ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR

LORENA RIFFO-JENSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT *of* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City Art Design Board Meeting
December 7, 2022
5:00 – 7:00 pm
Webex Online & Finch Lane Gallery

MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING APPROVAL

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

Staff Members
Renato Olmedo-González, Public Art Program Manager
Felicia Baca, Arts Council Director
Taylor Knuth, Arts Council Deputy Director
Brenda Alavez, Public Art Program Coordinator

EXCUSED: Jen Lopez

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Board Chair Ms. Meggie Troilli called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of November 2nd, 2022 Minutes

Ms. Angela Dean motioned to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Colour Maisch seconded the motion. All Art Design Board Members voted in favor.

III. FY22-23 CIP-Funded Projects Site Selection

Mr. Renato Olmedo-González reviewed the FY22-23 Public Art CIP Selection Process. The goal for today's meeting will be to select up to three sites for public art funding, ideally one small scale, medium-scale, and one large scale project. The Board will review a shortlist comprised of seven projects that received the highest scores, based on a ranking by the Board accomplished prior to the meeting. Mr. Olmedo-González identified two projects as being the highest ranked in the shortlist: Engineering's *Public Way Concrete* and Transportation's *500 North Traffic Calming Measures*.

Ms. Felicia Baca informed the Board that the top two projects align with the goals of the Salt Lake City Arts Council. The *Public Way Concrete* project would be a small-scale project that could be a good opportunity for commissioning emerging artists and/or those without previous public art experience, in addition of getting more public art in more districts. The *Traffic Calming Measures* aligns with the programmatic goal of placing more artworks in District 1. Additionally, the project area (500 North and 1400 West) is close in proximity to North Temple corridor, a high-priority area for the City.

Ms. Tiffini Porter expressed concerns over receiving pushback from the community about what kind of public art could go into the *Traffic Calming Measures*. Mr. Olmedo-González noted that –should this project be selected – community outreach and feedback would be an essential part of the process that would ultimately inform the kind of art to be placed there. There is a roundabout and a concrete median that could be good sites for a sculpture or other three-dimensional artwork and would have a positive impact on the community.

With the *Public Way Concrete,* Ms. Maisch liked the idea of incorporating literary artists into the stamped concrete project and possibly different languages. The Board agreed that this project would have a bigger city impact as it could be implemented across many districts and could even be personalized for individual neighborhoods.

For the third project the Board discussed Public Lands' *Memorial Tree Groves* and *Liberty Park Basketball Court* projects as the projects with the next highest rankings.

Specific site locations have not yet been confirmed for *Memorial Tree Groves,* but Public Lands has determined that the project would be divided into two areas: one west side and one east side location. Mr. Olmedo-González noted that there has not been any public art projects within District 6 in the last five-plus years and that a location for one of the Memorial Tree Grove sites could be within District 6. Ms. Porter noted that the open-ended nature of the project could allow for very creative or unique artwork. The Board noted that they would like to reconsider this project during its FY23-24 CIP Site Selection process.

Mr. Olmedo-González noted that *Liberty Park Basketball Court* would be very easy to implement as it would follow almost the same process as the recently commissioned *Poplar Grove Sports Court Surface Mural* project. This would be a very visible project as it is a well-used court. There is also potential for a partnership with outside partners, such as the Utah Jazz, to provide further amenities like benches or landscaping.

Given the premature stage in the development of the *Memorial Tree Groves* project, the *Liberty Court Basketball Court*'s ease of implementation was favored by most of the Board.

After further deliberation, Ms. Maisch made a motion to select *Traffic Calming Measures, Public Way Concrete*, and *Liberty Park Basketball Court* as the selected three projects. Mr. Mejia Seconded. All Board members voted in favor.

IV. Deaccession Reports and Recommendations

The following two artworks were discussed for recommendation to Mayor Mendenhall for deaccession from the Public Art Collection, as determined by the Public Art Program's Artwork Deaccessioning Policy and Guidelines (adopted by the Sal Lake Art Design Board on December 2, 2021).

a.) Untitled (Modesto Park) (2002) by Paul Heath, Linda Nowlin, Louise Fischman, Wayne Geary

Untitled at Bend in the River is part of a 2002 collaborative project between four artists (Paul Heath, Linda Nowlin, Louise Fischman, and Wayne Geary) located in Modesto Park. The artwork is divided into two different locations along the Jordan River. The artwork in question is the bench located at Modesto Park.

The bench has needed constant cleaning due to the prevalence of vandalism and vagrancy in the area. While the mosaic pavers and other portions of this artwork will remain at Modesto Park, the bench has become particularly unsightly and too difficult to maintain due to its obscured location. Earlier this year, the Public Art Program met with Parks & Public Lands and determined that removal is the best option, after repeated and costly repairs have proved ineffective. The artwork is currently being removed by Public Lands staff. During its discussion, the Art Design Board noted that deaccession of

this artwork was necessary because of issues associated with unsheltered populations seeking refuge in City-built infrastructure.

Ms. Maisch motioned to recommend the deaccession of *Untitled at Bend in the River*. Mr. Mejia seconded the motion. All Board members voted in favor.

b) Sugar House Benches (2008) by Eric Thelander

The *Sugar House Benches* by Eric Thelander were designed for the sidewalks of the Sugar House Business District in 2008.

Due to poor craftsmanship and lack of structural integrity, the Sugar House Benches are recommended for deaccession and removal. In 2020, a conservation assessment of our public art collection found that the condition of the three remaining benches was very poor, noting them as unsightly, and deaccession was recommended as a course of action. Deterioration of the concrete and peeling of the rhino coating is evident on all frames. Additionally, there is graffiti on the benches. Other issues include cracks, rust, chips, discoloration, and staining.

Mr. Moya motioned to recommend the deaccession of *Sugar House Benches*. Ms. Maisch seconded the motion. All Board members voted in favor.

V. Public Comment

None.

VI. Other Business / Adjourn

Ms. Maisch asked Ms. Baca for an update on *Seven Canyons Fountain* at Liberty Park. Ms. Baca informed the Board of the numerous safety issues surrounding the piece and that there were still ongoing discussions on what the best solution would be for refurbishing or replacing the fountain.

Ms. Porter motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Maisch seconded the motion. All Board members voted in favor.