



Art in Public Places Panel

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **MONDAY, February 1, 2010**

The Art in Public Places Panel convened in a regular meeting on *Monday, February 1, 2010* at City Hall, Room 2016, 301 W. Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Risa Puleo called the Panel Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Panel Members in Attendance: Risa Puleo (Chair), Irene Roderick (Arts Commission Liaison), Jaime Castillo, Jennifer Chenoweth, Murray Legge, Lynn Osgood (partial attendance), Ryan Thompson.

Staff in Attendance: Megan Crigger, Kaity Macy (partial attendance), Alyson McGee.

1. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. Ann Graham addressed the AIPP Panel regarding the proposed new design for the Town Lake Park Children's Garden. She expressed concern that the landscape architecture firm may be infringing upon the copyright of the artists who designed the original Children's Garden for the City. She said that the firm, TBG has been informed of the possible infringement and they have agreed to redesign their plans. Ms. Graham left copies of the original and proposed design for the AIPP Panel.

Panel Member Puleo asked what the Panel could do regarding this issue. Megan Crigger reported that she has met with Parks & Recreation Department (PARD) staff and expressed AIPP's concerns about the design and whether PARD would consider using the design commissioned by AIPP. She stated that the AIPP Panel could ask PARD to use the AIPP commissioned design but that the AIPP Panel has no official authority over PARD's decision.

Ann Graham stated that the Panel should be concerned that copyright infringement could negatively impact the reputation of the AIPP program.

- b. Ann Graham addressed the AIPP Panel to inform them that she has met with City Council members to discuss the City's acceptance of a donation of memorial sculptures to be placed at locations around the city where City of Austin Police Officers have been killed.
- c. Juan Oyervides, a member of the Mexican-American Cultural Center (MACC) Board of Directors addressed the AIPP Panel asking that a member of the MACC Board, Raul Garza, be placed on the Selection Panel for the MACC AIPP project. He pointed out that the MACC is the only City of Austin park property with its own Board of Directors. Panel Member Puleo stated that the issue of the Selection Panel would be discussed later in the meeting's agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The minutes for the regular meeting of 12/7/2009 were approved with no changes on the motion of Panel Member Legge. Panel Member Chenoweth seconded the motion. Motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote. Panel Member Osgood had not arrived yet.

- b. The minutes for the special meeting of 12/12/2009 were approved with no changes on the motion of Panel Member Roderick. Panel Member Chenoweth seconded the motion. Motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote. Panel Member Osgood had not arrived yet.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. Vice Chair Puleo asked if Panel Members wanted to discuss the issues presented by Ann Graham during Citizens' Communication. Megan Crigger pointed out that Panel could not take any official action on those topics as they were not on the agenda.

Panel Member Roderick said she has met with Council Member Laura Morrison regarding the Police memorial sculptures and that Council Member Morrison expressed concern that there was no input from the AIPP Panel and that the pieces are being placed in the public right-of-way. Panel Member Roderick recommended panel members contact City Council members to voice their concern. Panel Member Osgood recommended review by the Design Commission.

Megan Crigger clarified that the art donation policy has been adopted by the Arts Commission, but not the City Council.

Panel Member Puleo asked if the AIPP Panel should make a statement about the process being carried out for the redesign of the Town Lake Children's Garden. Megan Crigger stated that the 2% for public art ordinance would apply to the Town Lake Park and Auditorium Shores projects.

4. ARTS COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT

- a. Panel Member Roderick reported that at their last meeting the Arts Commission approved the design for the Austin Nature and Science Center (ANSC) AIPP project, the selection process for the MACC AIPP project, and for Angel Cassada to complete his mural project. The Arts Commission also directed staff to research if the donor of the Gibson Guitar sculptures would pay for new bases to be fabricated.

5. OLD BUSINESS-

- a. **Approve Selection Panel for the MACC 1A Art in Public Places Project**

During citizens' communication Juan Oyervides, a Mexican-American Cultural Center (MACC) Advisory Board Member, addressed the AIPP Panel asking that Advisory Board Member Raul Garza, be placed on the Selection Panel for the MACC AIPP project. Panel Member Legge pointed out that Raul Garza is on the list of potential Selection Panel members developed by AIPP Staff and recommended that he serve as a Project Advisor rather than Selection Panelist.

Panel Members discussed the list of potential Selection Panel members as presented by AIPP staff. Panel Member Roderick motioned to recommend approval of the following prioritized list for the Selection Panel: Jaime Salvador Castillo, Roberto Tejada, Leslie Moody Castro Charles Ramirez Berg, Andy Coolquitt, Cruz Ortiz, Candace Briceno, Ursula Davila-Villa, Elise Calhoun, Greg Esparza, Melanie Schopper. Panel Member Osgood seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0-0.

b. Discussion on Temporary Public Art (TX Biennial) evaluation and wrap up.

Megan Crigger stated the Temporary Public Art project was a very successful and visible project and recommended that in the future the AIPP program work to have a stronger public presence. She stated that staff is interested in having the temporary art program expanded into other parks and public spaces beyond the programming of the Texas Biennial. The Texas Biennial has asked AIPP to partner again; the decision will be made by staff and the AIPP Panel in the future.

Panel Member Puleo pointed out that the goal was to engage new and emerging artists and that two examples of that goal has successfully been met are Colin McIntyre and Buster Craybill, both of whom have received other commissions since participating in the AIPP Temporary Art project.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation and Action on ArtHouse Exhibition and Temporary Public Art Project

Elizabeth Dunbar, Associate Director and Curator of ArtHouse, presented the Fast Forward exhibit and performance by artist Ryan Humphrey that incorporates images and activities related to the BMX culture. Ms. Dunbar asked for AIPP financial support for the performance piece planned to take place during the Fuse Box Festival. Ms. Dunbar stated that the total budget for the project is \$10,000-12,000, that ArtHouse is committing \$5,000 and requesting \$3,000-6,000 from the AIPP's Temporary Art budget. The Fuse Box Festival will contribute the remaining funds. Ms. Dunbar also asked for AIPP assistance with promotion.

Panel Member Osgood asked AIPP staff if there were any concerns about AIPP providing funding, and whether there were sufficient resources to participate. Megan Crigger stated there were sufficient staff resources and that the only concerns would be the perception of AIPP "underwriting" a one night event and that the AIPP Temporary Art policy is not fully developed or adopted. Panel Member Legge stated this would be a learning opportunity for the program. Megan Crigger clarified that the City would be contracting with the artist for a specific scope of work. Panel further discussed the proposal. Panel Member Roderick stated the project would be an opportunity to impact a new audience, adolescent males, who have little awareness of contemporary art.

Panel Member Chenoweth motioned to recommend support of \$4,000. Panel Member Legge seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0-1 with Panel Member Castillo abstaining.

b & c. Approve Final Design and Additional Funding for Susanna Dickinson Art in Public Places Project

Kaity Macy provided project background and introduced the following project representatives - Valerie Bennet (Curator for the Susanna Dickinson and O. Henry Museums), Madge Whistler (Member of the Brush Square Sub Committee), Hawkeye Glenn and Lizzie Martinez (Artists), Bunny Bennet (PARD) and Marty Stump (PARD).

Artist Lizzie Martinez presented the project design to the AIPP Panel. She described the revised design for the courtyard as a series of three, level tiers that accommodate the grade

changes at the site, improve ADA accessibility, and provide for better public usage of the plaza. She described the granite slabs that will be laid out to create a “pooling” effect, emulating the river cascading and pooling through the Balcones Escarpment. The slabs will be pinned together vs. mortared to allow for water infiltration/drainage. The planters near the existing tree will have a drainage pipe system to divert water to the outer root system. The design includes the following enhancements to the original plans: three engraved texts on granite featuring quotes from O’Henry, Susanna Dickenson and a Native American prayer, as well as a Braille engraving in one steel planter providing an artistic description of the site, and a thickening of the carbon steel planter walls.

Panel Member Legge motioned to recommend approval of the final design. Panel Member Osgood seconded the motion. Panel Member Puleo asked if there was additional discussion?

Valerie Bennet said the current design is better than the previous design, provides for easier maintenance, better addresses health of the tree and takes into account the programming for the site. Marty Stump expressed that the design does a nice job of making the space work in an artistic way. He stated that a forester has reviewed the plans and has concluded that the approach will not be damaging to the tree. Final site development review will include review by the City Arborist.

Madge Whistler asked the artists if lighting would be included. Lizzie Glenn stated that lighting was not in their AIPP budget but they would coordinate laying conduit under the pavers to accommodate a future lighting system.

Panel Member Chenoweth asked if AIPP typically provides additional fees to artists. Kaity Macy stated it was justified in this case because of the additional coordination required by the artists. Panel Member Puleo asked why the percentage artists’ fees were higher in the enhancement budget than in the original budget. Kaity Macy stated that the artist fee for the enhancements represent 20% of the total budget (15-20% is recommended by AIPP), whereas the artist fee in the original budget only represented 10% of their budget.

Panel Members, stakeholders and artists discussed font types for the engravings. Panel Member Thompson made a motion to amend the earlier motion to add that the artists are to research the history and usage of type faces and to use ones most appropriate for the individuals being quoted, as well as consider utilizing citations such as “as told to” to indicate spoken-word quotes. Panel Member Legge seconded the motion. The amended motion passed on a vote of 6-0-0.

Panel Member Osgood motioned to recommend approval of additional funding of \$12,500. Panel Member Roderick seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0-0.

d. Approve Artist Selection Process Animal Service Center Art in Public Places Project

Megan Crigger introduced Melanie Miller, Chief Administrator for Health and Human Services, and presented the project outline. Melanie Miller presented the current site plan and the goal to have the public art project reflect the architectural and historical context of the campus as the former segregated Texas Blind, Deaf and Orphan School. She stated the conceptual plan for the site was drawn from neighborhood input and has been approved by

City Council. The plan calls for the public art work to create an architectural gateway that reflects the architecture of buildings recently demolished at the site.

Panel Member Osgood asked for clarification regarding which buildings were demolished and which remain. Melanie Miller said 9 buildings were demolished and 4 remain. Megan Crigger clarified that there was public interest in pursuing historic designation of some of the buildings, which was reviewed by the Historic Landmark Commission, and the Planning Commission and City Council decided not to designate.

Panel Member Puleo asked if there was any other way to commemorate the history of the site than through the public art. Melanie Miller said there was no other funding for commemoration and that the City Council had been presented the concept of commemoration through the public art work.

Panel Member Osgood asked why the public art work had to act as an entryway or threshold and stated that opening up the opportunities for artists may result in a richer work of art. Melanie Miller stated an entryway was important to the community. Megan Crigger clarified that commemoration of the history was most important and fit with the City Council expectation.

Panel Member Legge expressed concern that there were many caveats for this project and that the call may ask for too much, which may result in a watered down work of art. He also felt the budget would be inadequate to design and construction a gateway. Melanie Miller stated that some work, such as structural/foundation work could be covered by the construction budget.

Further discussion clarified that the primary function of the art work should be to evoke history of the site with the secondary function being placement at the entry to the site.

Panel Member Osgood motioned to move forward with the language as read deleting the reference to the piece as a “gateway. Panel Member Chenoweth seconded the motion. The motion failed on a vote of 2-4-0.

Megan Crigger recommended she work with an AIPP Panel Member (Murray Legge or Lynn Osgood) to rewrite the project outline after getting clarification of City Council’s intent for the project.

Panel Member Legge motioned to pursue Megan Crigger’s recommendation. Panel Member Osgood seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5-1-0.

e. Approve Artist Selection Process for Austin Energy Seaholm Wall Project

Alyson McGee presented the project outline including funding sources, options for selection process, project schedule per Memo of Understanding with Austin Energy, and the proposal to use a design-build project delivery model. Panel Member Legge expressed concern about using a design-build model because most artists would not have resources to propose a construction contractor at the time they submit a response to the RFQ. Megan Crigger clarified the goal of holding to AIPP processes and policies while also meeting statutory requirements of the project due to the nature of the work.

Panel Member Chenoweth motioned to approve the Selection Process Option #2 and delay recommending a Selection Panel to a future meeting. Panel Member Castillo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0-0.

7. VISIBILITY/BRANDING SUBCOMMITTEE

Tabled to next meeting.

8. PUBLIC ART COLLECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Tabled to next meeting.

9. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. The donor of the Gibson Guitar sculptures has stated he is not interested in paying for new bases. The City will ask the Downtown Austin Alliance if they would like to purchase new bases for the sculptures.
- b. Megan Crigger presented a draft temporary art policy, which she will place on the next AIPP Panel meeting agenda.
- c. Megan Crigger presented standard selection criteria language developed by staff. This language will be included on the AIPP web page.

10. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Puleo adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m. without objection.