

ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR



BEN KOLENDAR
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City Art Design Board Meeting
January 6, 2022
5:00 – 7:00 pm
Webex Online

PRESENT: Tiffini Porter Meggie Troili Alejandro Moya
Angela Dean Michael Mejia

Staff Members

Renato Olmedo-González, Public Art Program Manager
Felicia Baca, Arts Council Director
Taylor Knuth, Arts Council Assistant Director

EXCUSED: Colour Maisch

I. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Meggie Troili called the meeting to order. The Board welcomed Mr. Michael Mejia to the Board and everyone introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Angela Dean motioned to approve minutes, Ms. Tiffini Porter seconded and all board members voted in favor of approving the minutes as written.

III. FY22 CIP-Funded Projects Site Selection

Mr. Renato Olmedo-González recapped the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) site selection process for the Art Design Board. The Board has \$114,841 to allocate towards the selected project(s).

The selection criteria and guiding questions to be considered are: (a) Foster Cultural Equity and Social Impact, (b) Cultivate and Build Partnerships, (c) Placemaking and Identity, (d) Elevating the Arts Sector Through Public Art, (e) Integrated and Contextual Artwork, (f) Funding, and (g) Public Art as a Catalyst for Economic Development.

Mr. Olmedo-González recapped each of the projects prior to the Board discussing each one.

a. 400 South Viaduct Trail

This project overlaps Council Districts 2 and 4. Engagement and engineering will take place in 2022-2023 and construction will begin in 2024. This project has a strong commitment to connecting communities, linking our City's East and West Sides. The team leading this project is excited about the potential of incorporating public art and see it as a way to increase the success of the project.

There is potential to have an artist or artist team complete multiple components within the project from designed concrete, mosaics, light installations, interactive art, etc.

The Board discussed the positive element of connecting the East and West Side of Salt Lake City and the development of the City into a more accessible urban space. Ms. Baca pointed out that the project could be one larger piece in one location, or the artwork could be incorporated more into the design and occur throughout the corridor. There is the opportunity to integrate the artwork into the construction budget. The Board continued to discuss this project and their thoughts on how to make the most impact and draw individuals to this area rather than just decorate this area. There is capacity to make this a destination and focus on the location and the meaning of the connections.

b. **200 South Transit Complete Street**

This project runs along 200 South from 600 West to 1300 East and it is located entirely within District 4. The preliminary design is completed and construction will begin this year from 600 East to 900 East and the Downtown Core construction will take place in 2023.

The project is a complete street design that focuses on pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit users. This is a major bus route through Salt Lake City. There are multiple possibilities for public art in this project and can be creatively integrated in the structures that will be built.

District 4, the Downtown Core, has a lot of public art already present and in process.

Ms. Dean mentioned how bleak this area is and that in the proposal it seemed there are ways in which we could collaborate with transportation in creating the artwork with materials needed for the construction. Ms. Baca mentioned that we have a lot of public art in Downtown just adjacent to places along this corridor. As the Board discussed it was mentioned that there is a lot of public art located at transit stops throughout the city and this would not be a new idea. There are other areas in the city that does not have as much access to art. This project may be too large given the amount of funds available and the art may be diluted.

c. **SLC Foothills Trailhead Development**

There are five trailheads located in District 3. The improvements will focus on better access to Bonneville Shoreline Trail and Foothill Natural Area, improve parking, and add bathrooms to some of the trailheads. Design will begin Spring 2022 and construction will happen Winter 2022-2023. This district is very underrepresented in the public art collection. The trails are visited by people across the city, not just residents of District 3. This multi-location project is an opportunity to create a unique feature along our City's trails. Artwork must remain within the trailhead, no artwork on the trails.

There are multiple ways art that can be considered: bathroom structures, signage, parking lot, etc.

The Board discussed this project and how it would be interesting to see the intersection of nature and art. The Board would like to consider the connection between Native Populations and the land if this proposal is selected. This would be the first project Public Art has done on the trails. This is an opportunity to communicate environmental issues, land acknowledgement, and build public stewardship. Mr. Olmedo-González mentioned that with this project there is the option to do selected trailheads or place art at all of the trailheads. This will be decided based on the amount allocated to the project and the designs.

d. **Jordan Park Pedestrian Parkways**

This is a Parks and Public Lands project in Jordan Park, District 2. They are making a continuous loop around the park that will also connect to the trails that lead to the Jordan River. Design will kickoff this spring and construction will begin in October 2022.

Things to consider: District 2 has been a major focus of the Public Art Program in recent years with three projects completed in 2021 and one more project in process. Also, Jordan Park contains many public art pieces already: the Peace Gardens and the skate park sculpture.

The Board discussed this project. One consensus from the members was that this park and area has a lot of public art projects already and perhaps this isn't the right time to install another.

e. **Regional Park Pedestrian Parkways**

Parks and Public Lands will be adding a Playground and Shade structure on the grounds of the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) in District 1. The use will be by patrons of the RAC during events or business hours. Design will start in Spring 2022 with construction beginning in Spring 2023. This project could involve multiple elements related to the playground, shade component or an element near these sites. The audience for this site is regional, national and international.

District 1 has not received public art funding outside *The New SLC Airport* in several years. The current CIP funding for this project only covers design; additional funds are pending approval by City Council during the next Fiscal Year Budget discussions.

Mr. Alex Moya asked if funding this project would affect funding for future projects in District 1.

Particularly because this project and the Airport are not fully accessible to the residents of District 1.

Mr. Olmedo-González responded that when reviewing the CIP projects for this year this was the most viable option for a public art component within that district, so that is why it was presented. Future

CIP projects will likely come through for District 1 and the Art Design Board will have the opportunity to discuss funding those with art at that time.

Mr. Michael Mejia asked if this proposal could be reviewed again next year if City Council approves funding for the construction. Ms. Baca responded that it would be possible and she is a little hesitant on approving this project at this point because it does not have funds for construction. One consideration is that when the Board chooses from the new CIP projects the public art process can be implemented into the design process from the beginning. Ms. Baca also addressed Mr. Moya's concern regarding projects for District 1. She pointed out that the process begins with the funded CIP projects and where they are located. So, there is the potential that there will not be a project from all the districts every year that has an option for public art.

As the Board discussed this project there was concern that this facility is closed to the public unless attending an event. Ms. Baca mentioned that projects within a public building do happen and although they may have limited public access, they are still important because they have a high volume of users.

f. Harrison Avenue and 700 East Community Garden

Parks and Public Lands are working with Wasatch Community Gardens on developing a new community garden in District 5. City funds will be used for landscape design, site preparation, and gathering space. Design has already started and construction will begin in February 2022. This makes the possibility of having the art incorporated into the design difficult, but there is the option to place art into the garden after construction is completed.

Ms. Baca shared that although the access is limited to neighborhood users of the garden the space is highly visible by pedestrian and car traffic on 700 East. There is potentially not very much pedestrian traffic and the car traffic moves along quite fast in this area. Ms. Dean mentioned that community gardens tend to create their own identity and display their works in that space, so it may be out of place to impose public art into their garden.

The Board did a straw poll to see which projects were supported by each member. The Board decided unanimously to move forward with two projects: 400 South Viaduct Trail and SLC Foothills Trailhead Development. Ms. Troili asked the Board to discuss a third backup project in case one of the selected projects falls through or additional funds are allocated to public art. The Board discussed the options and decided that at this point they would forego adding a backup until the full Board has a chance to discuss.

Ms. Porter motioned to approve the 400 South Viaduct Trail and SLC Foothills Trailhead Development for funding, Mr. Moya seconded and all in favor.

IV. *Life on State* call for Artists

This project is a street beautification project in District 4. The art request will go out as a Request for Proposal (RFP), similar to the Three Creeks Confluence Project. This project is focused on access to less established artists as the City will take care of fabrication and installation of the artwork. Many artists submit proposals to the city for a project but lack the experience necessary to complete the call. The process is very complex, and a lot of artists don't have that experience dealing with contractors, fabricators, permits, etc. This project eliminates those barriers for the artist.

Artists will submit designs to be displayed on four lampposts located between 600 South and 800 South as part of the expansion of that portion of State Street. Each lamppost will have a different design on each side so eight artists will be commissioned for this project and will receive a \$1,500 commission fee. The largest cost is for fabrication at \$57,990.

The RFP will be released in mid-January and due on March 11, 2022. The fabrication and installation will take place in the summer 2022.

The Board discussed the draft RFP. One concern was the number of submissions each artist can submit, three designs per the current draft and up to two designs may be selected for commission. The Board was reluctant to accept multiple designs from one artist since this project is aiming to incorporate more artists. The call is for Utah based artists and will be shared widely: emailed to a list of over 700 artists, to other City and State Arts Agencies, professional artists and arts administrators, Community Councils, with the

press, etc. The Board would like to see language that encourages underrepresented artists to apply, Ms. Baca said that could be included, but the call cannot restrict it to only that population.

V. *Fire House Fire* deaccession report and recommendation

This work of art has been identified as a high priority in our collection to be fixed. The quote from the fabricator to fix the light sculpture is \$37,000 and would make the artwork more durable as it would be remade with LED Neon which is considerably stronger than the original technology used. This repair would take 25% of our current maintenance funds, but it is the only light sculpture we have in our collection right now.

Deaccession would cost to have it removed and disposed. If the Board decides to not deaccession the work, would they willing to support the refabrication of the work at \$37,000? Ms. Baca reminded the Board that if they recommend the deaccession it then goes to the Mayor for approval and City Council for notification. Fire Station #10 rescinded their commitment of \$10,000 towards the repairs because of an increase in fuel costs and they no longer have funds to commit.

The Board decided to postpone a decision on *Fire House Fire*. Ms. Troili made two suggestions related to input for the decision: 1. Getting feedback from the Community Council in that district. 2. Perhaps asking for assistance with fundraising for the repairs to the artwork. Ms. Baca mentioned that the Arts Council does not have the capacity to get community input on a large scale, but it is something that the Board can assist with as ambassadors at the District Council meeting.

This item has been tabled until the next meeting when the Board can discuss the maintenance of Public Art Collection in detail.

VI. Public art plaques and land acknowledgement inclusion

This item will be updated via email to the Board.

VII. Other Business / Adjourn

- a. February 3, 2022 meeting, 5:00 pm

Mr. Moya motioned to close the meeting. All members voted in favor.