

Salem Public Art Commission Meeting

January 17, 2017

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 2016, in Room 314, Third Floor, at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA.

Norene Gachignard, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

Roll Call:

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

Approval of December Minutes:

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

Motions passes: 4-0 1 Abstention (*Liberty was not a member of PAC in December.*)

Discussion of Public Art Projects Guided by the Public Art Masterplan

Documents and Exhibit: Pages 35-56 of the Public Art Masterplan

Hsu said that the list as recommended for public art in the masterplan is pretty extensive. She noted that the PAC should select a few projects and present to the council to get their feedback and to see what would interest them. Hsu also said that we can't do all of the projects recommended in the masterplan but we can ask them to select projects that add up to \$50,000 as this gives them an opportunity to be part of the process. PAC would choose three projects from the masterplan and ask for increased funding which would move the public art program forward.

Bailly said that the list of projects in the masterplan should be updated as it was developed almost four years ago. She also said to give a portfolio of options. Although, for example the entrance to the pedestrian mall, which is a recommended site, has a large presence so perhaps this would not need public art.

Hsu asked what the hierarchy for projects and sites is. Where do we want a marker? Fallon says that maybe near Old Town Hall may be a good place. Where do we know we want to prioritize? Bailly said that we might be able to demonstrate an opportunity for advocating and supporting and the viability of smaller projects in the downtown. Liberty wonders if there is a digital answer to this space at the beginning of the pedestrian mall.

Hsu suggested that the developer advocate for a neighborhood feel in and around the Community Life Center to be built on Bridge Street. Bailly suggested high profile gathering spots and entering spots to the city. She pointed to examples such as the design of bike trails to include the artist in the design as early as possible. She also suggested working with the council to identify funds and think of public art as a systemic and integral part of civil development that are included in the masterplan.

The following areas were identified as possibilities to present to the City Council for further increased funding:

Project Locations:

Project	Location	Concept/Description	Budget
Mural	Bridge Street		\$30,000
Welcoming entrance from the train station	Under the 114 Bridge/Entrance to Train Station		\$25,000
Derby Square		1. Re-design of kiosk space expanded function	\$30,000-50,000
Waterfront parks	Winter Island Collins Cove	Sculpture Park at Winter Island	\$25,000-\$35,000
Community Life Center	Bridge Street		\$60,000-\$100,000

Discussion of Public Art Planner Presentation to Planning Board:

Bailly suggested using parts of the masterplan to pick out talking points. Hsu said to give three examples where art can be put in the planning process and to make the examples image heavy. She noted for quality of life in a city to point out what goes on between the big block structures that are built. What are the plans for between the buildings and here is where we can think about public art and placemaking. Also suggested was to inform the Planning Board of the direction of the Public Art Commission. Greel noted that she is in one stop meetings with developers and has made suggestions on their projects to incorporate public art.

Updates:

Art Selection Committee Grant Program

Greel presented the work from the Artist Selection/Location Committee Grant Program. The theme “Celebrating the Urban Environment” plans to utilize three areas beginning at the train station, on Washington Street and on Mill Hill, the entrance to the old train station. Bailly mentioned that ‘public art should surprise and delightful’ and this is the essence of the program in 2017.

Artists’ Row Call for Creative Entrepreneurs

The “Call for Creative Entrepreneurs” for the 2017 program adds language about placemaking activities that help residents and visitors re-image and reinvent public spaces.

Public Comment: No public comment

Adjourn:

Fallon made a motion to adjourn. Hsu seconded the motion.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:10