

Approved as submitted

# Syracuse Public Art Commission

REGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2020

Room 215 City Hall

5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Present: Ellen Blalock, Lauren Boldon, Emanuel Carter and Tina Zagyva.

Absent: Elizabeth Bryson, Corky Goss, Jimmy Monto, Nadiya Nacorda, Takarra Smith, and Dan Ward

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

II. Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Due to a lack of a quorum, no vote was taken on the minutes.

III. New Business

SPAC 20-03: *Be Yourself/Umbrelove*, Ally Walker. Ally Walker (artist), Chris Biley (713 E Fayette St building owner) and Mary Anne Stella (general manager of XO Taco) presented the application for the murals *Be Yourself* and *Umbrelove* located on 713 E Fayette Street. K. Auwaerter noted that both murals were painted prior to approval by the Public Art Commission and so required retroactive review by the Commission.

The mural *Be Yourself* takes up the entire east wall of the building and features the words “Be Yourself” and “Everyone Else is Already Taken” on two lines on the single story portion of the building and an image of a rainbow-colored giraffe in kaleidoscope glasses on the two story section of the building. The mural on the west façade, *Umbrelove*, is of multi-colored rain drops and a multicolored umbrella set up high on the wall so that passersby can pose under the umbrella. Both murals are acrylic with an ultraviolet protective coating to limit fading.

In discussion, A. Walker explained that the murals were designed to be uplifting and cheerful in an area that is isolated from downtown. C. Bily talked about his desire to create a more pedestrian friendly environment and encourage greater walkability along E. Fayette Street.

The Commission members present discussed the murals and agreed that they would recommend approval of the murals the whole commission at the next meeting.

SPAC 20-04: *Diversity Lives Here*, various artists. Andy Mager presented *Diversity Lives Here*, a mural on west facade of 1415 Highland Street. K. Auwaerter noted that this mural had also been painted without approval of the Commission and so requires retroactive approval.

The mural features the work of four different artists that include Andre Britton, Brandon Lazore, Monty Esposito and Minh Lam. The mural includes a welcoming archway and figures of people representing the diversity of cultures that live on the city’s northside, specifically the African-American, Native-American, Italian-American and Vietnamese communities. A banner with the words “Diversity Lives Here” is painted above the figures. The mural covered over an earlier mural. The new mural is painted with latex paint but is unsealed.

In discussion, the Commission members agreed to support approval of the mural, but they encouraged A. Mager to have the mural sealed in order to promote the mural’s longevity.

IV. Discussion

Mural proposal: 505 Westcott Street, Nada Odeh. Artist Nada Odeh presented a proposal for a new mural on the west wall of 505 Westcott Street (Munjed's Restaurant). The mural takes up the entire wall space and features the figure of a winged angel over a body of water, stylized cityscapes of the Middle East and the word "Salam" or "peace" in Arabic. The project will be funded through a grant from the Westcott Area Arts Council. The Commission members were enthusiastic about the design of the mural. They discussed the type of paints the artist intends to use on the mural and recommended seeking technical advice about paint types and sealants from Golden Paints. N. Odeh will present a formal proposal at the next Commission meeting in March.

Westside TNT Special Projects proposal: 1171 W. Fayette Street underpass. T. Zagyva reported that a public art lighting project for the underpass just west of the intersection of S. Geddes and W. Fayette Streets had been submitted for TNT Special Projects funding. The purpose of the project is to install an illuminated art project in order to improve the pedestrian experience for those walking under the abandoned railroad bridge on W. Fayette Street. TNT will vote on the applications at the end of February. In discussion, K. Auwaerter noted that lighting projects are complicated due to questions such as access to power, how the power is metered and who pays for the ongoing expense. She suggested that the work should be coordinated with the City's project to install new sidewalks under the overpass. E. Blalock said she would find and share with T. Zagyva the name and contact information of local lighting artist who may be able to consult on the project.

Draft Mission Statement and Case Statement (distribution). The Commission members present agreed to wait for the distribution and discussion of the draft mission statement until the next meeting.

V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.