

## **Public Art Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
Arlington Economic Development, 1100 N. Glebe Road, Suite 1500

### **NOTES**

#### **Attendance:**

Courtney Murphy, Chair  
Kameron Aroom  
Gordon Fraley  
Betsy Johnson  
Takis Karantonis  
Joe Petty  
Angela Adams  
Elizabeth Carriger  
Deirdre Ehlen  
Michelle Isabelle-Stark  
Todd Bressi  
Taylor Lawch  
Cliff Garten (via phone)

### **DEVELOPER PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

#### ***Vote***

#### **1. Corridor of Light Phase I – Central Place:**

Taylor Lawch of JBG Smith provides updates on the concept and the scope of the project. For the Esplanade portion, Cliff Garten's contract should be completed soon. VDOT will manage the project. The delivery date is slated for 2019. Central Place plaza is substantially complete. Cliff Garten's proposal consists of LED backlit panels of diffused glass with 180 node resolution. The panels will be installed on the residential podium (north building) only as it is cost prohibitive to do them on both sides. The final budget is \$1,185,511, but they would like to try and reduce this number without changing the physical scope of the artwork or its technical capabilities. Included in this budget is \$200K in supplemental funding from the County. The money (currently in the County-controlled Rosslyn Fund) will be transferred to JBG through the County's Industrial Development Authority (IDA), so the County will condition how it will be spent in this process. The thinking amongst PAC members is that it would be best for this to go towards Cliff's fee/content creation with JBG's funding covering the project hard costs. For content, the hope is to deliver four different programs. In order to get project within budget, the quantity of shows may be reduced, though producing the first program is the largest cost. There is the possibility of purchasing additional programs in the future. The PAC requested more information on the programming. The PAC were all in favor to approve the current plan for the work to be installed on just the residential building podium. Gordon Fraley abstained from the voting.

#### **2. Courthouse River Plaza Deaccession:**

Elizabeth provides an overview of the situation with the work by Jesus Moroles (deceased) located at the Residence Inn in Courthouse. The installation has continued to suffer from maintenance issues due to the water element, specifically waterproofing issues and debris clogging the rivulets. Donohoe, the developer who owns the work, is faced with excessive costs to restore and maintain the work. Under public art staff's guidance, Donohoe is reviewing their options and considering removing the water feature elements of the work and retaining the three seating elements in a new configuration. They will work with a landscape architect on the repositioning the elements. Because the work would no longer

exist as the artist intended, we would like to deaccession the work. Staff is working to contact the artist's estate manager to make sure they are informed and that we are doing this in a way that is respectful to his work. There were recommendations from PAC members to consider enlivening the space more with other furniture, recreating the pattern of the rivulets in the paving, or possibly using metal to fill in the rivulets. It was agreed that staff will come back to the PAC when more research has been done and more information is available.

### **Updates**

#### **1. Gables North Rolfe Street:**

Elizabeth provides an update on the public art for Gables North Rolfe Street by artist Joe O'Connell. Angela and Elizabeth met with the developer and their landscape architect at the end of October about the site design and landscaping around the work. Per the PAC's recommendation, they have moved the work closer to the street for better visibility. Staff has advised them to simplify the plinth for the artwork to which they were receptive. They are working with an accessibility consultant for ADA compliance. They will continue to keep us posted. The work is slated for installation in fall 2018.

#### **2. Potomac Yard Landbay D Center Park North:**

Elizabeth reports that staff has been involved in conversations with the County landscape architect in CPHD UDR regarding Center Park North, the parcel of land adjacent to Larry Kirkland's *Wonder, Wander* which is at Center Park South. The developer of this parcel is moving forward with the final design for the north portion of the park. Larry Kirkland also designed the public art elements for this portion of the park, which includes benches and a water feature. The full design was approved by the PAC in 2008. Due to high maintenance costs to maintain a water feature, the landscape architect is looking at removing the water element. We have requested that with whatever they decide to do, they work with Larry Kirkland on the design and that the quality of materials is consistent with the adjacent, built park. We hope to have more information to share at the May PAC meeting.

## **COUNTY PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

### **Updates**

#### **1. Oakland Park:**

Elizabeth provides updates on the artwork for Oakland Park which is to be designed and fabricated by artist Foon Sham. Foon presented his portfolio to the Ballston Virginia Square Civic Association on January 23 and received a very positive response. Since then he has been in the concept design process and presented proposals to the Art Advisory Panel on March 6. Through their guidance, it was decided that he will focus on further refinements to one of the concepts. We will present the final concept design at the May PAC Meeting.

#### **2. TOTR / 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive Temporary Enhancement:**

Angela reports that we are moving forward with a mural by Hamilton Smith for the building façades. It should be completed before a June 10 event at the facility. The project is being done as quasi community-initiated project with building users and members of the Left Bank Alliance.

#### **3. Courthouse 2.0:**

Deirdre reports on the plan to bring the *Put the "I" into Civic* sculpture back outside. We are in the process of trying to work on an agreement with Vornado to place it out in the Plaza area, or it may be moved to County ROW. We will keep the PAC posted.

#### **4. Four Mile Run Watermarks:**

Deirdre provides an update on the concept renderings. In order for the *Watermarks* to be fabricated with Decomark materials, there will need to be less detail on the fish. She also reports that we were not able to figure out a way to mark each tributary because there are no given names for most of them.

#### **5. Columbia Pike Western Gateway:**

Takis reports on some recent issues that have come up with the community related to the project, due to the long lead time for the project. He has been instrumental in meeting with community members and being an advocate for the project. Angela emphasized that it is not a neighborhood project but a project which belongs to everyone. Updates for the art portion of the project must be done as part of the updates given for the project as a whole.

#### **6. NEA Art Works Grant:**

Angela reports that she updated and resubmitted the application for her book project to the NEA Art Works grant program and should hear something by July.

### **COUNTY PLANNING PROCESSES**

#### **1. PAMP Update**

Angela introduces Todd Bressi, the consultant for the Public Art Master Plan update. Todd reports on what he has been focusing on to date:

- 1) Benchmarking - looking at peer programs in the state as well as Montgomery County. A unifying concern is pushing projects out into neighborhoods. This is one of the bullet points on our plan -- connecting better through neighborhood projects.
- 2) Assessment of what the program has been doing and two conclusions established: The Trust & Agency funds have been used very wisely. The program has also been doing a wide range of projects and reflects the directions seen in the field of public art.
- 3) Interviews with external and internal stakeholders and identified lots of challenges that need to be thought through:

- Lack of engagement and awareness of the collection. Misconception that public art is all about static sculpture.
- Calling developer public art part of the collection is a double edged sword. Gives us control, but also people see less ambitious art and associate it with us.
- General environment for how people think about public art has changed as have the expectations of public art.
- Public priorities are changing and public art is competing with things like affordable housing and schools. (County is using various financial tools for affordable housing not available for public art). Arlington has more competition from people doing office location searches -- economic framework is different now thirteen years after PAMP was first adopted.
- Todd also discussed the Cultural Affairs Strategic Plan document which he sees as very strong with values and goals that embrace lots of fresh thinking and creates an umbrella that gives the public art program a lot of room to grow and flourish.
- The Public Art program is in a better position administratively, located within AED.
- It is still important for the program to be heading where it is heading with integrated public art and being a champion for good civic design. This is getting more challenging, but it is important for the program to continue to do this.
- Based on interviews, Todd is sensing the desire for the public art program to go bigger with more spectacle. It is also important to think about how the program can go smaller, like the *Watermarks* project, with place-based projects focused on the activation of public space.
- It is important to think about how the program can use resources to build ecosystems, i.e. get more artists working here and create more interpretive opportunities to appreciate the work that artists here do at all levels.

- Todd discusses the public engagement aspect of the plan. We have been discouraged from doing a survey and encouraged to gather information creatively. We will be moving forward with artist-led community engagement that we are calling the "Artist is In".
- Todd would like the opportunity to meet one on one with PAC members.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 6:00 PM**