

Salem Public Art Commission Meeting

April 19, 2016

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, in Room 312, Third Floor, at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA.

Norene Gachignard, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:05.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Norene Gachignard, Lillian Hsu, J. Michael Sullivan, Mary Best, Keshia De Leon and Deborah Greel, Public Art Planner Absent: Amanda Moore, Austen Barron Bailly

Approval of March Minutes:

Best made a motion to approve. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Hsu suggested the following changes to the minutes under the Discuss Public Art Work plan 2016-2017 paragraph two: "She noted that Artbox is a great community centered program. We would like to grow the public art program to implement new & ambition programs. Paragraph seven: "Hsu discussed the Parking Day Initiative and said to advertise the program and suggested collaboration with the city to promote the program to identify street location and invite the community."

Hsu made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Best seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 5-0

Election of Chairperson

Hsu made a motion to accept Norene Gachignard as the Chairperson. Best seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 5-0

Gachignard made a motion to approve Lillian Hsu as the Co-Chairperson. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 5-0

Discussion and Vote on Proposals:

Documents and Exhibitions: Salem Sound Coastwatch Drain Smart Salem!

Jack Nessen, Program Associate and Alan Aparicio, Salem High School student and intern, presented the Salem Sound Coastwatch "Drain Smart Salem! Project proposing to use murals as a way to bring public awareness to storm drains. All materials that go into storm drains end up directly in Salem Harbor. Presently they are using stencils to inform the public but they only last a short time before footsteps and rain washes them away. Nessen pointed out that this kind of public art program is being implemented in cities across the country.

Hsu asked how many drains are available to paint. Nessen said that there are hundreds in the city but they will chose 10-12, primarily in the downtown, to start and hope to grow the program. The paintings will be on the sidewalks in high traffic areas and some on the street.

Gachignard asked about the budget and Nessen noted that there is not a budget for the project but the materials will be donated although the artist will not be paid but will be given the opportunity for a tax write off.

Best asked how Nessen how will he get the call out to artists and he said through social media, their website and outreach to colleges and high schools.

Hsu suggested that some kind of plaque or a way to identify where the materials in the drains end up as a way of informing Salem residents. Sullivan said that this adds a great community component to the project.

Hsu also suggested that Nessen work with the police department to provide traffic detail, traffic cones and vests as a safety measure for the artists.

Councilor Stephen Lovely, the City Council liaison to the Public Art Commission, asked permission to speak and the request was granted by Gachignard. Lovely suggested that Nessen check with the Harbor Master to make them aware of the project as boaters may be willing to participate in the program by adopting a drain. He also suggested that Nessen reach out to local yacht clubs to help raise fund for this project and drains could also be sponsored by individuals.

Hsu made a motion to accept the Salem Sound Coastwatch Drain *Smart Salem!* Project. Best seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 5-0

Salem Arts Festival Community Project

Documents and Exhibitions: Postcard and Flyer for the “Move with Me” Community Public Art Project

Kylie Sullivan, Director of Salem Main Streets, representing the Salem Arts Festival, presented “Move with Me” Community Public Art Project to be installed for the festival in June. Sullivan said that this project is using donated sail cloth to make pinwheels that will move with the wind representing the wind power that moved Salem’s ship all over the world. She noted that Claudia Paraschiv, a former member of PAC, is spearheading the project. Paraschiv visited the Peabody Essex Museum and found in their curiosity cabinet examples of textiles from countries that traded with Salem. She is drawing the patterns from the textiles on the pinwheels. Sullivan said that many volunteers come together each week in Paraschiv’s studio to make and decorate the pinwheels for the project making this a true community endeavor.

Sullivan explained the pinwheels will be strung on a cable over Front Street as a temporary installation. She has been working with John Giardi, the city electrician, who will install the project using the light poles. Hsu asked about the

Hsu suggested having an engineer that could weigh in on the wind load. Sullivan asked how long the cables are and if the material will stretch them with the weight as they don’t want to sag. He also said that there is still opportunity for modification based on the calculations.

Best, asked about spacers for pinwheels and Sullivan said that Paraschiv is working on trouble shooting that part of the project so that they don’t clump together.

Hsu said that the city of Cambridge did a similar project and that the artist did a test which is worth doing for this project. She also asked about the budget for the project with Sullivan said was \$600.00 for materials and \$1600 for artist stipend.

Best made a motion to approve the project. Hsu seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 5-0

Discussion and Vote – Selection of Creative Entrepreneurs Artists’ Row 2016 Program

Best and Sullivan, members of the Artists’ Selection Panel, said that there were five new applications and two from previous tenants bringing the total to seven. She noted that all of the spaces will continue to be maker spaces and that Boston Woodturning is bringing in a bigger lathe,

which will create larger works. She also noted that Sibel from Ceramics by Sibel has been a great addition to Artists Row and will continue to partner with Karen Scalia of Salem Food Tours.

Sullivan initially wasn't sure about Grace & Diggs, a new tenant, but liked that space will have a strong programming component with hat making for adults and kids. Best noted that the new tenant, Kay Stained Glass, is a member of the Salem Arts Association and their work is well done.

De Leon made a motion to approve the selection of tenants the Creative Entrepreneur Artists' Row 2016 program. Hsu seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 5-0

Discuss Public Art Work plan 2016-2017

Gachignard suggested deferring the discussion of the work plan until next meeting and more commissioners present.

Updates:

Public Art Installation: Hsu reported that the Artist Selection Panel looked at two final proposals. She explained that one proposal from OP | Architecture Landscape PLLC, looked at the form of Old Town Hall as three objects, cut into three pieces which created geometric forms. The forms would be made into walls placed between the hall and the pedestrian mall. Attached to the walls were flat plastic shaped houses attached by pins that would take advantage of the wind and move. The 'houses' would be blue and LED lights would catch the shadows and project them onto the Old Town Hall. She noted that the panel had a lot of technical and space issues due to how large the walls would be and their placement around the hall. She said that the panel will ask for a revised plan.

Artbox Program: Four applications were submitted by students from Salem State University for two Artbox locations (corner of New Derby and Washington and Lafayette and West St.). In the essence of time due to the students schedule and needing to begin work on the box within the next week, Mary Melilli, Chair of Art and Design (and an Artists Selection Panel member) and Karen Gahagan, Director of the Center for Creative Arts (funder of the SSU/Artbox collaboration) met and decided on the two students who will be painting the boxes located at Washington & New Derby and Lafayette and West St.

Before I Die Project: Dave Killop (Rockafellas), John Wathne (Structures North Consulting Engineers) and I met about the project and the feasibility of attaching the "Before I Die" wall to the brick wall. It was determined that the wall can easily be attached without damage to the brick. John Wathne will make up a schematic of what the wall will look like.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adjourn:

Best made a motion to adjourn. Hsu seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30pm