ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR

BEN KOLENDAR
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT *of* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City Art Design Board Meeting
January 7, 2021
4:00 – 6:00 pm
Webex Online

MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING APPROVAL

PRESENT: Larissa Trout, Joe Jacoby, Justin Johnson, Aurelio Velazquez, Nancy Rivera

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

EXCUSED:

GUESTS: Nancy Monteith, Parks Department
Tyler Murdock, Parks Department
Lorna Vogt, Director of Public Services
Matt Cassel, Department of Engineering
Will Becker, Transportation Division
Jena Carver, Transportation Division
Tom Millar, Transportation Division
Kyle Cook, Transportation Division

I. Call to Order

a. After a quorum was established at approximately 4:00 pm, all attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Justin Johnson read a statement concerning the need for virtual public meetings in light of the global pandemic.

II. CIP Projects Overview

a. Ms. Katherine Nix gave an overview of the process by which the percent-for-art budget was allocated. The public art program had met with Parks, Engineering, Transportation, and Facilities about their approved Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and identified which project had potential for a public art opportunity. Ten projects which had potential for the inclusion of public art had been identified and would be presented for consideration by the Board. Ms. Nix stated that the Board was tasked with allocating the Fiscal Year 2020 -2021 CIP Percent for Art Budget, which was $87, 878, to one or more CIP projects. She asked the Board to consider which district they would like to support a project in, if it was an opportunity for a

local or national call, if it was an opportunity for a professional or emerging artists, and if it was an opportunity for a medium not currently represented in the public art collection.

III. Parks Department CIP Projects

a. 9 Line Community Orchard
   i. Mr. Tyler Murdock presented the 9 Line Urban Orchard Project of the Department of Parks and Public Lands, which was a community application submitted in partnership with Tree Utah. He noted this project had been presented to the Board last year, and the Board had requested to revisit this project. Mr. Murdock noted that the Orchard is a .7 acre project adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway Trail. He noted that there was a $5,600 budget for public art already allocated in the project budget. The project is scheduled to start design this spring and begin construction this fall or in spring of 2022. Mr. Murdock also highlighted the 'Tree of Forty,' which is a tree made from the grafting of forty different species, a unique blend of art and plant husbandry. Ms. Nix noted that the Board had previously considered purchasing Andrea Greenlees sculpture *Bee Dance,* which would be a direct purchase rather than a commission. The budget for *Bee Dance* exceeded the budget available to the Art Design Board.

b. Poplar Grove Park
   i. Ms. Nancy Monteith presented the Poplar Grove Park Project. She noted that the Parks Department was applying for funding for this project now, so the project was in a more nascent stage. She noted that the tennis court would be replaced and potentially transformed into pickleball courts. Ms. Monteith spoke to the West Side Parks Master Plan, which had elucidated a desire for storytelling, placemaking, and more visibility of the under-represented identities on the west side. She noted that the funding application was being submitted now so approval would become clear a year from now.

c. Pioneer Park
   i. Ms. Nancy Monteith presented Pioneer Park. The Department has $3,000,000 in park impact fees for this park. There is a cultural landscape report researching the histories of the space, which would be completed in a few months and could dovetail with an artwork. There was also a consultant being hired on to conduct community engagement and visioning. Ms. Monteith highlighted opportunities for a site-specific artwork that is integrated with improvements.

d. Discussion
   i. Ms. Larissa Trout asked about recent improvements to Pioneer Park and how they related to this next phase of development. Ms. Monteith noted that work with the Pioneer Park coalition had led to the addition of a field to the center of the park, which helped activate the park and is the only field downtown. She noted that there is no restroom in the park, and the department would like to introduce new uses, per the requirements of impact fees. Ms. Monteith noted that an artist could engage with the restroom building, a standalone feature, or with the additional recreational amenities. Ms. Nix asked if the visioning process would likely lead to the designation of the impact fees to public art. Ms.

Monteith stated that the budget would be used for building costs. Ms. Baca noted that if event or community spaces were included, the Arts Council would like to be involved, even if not from a public art capacity. Ms. Trout asked what project the Parks Department preferred. Ms. Monteith stated that she would be interested to see and artist make use of the cultural landscape report accompanying Pioneer park, but the place making potential of Poplar Grove Park was also appealing.

IV. Engineering Department

a. 650 North Bridge Over Jordan River

i. Mr. Matt Cassel presented the repairs to this bridge. The Engineering Department had 3.5-4 million dollars to repair earthquake damage. There could be opportunity to incorporate a wide variety of public art features to this bridge, which included both pedestrian and automotive traffic. Ms. Monteith noted that this bridge would lead to Bridge to Backman, an educational outdoor area near Backman elementary. Mr. Cassel noted that the Engineering Department would like to build a bridge that had more purpose than just moving cars and pedestrians and could be attractive or engaged with by the community.

b. 300 West

i. Mr. Cassel presented the Engineering Department's re-build of 300 West. They were seeking functional artwork which could limit jaywalking without being 'just a fence.' Mr. Cassel noted the artwork on Bonanza drive in Park City which deterred jaywalking while also being artwork. He noted that a plain fence was the lowest common denominator and an artist could do a more creative, aesthetic job.

c. Discussion

i. Ms. Nix asked about the construction schedule for these projects. Mr. Cassel stated that the constriction for the 300 West Project would span two seasons, starting this year and concluding in the fall of 2022. The 650 North Bridge was entering the design phase and construction would be completed in fall of 2022. Ms. Trout asked about engineering projects on the 900 S corridor, and Mr. Cassel replied that there was a lot of attention focused on that area already, so from the engineering perspective that was less of a priority for public art.

V. Transportation Department

a. 300 North Bridge

i. Mr. Tom Millar presented the pedestrian bridge on 300 North over the three Union Pacific Railroad Track and the two UTA frontrunner tracks, at 500 West. He noted that the bridge design matched one that existed in Portland and would aesthetically soften the area. Mr. Millar noted that this area was frequently blocked by trains and West High School students had historically had to climb through the trains. The community engagement from the project established a desire for bridge lighting and community art that the arts council could help with. Ms. Trout asked where the public art opportunities for this project might lie given that the design of the bridge is completed. Mr. Millar noted that the only lighting currently in the budget was security lighting, which could be supplemented with a light installation. He noted that artwork

could be etched into the glass towers or created on a material that can be applied to glass. He noted that there would be a lot of sun creating a greenhouse effect into the elevator towers and art could help create shade there. Mr. Millar also stated that there was space at the ground level, both landscaped and hardscaped, that could host art, and the stairs would do snow removal through melting, so a vinyl application could be feasibly maintained on the stairs and would be a very low cost opportunity. Mr. Millar noted there would be electrical capacity on the site. Ms. Nancy Rivera noted that she lives in the area, which is rapidly changing and there are a lot of new residents who are looking to have a safer space near the railroad and there was a development group located nearby that was being deliberate about creating space for creatives.

b. McClelland Shared Street
    i. Mr. Millar presented the McClelland shared street, a two block stretch that is the culmination of nearly five years of community engagement. The project connects Monument Plaza on the north to Fairmont on the south, and will entail slower traffic, on-street dining, and improved pedestrian friendliness. There will be multiple phases to the project as funding comes through. Phase A is funded at $500,000, so the materials will be mid-term, lasting 10 to 15 years. This includes planter boxes, renewed paving, tables and chairs, and new curbs. Artwork opportunities include unique bollards, identity signage and branding, and painted pavement. There is already budget for bollards, so these could affordably be painted or vinyl wrapped to transform them into something that was aesthetic in addition to functional. The Board noted that district 7 and the Sugarhouse area specifically had already received substantial City and public art funding and this may not be an ideal location to direct the Board's resources. Ms. Baca asked if the multiple phases of the project meant that this would be a good project for the future, and Mr. Millar noted that Phase B would not occur for a decade or more.

c. Life on State
    i. Ms. Jena Carver presented the Life on State Project, an effort to renew a small stretch of State Street to serve an example of how the area can be energized. The project will focus on 600 to 800 south with goals of increasing the identity of the place, and improving the feel through medians, mid-block crossing, curb extensions to narrow the crossings, and an extensive addition of street trees. Ms. Carver noted that there were existing restaurants and new developments that had interest in sidewalk dining and bike racks. The median landscape design would mimic Utah's natural environment. Ms. Carver confirmed that new sidewalk would be lain, which could be stamped.

d. 900 West and California Avenue Intersection
    i. Mr. Will Becker presented the improvements to this west side intersection, which is near several parks and schools. The project is focused on increasing safety by taking up space in what is currently a very wide intersection, through the addition of islands and the opportunity to add color to the pavement. The community engagement for the project has generated goals focused on prioritizing the neighborhood's identity at the intersection. The primary opportunity at this intersection would be painting the pavement.

e. 200 South Corridor
    i. Mr. Kyle Cook presented the 200 South Corridor reconstruction. This is a total redesign project focused on prioritizing bus transit between downtown and the University of Utah. The design phase would occur this year and the construction would occur in 2022 and 2023. The public art included opportunities to paint pavement, engage with bus shelters, or engage with utility boxes. Mr. Velazquez noted that this was an exciting project for public art with many opportunities. Ms. Trout noted that the timeline was long for this project and it had a large scope and asked if there might be future opportunities to incorporate public art into the site.

VI. Discussion

a. The Board began discussion of the ten projects available for public art funding. Ms. Nix noted that there was a mixture of neighborhood placemaking projects and higher-profile corridor projects for the Board to consider and then relayed the number of public art projects in each district. She listed the projects currently underway in the public art program. Ms. Trout raised the budget size, noting that reserve funds could be allocated to supplement, but that an $80,000 dollar public art project in the context of one of the huge re-design projects might be overwhelmed. Mr. Velazquez agreed that public art might have a larger impact in an area with less existing activity and art. Ms. Baca stated that she hoped the Board would allocate funding to two or more projects, even if one of those budgets would be small. The Board narrowed the projects they were considering to five projects.

VII. Approval of Minutes

a. Mr. Johnson Motioned to approve the minutes for the Board's November 5 and November 19 convenings. Ms. Rivera seconded and all Board members voted in favor.

VIII. Executive Director's Comment

a. Ms. Baca stated that the Arts Council was getting ready to transmit the 1.5 Percent for Art ordinance revision to City Council for review, and that the Mayor's state of the city address was scheduled for January 26th.

IX. Public Comment

a. None.

X. Other Business/Adjourn

a. The Board noted that time to continue the discussion was limited and decided to hold an additional public meeting later in the month to resolve the discussion. Mr. Johnson motioned to close the meeting and Ms. Trout seconded, all Board members voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.