

MUNICIPAL ART COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

9:00, October 7th, 2022

Zoom teleconference meeting

Commissioners attending: Aiken, Bunch, DeMeyer (alternate), Enders, Halpern, Highland, Lewis (Chair), McKinney (alternate), Reed. (Casanova attended at 9:36 a.m., after voting on all matters concluded.)

Staff: Julian Langenkamp, Assistant City Attorney; Pat Klein, Director of Aviation; James Martin, Public Art Administrator; Mark Spencer, KCAD Arts Program Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Chair Meghan Lewis at 9:03 a.m.

Encroachment Permit Applications

- 1808 Broadway
 - Dennis Baughman with Midtown Signs presented an illuminated blade sign for Telemundo Kansas City.
 - Commissioner Ruiz stated after looking at the pictures provided that the sign will not sit in the way of a walking path.
 - Commissioner Enders moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Bunch. Approved unanimously.
- 1812 Broadway
 - Baughman stated that while it is non-illuminated, it is the same sign as the one for 1808 Broadway.
 - Commissioner Enders moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Bunch. Approved unanimously.

The Chair moved to move up the New Business agenda item for relocation of Keith Sonnier's "Double Monopole" from the Cookingham Drive median at KCI, seconded by Commissioner Reed. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Relocation of Keith Sonnier's "Double Monopole" from the Cookingham Drive median at KCI
 - The PAA introduced Mark Spencer, the newly hired Arts Program Coordinator for the Aviation Department.
 - Mark Spencer stated that he's thrilled to be working with the Aviation Department. He's lived in Kansas City for over thirty years, been on selection panels for the Municipal Art Commission in the past, and he is proud to be associated with the City on this project and going forward.
 - KCAD Director Pat Klein introduced the "Double Monopole," which has been sited just south of the Paris Ave bridge for around twenty years and needs restoration. Metal components and many lights on the piece are

currently not working. The fountain is also turned off whenever the wind is greater than 5 MPH because water sprays onto the roadways. KCAD would like to take the work down, restore it, and relocate it. KCAD will fund the relocation, repair, and re-installation, estimated at roughly \$300,000.

- The PAA showed a map of possible future locations for the piece and described the options.
- The Chair reminded the commission that they are tasked with having to approve any proposed art relocation. This work came up in the conservation assessment that the PAA has been working with the past 2 years, and this is one of the items that needs work.
- Commissioner Reed asked how long the restoration process would be and what would be the timeline. The PAA stated that a third party independent appraiser has assessed it, but it has not yet been assessed by a conservator who has expertise in neon. They would have to get that in a treatment proposal, which would probably take a few months. Commissioner Reed stated that he thought that the relocation was framed as an urgent time issue because they were trying to relocate the piece before the airport's opening. Klein stated that it was separate from the airport's opening, but they'd like to have it dismantled and moved before the opening.
- Director Klein showed on Google Earth the relocation spot he prefers. The Chair asked if the piece would be physically in the water. The PAA stated that it would be placed on dry land, but it needs access to the water.
- Spencer stated that he thinks the piece will look great at night, its primary intention being viewed from dusk to dawn. He stated that the piece will be much more appreciated in a newer location, and that The PAA is doing a good job communicating with Sonnier's estate. The PAA has reached out to the artist's daughter concerning the move but has not received a reply yet.
- Commissioner Ruiz asked if there are any concerns with the costs of relocating to either locations. Spencer stated that the costs would be similar. Commissioner Ruiz asked if maintenance would be similar in each location. The PAA stated yes.
- Commissioner Reed made a motion to relocate the work to a site on the west side of Berlin Reservoir, seconded by Commissioner Highland. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes, September 2nd, 2022 Meeting

- Commissioner Ruiz moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Aiken. Approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

- The Chair was invited to speak on behalf of the art commission at the Zhou Brothers Art Center's groundbreaking ceremony. The grand opening should be in about 15 to

18 months. She stated that this is a great addition to the art community, and it was a wonderful ceremony.

- The PAA stated that there should be a significant number of studios in the building. Commissioner Aiken stated that he had seen the plans and that there was an opportunity for Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey to also possibly relocate to that space. He stated there's going to be studios, performance space, place for food, event space, and galleries. He stated that they're also trying to add housing for visiting artists.
- Commissioner Reed asked how many potential studios would be added there. Commissioner Aiken reported that there will be approximately 40 studios. Commissioner Ruiz asked how they can follow development online. The Chair stated she believes the Zhou Brothers have a social media account. She stated that Allan Gray is a partner in the project. He was on the executive committee for public art at KCI, and to reach out to him since he's intimately involved in the project.
- The Chair reported that the MAC City attorney Matt Cooper has left the City's employment, and they now have a new attorney Julian Langenkamp. Langenkamp thanked the Chair. She stated that Cooper's replacement starts in November, so she did not know if once his replacement took over if she'd continue to be their attorney but she's excited to assist them in the meantime. The Chair mentioned she had started preparing the updated version of the Municipal Art Commission guidelines and recommendations which is going to need to have involvement by their permanent counsel.

Old Business

Reports from the Public Art Administrator

- KCI
 - The PAA stated that many of the artists are finishing up their work. The installations are starting. Willie Cole will be installing in October.
 - The PAA showed a time-lapse video of the strap installation for SoftLab's "Cloud Gazing" work in the Connector. This was the test fit and the artist team could still make adjustments, but they were very pleased with the results. In the time-lapse video the PAA pointed out that the colors seem to shift as you walk under the cloud. Holly Hayden added that the straps are a very low-tech way to suggest movement in the work, and that no matter where you are in the Connector you'll be able to see the color shift.
 - The PAA stated that they've been visiting Concourse artists to check their progress.
 - Commissioner Ruiz asked the PAA if he's gotten any feedback from the artists.
 - The PAA replied that the process of getting an artist registered and the paperwork involved is significant, but they tried to simplify that for the Concourse artists. Regarding the difficulty of getting artists registered, he's attending a virtual public art training camp for 6

weeks that is being offered by the Office of Public Art in Pittsburgh. They had just discussed that registering artists is difficult for them as well. He stated that most of the feedback he's gotten from artists is concerning making the process simpler.

- Commissioner Ruiz asked if they could revisit the issue, have recommendations to modifying it, since this wasn't the first time the issue was mentioned.
 - The PAA stated that his main focus is getting the new terminal open and the art set up, but he's been working in the background looking for ways to simplify it. He stated that a lot of the difficulties are driven by procurement practices and law, and there's a lot of things that cannot be changed.
- Commissioner Ruiz stated that she wanted to have the artists share their experiences with community possibly in the spring of next year, to learn from them and to shape future procurement, recommendations, etc.
- Commissioner Highland suggested making a mini video on Instagram or the website so that people could get to know the artists in a more intimate way. The PAA stated that at KCI they would have typical museum placards, but many of the artists have expressed interest in QR codes in addition.
- Commissioner Casanova asked about the possibility of making time-lapse videos. The PAA mentioned that the Cloud Glazing time-lapse video was made by the artist, but with Nick Cave or Willie Cole they might talk to them to see if the artists are going to do it on their own.
- KC Streetcar Extension
 - The PAA has been in contact with all the semifinalists who have turned in all their paperwork needed to get their design proposals stipend. The Streetcar project team is still finalizing the packet of drawings that they'll provide to the artists for them to begin their design proposal. He stated that he gets regular updates with his contact with Public Works, but it's taking a moment to get the drawings pulled together for the artists.
- Central Bank Sporting Complex (CBSC)
 - The PAA stated that the second Q&A for artists was held that past Wednesday. The deadline is October 23rd, and it's an RFP. They know exactly where the art is going to go and the size it's going to be, so they can put it out as a Request for Proposals as opposed to a Request for Qualifications. The RFP process is one of the things learned from KCI: they can lower some participation barriers by going directly to a proposal, although it's not without controversy in the field of public art. He stated for example if you have 100 applicants who all make proposals, one gets the job, and 99 of them have just designed for you for free, so the public art field is typically very ambivalent about RFPs.
- GO KC projects
 - Kansas City Campus for Animal Care—Roger Stoller. They've received revised wall designs. The artist is currently working on the next design iteration and

should be finished with that soon. They're getting very close to the final design. It needs to be finished by May 1, 2023, since it's being funded from GO KC funds from 2018, and they have until May 1st to use those funds.

- Starlight Theatre—Doug Kornfeld. The PAA received the artist's final drawing and engineer details, which the PAA shared to the MAC. They believe the fabrication will be finished by February.
- Grand Complete Streets Pedestrian and Bike Bridge—Mark Reigelman. The contract is with law now. As Matt Cooper was transitioning he passed the contracts portion of his role over to Jim Brady in the Law Department and the MAC support over to Julian Langenkamp. Jim Brady currently has the contract, and the PAA is hoping to speak to him next week about that. In terms of the schedule they're in good shape since they're hoping to complete the art and the bridge in 2024.
- Benton Blvd bridge over Brush Creek—Glyneisha Johnson. The PAA stated that the time frame is unclear. They had sent out an early call for artists so that the artist's project would be included in the bid documents that would go out to general contractors to inform them that they will have to work with an artist as part of their contract. While the bridge rehab design was funded, there's an issue in funding the construction of the bridge. It's a City Council matter; they just haven't appropriated the funds for the project yet.
 - Commissioner Ruiz asked how the communication has been with the Benton Bridge artist in regard to the delay. The PAA has reached out to the artist but has not heard back from her. Commissioner Ruiz asked if the delay would last multiple months. She was curious about the artist's availability if the delay extends way beyond what they were hoping for. The PAA stated that it's hard to predict when the City Council might approve appropriations for it. The Chair asked the PAA to ensure that the artist is regularly updated, and if it's set for the docket on the City Counsel to let her know or if it gets tabled. The PAA stated that they're still working on the registration process. Currently there's not a contract with the artist because all the administrative documentation needs to take place first before Procurement will issue a contract.
- "We Are a Bowl" by RDG/Dahlquist Art Studio at East Patrol Station
 - The PAA stated that the draft engineering report is complete and is with the artist and their firm to review. Once it's been finalized on their end, they'll send it to the PAA with the proposal with how to move forward and the estimated cost.
- Next Now Showing artists on floors 22 & 26—Joe Bussell and Fred Trease
 - The PAA stated Bussell and Trease's art have been installed on floors 22 and 26. He shared some photos of the installation. There may be another reception at some point. Also, this exhibition is related to other exhibitions

across the city about the history of AIDS in Kansas City, which is related to a documentary that's going to be shown on KCPT.

- Commissioner Casanova asked if they are digital prints. The PAA stated that yes, they're digital. Fred's work exists digitally until he chooses to print them, and Joe's are reproductions of his vintage series of paintings.
- Commissioner Casanova asked how was the work received by the people working in the building. The PAA mentioned they had just installed the paintings a week ago so he hadn't received much feedback yet, but the previous exhibition was much loved. There was a special action in City Council for ArtsKC and for the two artists Desiree Warren and Mauricio Zúñiga. The exhibition was a great success and the reception was very much appreciated.
- Encroachment revisions ordinance
 - The PAA stated that it passed City Council. The two encroachments that they saw this morning were both under 12 sq. ft., so that means that small blade signs like that in the future would no longer require MAC approval.
 - The Chair stated that the reason they had the two that day is because it takes ten days for the ordinance to go into full effect. Moving forward they'd see far fewer encroachment applications.
 - The PAA stated that the TIO committee recommended slight changes to the wording of the ordinance and shared the wording virtually. Councilman Bunch wanted to include bike racks to the items that aren't subject to MAC approval of the commission, so they included an exception for bike racks that are works of art according to the definition established in Article XI of the Charter.
 - The Chair gave special thanks to Commissioner Enders and to the PAA for shepherding the ordinance through.

City Plan Commission Report

- Commissioner Enders stated that City Planning Commission got a presentation from Long Range Planning on the new comprehensive plan. He stated that the City's comprehensive plan is a twenty-year plan where they try to map out what the entire city should look like in terms of the types of zoning and planning and buildings they want to see. Artists should play a large role in that type of planning, so once the Long-Range Planning division has their rough draft out in the next couple of months he'll make sure to send it to the Commission. He encourages MAC to look at things that have importance to them, areas of town they know and care about, and try to make their voices heard. They're going to try to get it approved through Council probably within the next four months.
 - The Chair asked Commissioner Enders if he could clarify whether the draft is open to further amendment based on the MAC or others' feedback. Commissioner Enders stated that as he understood it, there was still room for feedback.

- Commissioner Ruiz asked if Kansas City residents as well can give feedback. Commissioner Enders replied yes.

President of Parks and Recreation Board Commission Report
No report from Commissioner Holland.

Public Comments
No comments.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:08 a.m.
The next MAC meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 4th, 2022.