



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved MADISON ARTS COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

5:00 PM

Hawthorne Library
2707 East Washington Avenue 53704
Madison East Shopping Center

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Sheri Carter; Kia M. Karlen; Cedric A. Johnson; Francesca H. Rodriguez;
Yvette M. Pino; Barbara M. Schrank and Jenie L. Gao

Absent: 1 - Michael I. Ford

Excused: 3 - Faisal Abdu'Allah; Yorel F. Lashley and Ginger A. Contreras

APPROVAL OF November 15, 2017 MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals registered to discuss the Pennsylvania Park Public Art Project:

Matthew Clausen
Barb Stapelmann
Gail Piper
Judith Landsman
Adrienne Sella
Diane Farsetta

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

1. [49683](#) Authorizing the execution of a lease with the Town of Blooming Grove of space within the building located at 3325 Thurber Avenue for use as an artist studio.

The lease with the Town of Blooming Grove has been negotiated. Because the property is zoned residential, Karin submitted a conditional use permit application that will be reviewed by the County Zoning Committee at the end of February. The lease is contingent upon the approval of the conditional use permit. Commissioners discussed whether the artist-in-residence should have a required minimum number of hours per week to be on-site, if the City should perform a background check on the artist, and whether they should be eligible to receive multiple City-sponsored grants during their tenure as artist-in-residence. Karin will check with the City Attorney's office regarding the work hour requirement and potential background check. Discussion on these topics will continue at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Schrank, seconded by Pino, to Return to Lead with the

Recommendation for Approval to the FINANCE COMMITTEE. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. [49913](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk or the Designee of the Finance Director to execute a sole source Purchase of Services Contract with Roy Elkins, doing business as RGE Music Company, LLC
A motion was made by Schrank, seconded by Johnson, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.
3. [21625](#) MAC Annual Grant Review

Commissioners discussed holding fewer grant clinics and instead offering one-on-one sessions upon request. Staff will send out a new meeting calendar once these changes are made.

Grant application guidelines are changing to include new content about outreach and project completion timelines. Once the new material is added, Karin will send to Barb Schrank for review. The Commission voted to authorize Karin to make changes to the application and guidelines without full Commission approval.

A motion was made by Pino, seconded by Carter, to Approve staff changes to the grant application. The motion passed by voice vote/other.
4. [32517](#) Honors Event

Cedric Johnson provided an update on the Honors Event that will take place on January 18. He encouraged MAC members to reach out and invite people they know and to share the event on social media.
5. [39932](#) Public Art Conservation

Referred to February 13 meeting.
6. [45613](#) 2017 Press and Publicity

Attached
7. [49926](#) 2018 Press and Publicity

Attached
8. [16650](#) MAC Meeting Dates & Locations

Attached
9. [21279](#) MAC Administrative Reports

None

10. [47594](#) Public Art Approval

The three finalists for the Pennsylvania Park Public Art Project presented their final proposals.

Actual Size Artworks - Flourish

Gail Simpson and Aristotle Georgiades presented their proposal for a vertical sculpture comprised of a reflective central orb with rays springing from the center, each with colored smaller spheres at their ends. The artists spoke of the welcoming, positive spirit of the neighborhood and their goal of reflecting that dynamism and energy in the shape of the bursting, radiant orbs.

Questions regarding the location of the sculpture in reference to the path, the reflective paint, and colors chosen for the small spheres were discussed. The sculpture would be placed fairly close to the path for optimal viewing. The reflective paint will only shimmer when bright light shines on it and should not shine any light on nearby neighbors. The colors were inspired by vintage neon signs in the neighborhood, and the artists felt they would show up best against multiple backdrops including trees, sky, and snow.

Ray Chi - The People's Pronouns

Ray Chi's proposal included two large aluminum words, "WE" and "OUR," with one placed at each end of the park. The "WE" sculpture has imagery of hands raised in the air and the "OUR" sculpture depicts a lake, trees, and birds. He discussed the power that words have to uplift and inspire, and in the divisive world we currently live in, he hopes that the words "we" and "our" can inspire unity, harmony with nature, and inclusivity.

Questions were raised about graffiti and potential safety issues if the sculpture is climbed on. Chi felt that graffiti could be removed fairly easily and was willing to explore other options around the base of the sculpture aside from concrete, such as native grasses and landscaping. A question about the life of the letters prompted discussion about the possibilities of using this as a location for photos with the words. Chi also noted that he had designed an "US" sculpture for the middle of the park, but could only pursue the two words because of budgetary restrictions.

Suikang Zhao - Split Column

Zhao's proposed sculpture is a cast bronze column with text relief, split by a piece of glass running vertically down the middle. The text is made up of overlapping languages all translating a Native American poem, and the overall sculpture is made to act as a sundial with the setting sun catching the glass and scattering light.

Questions were asked about the meaning of the poem, visibility of the sculpture itself, and whether the piece was made with Pennsylvania Park and the surrounding neighborhood in mind. The poem is about the human connection to nature, and is a critique of today's culture as we attempt to

conquer the earth rather than live in harmony with nature. While it may be difficult to see while driving, the sculpture is pedestrian-friendly and encourages a closer look to view and feel the letters. With the budget for this project, Zhao did not feel it was possible to make a piece for the park with his aspirations, and confirmed that he is already making the sculpture.

Public comment forms were collected from those who attended, and the models will remain at Hawthorne Library for additional viewing and public comment until January 23. The Public Art Committee of the Madison Arts Commission will then decide which artist to recommend for the Pennsylvania Park Public Art Project on Monday, January 29 at 6 pm at Hawthorne Library, 2707 E Washington Ave.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Schrank, seconded by Carter, to Adjourn at 7:45 pm. The motion passed by voice vote/other.