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DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City Art Design Board Meeting
November 19, 2020
4:00 – 6:00 pm
Webex Online

PRESENT: Larissa Trout Jann Haworth
Justin Johnson Aurelio Velazquez
Nancy Rivera

Staff Members

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

EXCUSED: Joe Jacoby

GUESTS: Michael Fox, Salt Lake City Fire Department
Tyler Murdock, Salt Lake City Parks Department

I. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

- a. After a quorum was established at approximately 4:00pm, Mr. Justin Johnson called the meeting to order and all attendees introduced themselves. Ms. Larissa Trout motioned to approve the minutes form the Board’s August 6, 2020 convening and Ms. Nancy Rivera seconded. All Board members voted in favor.

II. Fire Station #1 - Public Art Donation

- a. The Board reviewed the donation proposal for artist William S. Phillips’ painting *A Prayer for my Brother*, which had been anonymously offered to Fire Station One. Mr. Michael Fox described that a donor, who had requested anonymity, had delivered it to the station and expressed his intention to donate the artwork permanently to the City for display at Fire Station One. Per the SLC’s Finance Department, the artwork is valued at \$5,000-\$7,000. He noted that from the Fire Department’s perspective, the Public Safety Building would also be an acceptable location. Ms. Nix highlighted Salt Lake City’s gift policy and the Board’s internal gifts and donation policy, noting the Board would make a recommendation to the Mayor, who had final discretion as to accepting the donation into the City’s collection. Ms. Nix showed images of the proposed location to hang the artwork and the context of existing art and memorabilia at the station. Mr. Johnson noted that he could think of no objections to accepting this donation and Ms. Jann



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Haworth stated the donor's intended location, which was also publicly accessible, was an ideal location. Ms. Trout motioned to recommend acceptance of the donation to the Mayor and Ms. Rivera seconded. All Board members voted in favor.

III. 9th South Roundabout Re-envisioned

- a. The Board reviewed the applications for the 9th South Roundabout Re-Envisioned Call for Artists. Ms. Nix provided background on the project, noting its initial release early in the year and the redesign of the call for artists to include an option for artists to design artwork that could host murals. Ms. Nix stated that many artists had indicated in their letter of interest that they were interested in including space to host murals in their potential future work. Selected finalists would reserve the right to design either with or without mural surfaces at their discretion. She noted that the request for qualifications was intended for artists who would generate artwork that reflects the change occurring in the neighborhood. Ms. Nix noted that the project budget would vary based on whether or not artists included mural spaces. The Board had reviewed all 18 applications in advance of the meeting and voted on each with a score of 2 indicating "yes," and score of 1 indicating "maybe," and a score of 0 indicating "no." The 10 applicants with the highest total scores were placed on a shortlist. The Board reviewed all shortlisted applicants, and raised for further consideration two applicants who had not been placed on the shortlist initially.
- b. Discussion
 - i. The Board discussed the extent to which the Salt Lake City Public Art Collection already represented certain applicants. They discussed how to balance the Board's intent to support emerging artists with the desire to see designs from folks who could demonstrate public art experience and competencies. They discussed Nathan Florence's application, which had included an idea to weave ribbons into a sculpture in the roundabout, but the lack of a pathway may make it unsafe to invite the public to engage with it without a road closure. The Board discussed the applicants who had been finalists in the previous iteration of the call for artists, noting their appreciation for re-applying, and assessed them in light of the criteria of the re-designed call for artists. The Board narrowed down the potential finalists to four artists and Ms. Nix noted that she had no concerns regarding any of their timeliness or professionalism. Ms. Rivera expressed that she felt that Tooza Design was a strong contender and very professional to work with, but that they had quite a bit of representation in the collection. Mr. Johnson stated that he appreciated their ability to design artwork that could be viewed from 360 degrees. Board members expressed that they might handle the mural surfaces in a clever way. Ms. Jann Haworth expressed desire for a sculpture that would be somewhat concrete in its subject matter, rather than sparely abstract. Ms. Trout noted that Stephen Kesler was well equipped to achieve that and if he designed a work to include murals, it could be interesting to see the effect of the collaboration. Ms. Nix noted that he had expressed longstanding excitement about a collaborative artwork. Ms. Trout noted that artists that chose to include mural surfaces would open up their artwork to color and collaboration even if their style was spare or

clean. Ms. Haworth stated that Jason Manley's application showed him thinking three-dimensionally and with an eye for the observer, which she felt would fit well into the project neighborhood.

- c. Ms. Trout motioned to solicit designs from Jason Manley, Stephen Kesler, and Soonju Kwon. Ms. Rivera seconded and all Board members voted in favor. Ms. Nix stated that proposal presentations would occur in February 2021.
 - i. The Board reiterated the elements of each artists' application that had led to their selection and which they would be interested to see in the artist's proposal. Board members stated that they were interested in Stephen Kesler's excitement about collaboration, his proven sculptural talent, the animation and life in his previous work, and his attention to detail. They noted Ms. Kwon's abstract and architectural body of work, along with her attention to detail and fully conceived thought processes which created curiosity and intrigue towards the artwork. They commented on Mr. Manley's ability to think of the observer and use words as structure, along with playfulness and twists regarding the dimensions of an object.

IV. Jordan River Boat Ramps

- a. Ms. Nix noted that the Jordan River Boat Ramp Public Art Opportunity had been selected by the Board for the 2019/2020 percent for art funding. Ms. Nix noted that there were about \$80,000 remaining in CIP reserve funding that needed to be spent within a year or two. She noted that this money could supplement the 2020/2021 percent-for-art funding, which was only approximately \$87,000. An additional or alternative use of the funding could be to supplement funding for the boat ramp project so that three or four of the ramps could have public art on them, rather than the original vision of installing artwork for two ramps with the available funds, and potentially acquiring un-fabricated designs pending more funding. Mr. Murdock noted that construction had commenced on the project. He stated that the four ramps were: an existing boat ramp at 1700 South near the now-defunct water park, the Fisher Mansion ramp which had a relatively smaller site, the Gadsby ramp off of North Temple which had adjacent park space, and the 1800 North ramp off of Redwood road which also had adjacent park space. Mr. Murdock stated that the 1800 North and Gadsby ramps presented the best potential for public art currently, followed by the Fischer Mansion site and then the 1700 S site. Ms. Abby Draper gave an overview of the community visioning process to identify possible uses for the currently-abandoned former water park near this boat ramp, and noted that the area near the 1700 S boat ramp was likely to become a more active recreation area in the future, and that the redevelopment of the site my present opportunities to generate public art in this area even if that was not in the context of the boat ramp. Ms. Nix asked the Board to consider if they wanted to keep the call for artists as focusing on one or two sites or increasing the budget to ask artists to design for three or four sites.
- b. Discussion
 - i. The Board discussed the Jordan River Boat Ramp Call for Artists. Ms. Haworth asked about the potential to attach something to the carriage house near the Fischer Mansion boat ramp and Mr. Murdock replied that was not an option, per the Historic Landmark Commission. He noted that the amount of residential area in the area of Fisher mansion was set to increase dramatically with the construction of new

developments in the next years. Ms. Haworth stated that despite the smaller size of the Fisher mansion site, it should still be included in the call for artists. She noted that the idea of travel and movement appealed to her, and thus commissioning works for multiple boat ramps that could be discovered in sequence by river and trail users was her preference. Ms. Nix confirmed that there was room for the boat ramp at the 1700 S site. Mr. Murdock confirmed that there was room and that the county owned the boat ramp property and had an easement, so the ramp itself was secure but the surrounding area was uncertain. Ms. Trout stated that wayfinding signage, branding or continuous artwork at multiple sites was her preference. Ms. Felicia Baca asked if there were likely to be public art funds in the future that might be associated with the water park re-development. Mr. Murdock replied that the area was likely to remain open space based on how it was purchased, but the funding could be relatively distant. Mr. Trout stated that the art could serve its purpose with its connection to the river, no matter what came of that site or when. The Board discussed that they did not want to limit the call to artists to requiring text or boat ramp names. Ms. Nix noted that \$110,000 was currently allocated to the project. The Board discussed adding \$25,000 to the commission budget, and concluded that a larger allocation would more adequately allow an artist to create work for all four sites, while still leaving a sufficient quantity in the reserve funds. The Board agreed that an additional \$40,000 of the reserve funds would be added to this commission for a total commission of \$150,000, which will include finalist honorariums if that is required by the selection process.

V. Executive Director's Comment

- a. Ms. Baca noted that City Council was considering a potential rezone of the City's Fleet Block, which is the site of community-created murals of victims of police brutality in Utah. She noted that there was strong interest in the community in protecting the artwork from demolition and that no redevelopment plans were settled on yet. Ms. Baca noted that the maintenance and inventory assessment was completed, in which a large portion of the public art collection had been assessed and maintenance priorities outlined.

VI. Public Comment

- a. None.

VII. Other Business/Adjourn

- a. Ms. Nix noted that the agenda had a typo regarding the December meeting – the meeting would be on December 3 not December 5. Mr. Johnson motioned to close the meeting and Ms. Rivera seconded. All Board members voted in favor.