

Syracuse Public Art Commission

REGULAR MEETING

February 9, 2021

WebEx video conference

5:30 p.m.

I. **Attendance**

Present: Ellen Blalock, Lauren Boldon, Emanuel Carter, Elias Gwinn, Jimmy Monto, Davana Robedee, Dan Ward, Anita Welych, Tina Zagyva

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

The commission reviewed the minutes of January 12, 2021. L. Boldon made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by E. Blalock. The minutes passed unanimously.

III. **Old Business**

No Old Business

IV. **New Business**

New Member Welcome. D. Ward welcomed the new members to the Public Art Commission, who include Elias Gwinn, Davana Robedee and Anita Welych.

ESF Landscape Architecture Spring Studio: Downtown Sculpture Garden. E. Carter described his plan to have his spring landscape architecture studio (SUNY-ESF) study downtown Syracuse as a sculpture garden. The students – all juniors – will be asked to identify and select 10-12, mid-sized sculptural works by a range of artists and design these works into one of three sites in downtown Syracuse. The sites include the Everson Museum plaza and parking lot; the E. Genesee Street corridor from the Hills Building through the City Hall Commons plaza/Hanover Square to Clinton Square; and the E. Onondaga Street corridor from Columbus Circle to S. Salina Street at the new Salt City Market. The students will be asked to consider siting and installation details, circulation, seating, plantings, etc. with the goal of using sculpture gardens to enrich the experience of downtown Syracuse for all who live, work and visit the city. The project will last 5 weeks beginning around April 1. The commission will act as the “client” and will be included in interim and final reviews.

The commission welcomed the concept and the opportunity to work with the studio. In discussion, E. Carter noted that it would be possible for a student intern to consolidate the studio work into a booklet that could be used for fundraising and to attract artists to do work in the city. E. Blalock noted the proposed art loan program with Stone Quarry

Hill Art Park and recommended that the students consider selecting works from the art park for incorporation into the designs.

During further discussion, commission members brought up the I-81 project and the incorporation of artwork into the design of the new roadway. With a new federal administration and renewed interest in large infrastructure projects, the I-81 project will most likely begin to move forward quickly. The commission agreed that it needed to be able to show the how public art impacts the quality of the built environment with examples of local artwork as well as examples from other communities. K. Auwaerter said that she would get an update for the commission on the current status of the I-81 project.

V. **Discussion**

Marketing & Communications: M. Heagerty reported that members of the committee had participated in the City's social media training program. K. Auwaerter stated that she would arrange a session for all others interested in doing the training.

Special Projects: Downtown Mural Project. K. Auwaerter reported that Frank Malfitano continues to make progress with the Downtown Mural Project. For various logistical reasons, he has decided to use Syracuse Jazz Fest Productions, Inc., as the fiscal sponsor for the project. K. Auwaerter is working with the owners of 333 W. Onondaga and F. Malfitano on language for an agreement to install the mural on the east wall of the property.

Art Loan Program. K. Auwaerter reported that she has made some progress with the art loan program with Stone Quarry Hill Art Park. She met with the board of the Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency that owns Salina Plaza/Perseverance Park to introduce the program and get feedback regarding the placement of artwork on the plaza. She has also applied for grant funding through TNT to fund the transportation of the artwork to the site.

City Hall Gallery. K. Auwaerter also reported on the project to establish a gallery in the public corridors of City Hall. The gallery will feature artwork of local and regional artists. She is working with Ruthnie Angrand (City Communication Director) and Councilor Rita Paniagua on the program. There is no indication yet when City Hall will be opened back up to the public.

VI. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.