

Approved as submitted

Syracuse Public Art Commission

REGULAR MEETING

April 13, 2021

WebEx video conference

5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

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

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

The commission reviewed the minutes of March 9, 2021. T. Zagya made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by A. Welych. The minutes passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

No Old Business

IV. New Business

SPAC 21-04: *Huntington Panthers Street Mural*. Meghan Vitale (Huntington School PTO) presented the application to install a street mural in front of Huntington School at the intersection of Sunnycrest Road and Forest Hill Drive. The mural includes painted curb extensions (with vertical delineators and planter boxes) and a mural of a paw print graphic, representing the Huntington Panthers. The mural and painted curb extensions will be yellow outlined in white using waterborne traffic marking paint. The mural will be painted by volunteers in August 2021, coordinated by the PTO. After the winter months, the PTO will work with the City to determine if the mural should be repainted again with more durable materials. J. Monto made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by A. Welych. In discussion, the J. Monto noted that he appreciated the collaborative nature of the project. The commission approved the application unanimously.

SPAC 21-05: *Syracuse Trailblazers*, Jonas Never. Frank Malfitano (Syracuse Jazz Fest Productions) provided an introduction to the Downtown Mural Program, which is a 2 to 3 mural project that will celebrate notable Syracusians, especially those who have been leaders on social justice issues. He noted that he had been working with members of the commission and K. Auwaerter in the planning and discussions of the project since its inception. With their help, he identified 333 E. Onondaga Street, the Monroe Building, as the site for the first mural and has secured a 10-year license agreement with the owners. The artist for the first mural project

is Jonas Never, who is Los Angeles based and has a national and international reputation for his photorealistic murals of sports and pop icons. The figures in the proposed mural include four basketball players with close ties to Syracuse: Manny Breland, Brianna Stewart, Dolph Schayes and Earl Lloyd, Jr.

E. Gwinn voted to table the mural, which was seconded by M. Heagerty. In discussion, E. Gwinn stated that he needed more time to review the application. L. Boldon asked if copyright permissions had been obtained to use the images. The commission also asked about fundraising, which F. Malfitano indicated was not yet complete. In regard to the potential use of city funds in support of the project, Councilor Pat Hogan, who was in attendance, stated that it was appropriate that public funds be used on projects like this because public art is an economic development tool for the community. E. Carter and D. Robedee both spoke strongly in favor of the mural. D. Ward called a vote on the motion to table the application, which passed on a majority vote; E. Carter and D. Robedee voted against the motion. The applicant was asked to address the questions about copyright permissions and also to confirm that the submitted design is the final design of the mural.

V. Discussion

Marketing & Communications: M. Heagerty stated that the commission now had an Instagram handle and that he had reserved a Facebook account name. K. Auwaerter stated that she was involved in the website design training and would involve the subcommittee when it came time for actual design of the site to begin.

Special Projects:

Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Initiative. K. Auwaerter reported that the mayor's office had selected to submit a grant request for a project to remove the parking from in front of City Hall, install planters and paint a mural on the asphalt in order to create a more pedestrian friendly and usable space. The commission's proposal for the W. Fayette Street bridge underpass lighting project was rejected because it was not clear that lighting would qualify for the grant program and because the future of the bridge itself is uncertain. M. Heagerty shared an image of a mock-up of the City Hall plaza space. The commission noted the importance of including local artists in the development of the design, possibly through an RFP process.

Art Loan Program: K. Auwaerter shared that she would attend the next Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) board meeting in order to secure approval of the art loan agreement with Stone Quarry Hill Art Park and approval for funding to construct a new base for the artwork.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.