

Salem Public Art Commission Meeting

February 21, 2017

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 2016, in Room 314, Third Floor, at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA.

Norene Gachignard, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

Roll Call:

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

Approval of January Minutes:

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

Discussion: Hsu noted on the first page, last paragraph: "Hsu suggested that the developer advocate for a neighborhood feel in and around the Community Life Center to be built on Bridge Street." Should be changed to: "The city, in conversation with the developer during planning and design review, advocate for the developer to create a neighbor feel around the Community Life Center to be built on Bridge Street."

Motions passes: 4-1 Abstention

Discussion of and Vote on Bus Stop Shelter Project

Documents and Exhibit: Criteria Proposal for Bus Stop Shelter Project "Can I Help?" by Kaitlin Martin

Discussion: Kaitlyn Martin, student at Salem State University and Professor Ken Reker, who has worked with Martin on an honors project, presented this submission. The project is to create a shelter over a bench at a bus stop which design mimics that of two human bodies. Each figure is half of an arch that is created from the two figures joining their hands together to protect those underneath from the elements. Martin explained that she wants the work to inspire a sense of compassion and being there for your fellow man and would like adults and children to be inspired by this work. She noted that this work is in memory of a friend who died.

Martin explained that she would use hydrophobic coating on the ground in front of the bench so when it rains it asks the question, "Can I Help?". The shelter itself will be welded steel and plexiglass which would be attached and then put into a cement foundation with tubes and rebar attached.

Hsu asked about the question "Can I Help?" and who is it that is asking? Where does the thought go and how are people to respond? Martin said that she thought the seed would be planted about how can I take care of myself, how can I help others? Hsu responded that it sounds like the sidewalk is speaking and Gachignard concurred. Hsu asked what is the clarification from the prompt of the question, and suggested maybe there are other words or phrases, such as "How can you help?" Moore suggested that somewhere else on the bench or in other material could relay the message more clearly. Sullivan said the intention is great, presenting people with a question and given a thought of how to help others. He noted that people would be aware that someone has put shelter over the bench in inclement weather when you might need help. Liberty said the words helps you think about how to help others, or how you have been helped, now how to help others. She also suggested a QR code to let people know about the project.

Hsu asked how long does the hydrophobic acid last and what do people experience if it doesn't rain. Martin said it would last about three months. Hsu also asked about the front end of the roof and the sculpture would need to go over the body. Fallon noted that the bench is close to the curb and inches from the sidewalk. He asked about the scale and Martin said it should be tall enough to stand up in. He also asked about materials and Moore, who has worked with acrylic panels, said it would be better if they were bent and hinged but they could also collapse due to weight. Fallon suggested more rebar and was concerned about a windy season and the size of the tubes of cement that had to be drilled into as well as an issue of rust. Hsu said that the materials for the project needs work and suggested that Martin sit in a bus shelter and take the measurements of where it should have shelter. Functionality is really important and Moore suggested Martin do a Google Sketch up of the bench and space it inhabits.

Sullivan noted that it might require a building permit from Tom St. Pierre due to the materials used and rebar may need to be put in the ground. Sullivan said the intention of the project was how to help others and asked if this shelter idea may be too complicated as a structure that would have to deal with public safety.

Martin said that she would like to learn how to make this project work. The commissioners all offered their help to Martin as a resource on this project as they loved the message. They encouraged Martin to reach out for assistance and hoped that she would come back to the PAC with another proposal.

After deliberation the PAC did not accept the proposal as presented.

Discuss Artist in Residence Pilot Program at Artists' Row

Greel asked the PAC for guidelines and parameters on the Artist in Residence Pilot Program (AiRPP). Moore said that this could be an ongoing program for someone to coordinate the Artists' Row space.

Suggestions from PAC to be included in the program guidelines:

1. Site specific programs that engage the public and respond to Artists' Row exterior space.
2. The Artist in Residence (AiR) will work with the Public Art Planner and the tenants to plan programming. The Public Art Planner, AiR and the tenants will meet monthly.
3. Timeframe between Mid June to Mid August
4. AiR will be on site from noon-5pm with flexibility of Saturday or Sunday.
5. AiR will provide summary of what the program entails
6. AiR will be responsible, in collaboration with the Public Art Planner and the tenants for marketing. Blog or info on the Artists' Row website. Programming link to social media
7. Host a kick-off event in collaboration with the Public Art Planner and the tenants
8. Host a final event
9. Documentation of the program
10. Stipend and payment schedule

Greel will draw up the Artist in Residence Pilot Program Guidelines and present them at the March PAC meeting.

Updates:

- **Art Inventory Volunteer** – Greel met with Christian Hargrove of Salem Volunteers to discuss the help in finding a volunteer to begin the public art inventory. The description was shared on Salem Volunteers and one candidate was interviewed and will begin the

work this spring. Lauren Fleck-Steff works for an auction house and is familiar with information gathering for art.

- **Art Selection Committee – Grant Program – Call for Works**
CALL TO ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS – Request for Proposals
“Celebrating the Urban Environment”, Temporary Art in Three Sites
Salem, Massachusetts, Summer 2017 - Submission Deadline: March 30, 2017.
The call will be distributed by February 22nd.
- **Artists’ Row Call for Creative Entrepreneurs** – The call was distributed (through the Mayor’s office, email, and social media) and is due on Friday, March 15.
- **Collaboration with Salem Sound Coastwatch, From the Bow Seat and Collins Middle School, Art and Science Teachers for Painted Stair Project.**
In January I met with this group at the Collin Middle School to discuss the painted stair project. The project is becoming a combination of art and science. Staff from the Salem Sound Coastwatch and The Bow Seat, will work with the science teachers to discuss invasive species in Salem Harbor and the environmental impact on sea creatures with their students. The research done by the science students will be shared with the art students and together with the art teachers come up with the artwork for the stairs. Alyssa Irizarry, staff at From the Bow Seat (an organization that works to inspire the next generation of ocean caretakers through education and engagement with the arts, science, and advocacy), is also an artist who will help guide the process. June 10th is the tentative date for inviting the students, teachers and community to help paint the stairs.

Public Comment:

Steve Dibble, Ward 7 Councilor, is the PAC liaison. He suggested that we add to the call for “Celebrating the Urban Environment” to add the bike path corridor.

Councilor Dibble also invited the PAC on a field trip with him to Stonybrook Fine Art Center in Jamaica Plain.

Adjourn:

Moore made a motion to adjourn. Fallon seconded the motion
Meeting Adjourned: 8:00pm