

Salem Public Art Commission Meeting

December 20, 2016

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, 2016, in Room 314, Third Floor, at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA.

Norene Gachignard, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:17pm

Roll Call:

Members Present: Norene Gachignard, Lillian Hsu, James Fallon, Amanda Moore, J Michael Sullivan, and Deborah Greel, Public Art Planner

Approval of November Minutes:

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

Motion passes: 4-0

Discuss and Vote on Proposal

Documents and Exhibit: Salem Arts Festival Community Art Project – Tidal Shift

Fallon made a motion to accept the proposal. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Kylie Sullivan, Director of the Salem Main Street Program (SMS), presented the community art project for the Salem Arts Festival (SAF) in June. Sullivan explained that the project creates a larger art piece that brings together adults, kids and seniors. She also explained that the project is made for the SAF weekend, will be suspended on rope and cable over Front Street and as with the other projects in the past 4 years ideally it would stay up beyond the festival.

Sullivan said that Claudia Paraschiv, who was not able to attend the meeting, of the Salem Space Project is the coordinator of the project called “Tidal Shift”. Paraschiv has been inspired by Salem Sound Coastwatch and their initiative to ban the use of plastic bags in Salem. Sullivan noted that Paraschiv thought the plastic bags look like jellyfish in the ocean and that fish and wildlife eat them. Paraschiv came up with a design of tying plastic bags together to look like jellyfish with the tentacles made from the plastic bags held together with the elastic bands used on the claws of lobsters after they have been caught. The “Tidal Shift” project will also call awareness to the litter in our oceans. Paraschiv has been working with the Phoenix School on a prototype to test the materials.

Gachignard asked where the plastic bags will come from for the project and Sullivan said that from individual homes as donations. Sullivan asked how the workshops are organized. Sullivan said that Paraschiv reaches out to community organizations such as Leap for Education, On Point Program, YMCA and hopes to tap into the Council on Aging. The workshops happen between January and May and are usually in Paraschiv’s office or the Phoenix School but are open to hosting in other venues. They will also be constructing the ‘jellyfish’ at the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) PM night in April.

Greel noted in the proposal that signage for the project was suggested to be on the light poles and said that it isn’t allowed. She said that there might be a way to put signage on the way to Old Town Hall although Sullivan said a new business going in on the pedestrian mall has requested a patio in the ‘garden’ area that was used for signage for “Tradewinds” last summer.

Moore suggested a small installation of “Tidal Shift” near Old Town Hall and the pedestrian mall to bring people to the space.

Sullivan made a motion to approve the “Tidal Shift” project. Moore seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 4-0

Discuss and Vote on Public Art Work Plan 2016-2017

Documents and Exhibit: Public Art Work Plan 2016-2017

Moore made a motion to approve the Public Art Work Plan 2016-2017. Fallon seconded the motion.

Discussion: Gachignard read the Work Plan item by item one final time and noted the addition of the 'menu' for public art. Greel mentioned the meeting with Gachignard, Hsu and Tom Daniel, Director of Planning and Community Development. The discussion of the increasing the budget for public art and as the Masterplan is an unfunded initiative and Daniel suggested a 'menu' of potential public art projects that the Mayor can include in her budget to the council. Moore suggested printing more copies of masterplan for distribution and a way to get more information out about public art.

Moore made a motion to approve the Public Art Work Plan 2016-2017. Fallon seconded the motion.

Motion carries: 4-0

Update: Artists' Row Sub Committee

The Artists' Row Sub Committee met in on Nov. 30th to discuss Artists' Row and the 2017 program. Greel said that there would only be one available tenant space on Artists' Row as all of the current tenants have expressed interest in staying. Moore, who had attended the meeting, suggested having students from local art schools use the one remaining space. She said they could use and activate both the interior space and the exterior space on the row. Sullivan asked if students could see their work. Moore also noted that the students could use the space as part of their curriculum and may be better at engaging the space and the community. She also suggested a curator in residence program as the space is small and may not be a good studio space. Moore said that the space should remain maker space.

Sullivan said that the time involved in using the space is a commitment. Moore said that the students could start thinking about the space and making it into gallery space where they will have a vested interest. Greel noted that the committee discussed the need for programming the space could also be engaged with games such as ping pong tables and even a food truck at the end of the row.

Collaboration with Art Teachers from Salem Schools

Greel met with teachers from the Salem High School and discussed hosting the All City Art Exhibit at Old Town Hall at the end of April for three days. Typically the exhibit is the same night as an All City Concert but the art is often overlooked. This gives students the opportunity to see their artwork displayed over a longer period of time. It highlights this part of the educational programming.

Greel also connected with Ben Kirk who directs the National Honor Society for Art at the High School and he is interested in having students participate in the Art box program. Greel has been invited to their next meeting in January to discuss the project.

Public Comment: No public comment

Adjourn:

Fallon made a motion to adjourn. Moore seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 4-0

Adjourn: 7:15