Finalist
Marc Wise, 9th South Roundabout Project Finalist (KwV team)
Hannah Vaughn, 9th South Roundabout Project Finalist (KwV team)
Charlie Kimball, 9th South Roundabout Project Finalist (KwV team)
Heath Satow, 9th South Roundabout Project Finalist
Angel Castillo, Public Sculpture Partner

I. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

- a. After a quorum was established at approximately 5:05 pm, Ms. Larissa Trout called the meeting to order, and all attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Trout motioned to approve the minutes from the Board's May 28 convening. Ms. Jann Haworth recommended approval with changes noting that she was in attendance obliquely since a technical difficulty had allowed her to hear the meeting but to not to be heard, and that she abstained from voting in all motions made in that convening. Ms. Kelsey Harrison seconded the motion to approve with those amendments and all Board members voted in favor.



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II. 9th South Roundabout Finalist Presentations

a. Project Overview

- i. Ms. Nix and Ms. Trout introduced the 9th South Roundabout Project process to date, and noted that the presentations today were revised proposals from the initial designs presented by the project finalists. Due to technical challenges, the presentation order deviated from the agenda, with Mr. Stephen Kesler presenting first.

b. Mr. Stephen Kesler Proposal Presentation

- i. Mr. Kesler Presented his revised proposal for the 9th South Roundabout project.
- ii. Ms. Trout asked about the introduction of mock-wood texture to the sculpture, and Mr. Kesler noted that the pattern would be highly naturalistic in mimicking the Utah Juniper. He also noted that the coloration of the owls was accurate, but somewhat simplified. He noted that this change alleviated concerns about maintaining paint. Ms. Jann Haworth asked about sculpture height, and Mr. Kesler noted that the hanging bar was 11 feet off the ground, so would be hard to jump to and excessive detail was not needed at that height. The Board asked about the structure of the sculpture in wind. Mr. Kesler noted there might be a slight flex but the engineering was designed to avoid any issues from a cantilever or from removing the fiberglass exterior. He noted that the strength of the fiberglass was substantial and the addition of a steel core made the sculpture very strong. He noted that the fiberglass thinned out at the top to reduce weight. He noted that the owls face west, down 900 S. Mr. Jacoby asked if the base of the sculpture would mimic the way those trees grow from cracks in hostile environments. Mr. Kesler expressed the ability to cover the concrete pad and create the effect of the sculpture plugging into the earth. Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Kesler for making revisions and lauded his additional detail.

c. KWV Team Proposal Presentation

- i. The KWV, LLC team presented their revised proposal for the 9th South Roundabout project.
- ii. Ms. Trout asked about the proposed found elements that will be incorporated as elevated components. Ms. Hannah Vaughn noted that team member Mr. Charlie Kimball had been given access to street car rails that had previously been in the intersection, which would be used in the sculpture and other found objects were yet to be sourced. Mr. Wise noted that the found objects would primarily be steel to maintain unity. Ms. Trout asked about the use of light in the proposal. Ms. Vaughn noted that the light was going to be cast out from within two nest-like components of the sculpture. The team discussed the way the revisions to the proposal met the artwork goal related to “funky.” Ms. Vaughn noted that in the team’s City-facilitated meeting with community members before proposal development, attendees had noted tension in the community and a desire for artwork that was sourced from the site. She stated that the team met this goal through earthiness, glow, and decentralized elements in the sculpture. Mr. Wise

added that the term could be variably interpreted – ranging from kitsch to musical. The set of meanings that the team had focused on were addressed through a conglomeration of materials and the lighting plan. Mr. Jacoby noted that the gaps halfway up each post highlighted the horizon line visible when headed westbound on 9th South. The team replied that they had intended that one of the consistent elements of the proposal be that it references the natural landscape. Ms. Rivera asked about the proposals resistance to vandalism, like spray paint or carving into the wooden columns. Ms. Vaughn noted that the materials would age well and would not need to be refinished, barring occasional cleaning of the lights. She stated that interventions like carving, spray paint, or materials hung on the artwork would be acceptable to the team. Mr. Wise noted that recent addition of garden gnomes to the site was an example of the community making the location their own.

d. Mr. Heath Satow Proposal Presentation

- i. Mr. Satow presented his revised proposal for the 9th South Roundabout project.
- ii. Ms. Harrison asked about the distribution of dandelion seeds matching those on the sculpture to area businesses. Mr. Satow noted that they would be part of the artwork and that 81 total seeds would be made. The remaining questions on that aspect were the process by which those would be distributed and where Mr. Satow would source the additional material funds, however he was committed to working with the City and had confirmed with the City that they could work this aspect out in the contract. Mr. Satow also confirmed that the glare from the sculpture was marginal and would not be unsafe to motorists. Ms. Angel Castillo reiterated the reasoning for choosing a foal form for the sculpture, stating that there is no animal with a more indomitable spirit than a wild a horse, which was the jumping off point for the mythical beast represented in the sculpture. Mr. Johnson noted that he appreciated the subtleties in the design and thanked Mr. Satow for making adjustments.

e. Public Comment

- i. Ms. Nix read a comment submitted by 9th and 9th community member Steven Dark, who had reviewed all three revised proposals.

f. Discussion

- i. Ms. Nix read the selection criteria per the Request for Qualifications.
- ii. The Board noted that Mr. Kesler’s revision had addressed the Board’s concerns and stated that the increased naturalism played to his artistic strengths, especially in the bark texture and color. They noted that proposal worked better viewed from 360 degrees, and at 18 feet, it was remarkably tall. Ms. Harrison expressed concern that it may not age well, stylistically. Mr. Stevenson stated that he would want the roundabout sculpture to be differentiated from the artist’s artwork that is installed at the zoo, and the Board noted that the headphones and increased stylization differentiated this piece from other work in the valley. The Board discussed that he matched the selection criteria

regarding working with partners in a collaborative process and they appreciated Mr. Kesler's fully taking in the Board's feedback in his revised proposal. Mr. Jacoby stated that the artwork was not overwhelming, but was improved and charming.

- iii. The Board discussed the KWV Team's proposal. Ms. Trout suggested that their revision represented an improvement but had not satisfactorily addressed the artwork goal relating to "funky." The Board discussed the team's willingness to allow community intervention and alteration to their piece, suggesting it may be exciting but was not a deliberate invitation to the public to engage with the artwork. Mr. Velazquez stated that that seemed like a deviation from the polish of the proposed artwork. Ms. Felicia Baca noted that this Call for Artists was not intended to be interactive and asked the Board to assess them based on their proposal. Mr. Stevenson commented on the artwork goal related to "funky," suggesting that the community had a variety of opinions about the importance of that concept to the neighborhood's history and future. He stated that this proposal has a similar effect to political monuments from dark period of history, citing the National Lynching Memorial and the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin. He stated that the railroad ties had interesting historical significance, but the effect was eerie and grim. Ms. Harrison stated that the proposal was relatively unchanged, macabre, and that she felt the team had missed an opportunity to propose an artwork that better fit the space. Mr. Jacoby and Ms. Haworth suggested that though the sculpture was not bright, its colors matched the tones of the neighborhood, and stated that it was sophisticated and likely to spark conversations.
- iv. The Board discussed Mr. Satow's revised proposal. Ms. Trout voiced pleasure with the extra sculpted dandelion seeds that could be distributed to the community businesses, along with confusion about the implementation of that component of the proposal. Ms. Haworth stated that she did not find the work to meet the artwork goal of site specificity because it was very similar to some of his previous artworks. Mr. Stevenson suggested that this sculpture was a centerpiece that may evoke less community conversation, but he did appreciate the inclusion of lore through extra dandelions and numerical ties-ins. Mr. Velazquez stated that rather than embedding this sculpture into the community, this sculpture was striving to be a stand-alone centerpiece.

g. Selection

- i. Mr. Velazquez motioned to recommend the KWV team's proposal to the Mayor with Mr. Kesler's sculpture as an alternate. Ms. Haworth seconded, and Mr. Jacoby thirded. No other Board members voted in favor. Ms. Nix reiterated that the Board's options were to put forth a selected artist and an alternate, reject all three and ask all three artists to submit completely new proposals, or reject all three and re-open or re-imagine the call for artists. Ms. Baca noted that the \$2,000 honorariums aid to each finalist could potentially be replaced in the budget if the call were to be re-released, through additional CIP funds. The Board discussed again and ultimately felt that none of the proposals adequately met all of the artwork goals listed in the RFQ. Ms. Trout motioned to reject all three proposals and re-release the Call for

Artists. Ms. Rivera seconded and Ms. Harrison thirded. All Board members voted in favor.

III. Other Business/Adjourn

- a. Ms. Harrison motioned to close the meeting and Ms. Trout seconded. All Board members voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.