

Public Arts Board Minutes

Public Meeting on Zoom – November 18th, 2020

A. Roll Call:

Members Present:	Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Annie VanGelderren, Jason Eddleston, Linda Wells, Anne Ritchie
Members Absent:	Natalie Bishae
Administration:	Brooks Cowan, City Planner
Members of the Public:	Vahe Tazian, Charlie Neff

B. Approval of Minutes – October 21st, 2020

The Board noted that VanGelderren is one word. Barbara Heller also noted that the words "lending or" should be added to the consideration of a sculpture donation, and the word "the" was missing before loan agreement.

Motion to approve minutes as amended by Linda Wells, seconded by Annie Van Gelderen.

Yeas: 6 **Nays: 0**

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The first item discussed was the Pyramid Earth application for donation to the City. The Board had previously requested that the applicant provide a rendering of the sculpture with a pedestal. The Board had also previously discussed the green space south of the 555 building as a potential location. Staff indicated that upon discussing a rendering and potential location with the applicant, the question of other possible locations arose. The location at Linden Park was suggested as another possible location. After conducting a site visit, the applicant indicated a preference for the Linden Park site.

Quotes for two different pedestals were presented by staff, one being precast concrete for \$6,500 and the other being granite for \$8,500. Both designs are 3 feet in height with two steps. Although the precast concrete is less expensive, the pedestal would weigh close to 3,500 pounds and would be more difficult to install and then move if necessary. The granite pedestal would be more expensive, but would provide a greater aesthetic design to match the sculpture and would be easier to relocate if necessary.

The applicant then answered questions from the Board. Vahe Tazian, speaking on behalf of artist, said that they prefer the granite pedestal due to the aesthetics, and that the estimates provided are at the high end, therefore final costs could be lower. The applicant's installation specialist Charlie Neff also indicated that they intend to use the company Anytime Hoist for transporting and installing the sculpture and pedestal. This company has assisted the artist in

moving the sculpture four different times. The pedestal would be constructed off-site, and the artist would refinish the patina before final installation. Representatives of the applicant also indicated that required maintenance would be little to none after installation.

Board members also asked questions regarding the background of the sculpture. Vahe Tazian indicated that the sculpture was commissioned by TRW Automotive in Sterling Heights in 1994 where it resided until 2008. When the company left the building and was clearing out assets, the company gave the sculpture back to the artist. The sculpture was then moved to the Oakland Community College Campus in Farmington Hills.

After questions for the applicant were complete, staff indicated items for discussion include sculpture location, pedestal material, and potential funding. There was general consensus that the Linden Park location is an acceptable location, as the background is similar to the setting of the sculpture in the image at Oakland Community College. The Board also agreed that the granite base would look better, be easier to move, and would honor the wishes of the applicant. In regards to cost, the location is one of the sites the Public Arts Board had previously discussed including in their call entry. The Board intended on recruiting for five locations and requesting to provide a stipend of \$2,000 for up to five sculptures if approved. The Board agreed that requesting a \$2,000 stipend to assist with the pedestal construction and installation was reasonable. The applicant indicated that covering the remaining costs for construction and installation could be difficult, however the Board felt that it was important to remain within budget, and that various art organizations such as the Cultural Council for Birmingham Bloomfield could serve as another source of funding.

A motion was made by Annie VanGelderren and seconded by Monica Neville to recommend that the City accept the donation of Pyramid Earth by Kegham Tazian and for the sculpture to be installed at Linden Park as indicated on the map;

AND

To recommend that the City contribute \$2,000 of financial assistance from the Public Arts Board budget towards the construction of a granite base in partnership with the artist for the sculpture installation.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The Call for Entry was discussed next. The Board has previously motioned to recruit new artwork for five locations. Since Pyramid Earth was discussed for one of the locations, staff brought the item back for discussion for any potential amendments. The Board indicated that they would like it to be included in the minutes and the art-on-loan contract that if artwork on loan is approved for a 3 year term, the artist would receive \$1,000 after installation and \$1,000 after removal. Artists who donate their work would receive the \$2,000 after installation.

The Board discussed amending the sample motion language to be reduced to \$8,000 for the total budget due to Pyramid Earth reducing the locations from 5 to 4, however they decided

against this due to uncertainty of Pyramid Earth receiving final approval. The Board agreed to maintain the \$10,000 recommendation, and to mention that \$2,000 be allocated to Pyramid Earth.

Requested amendments to the sample motion language included mentioning the budget request be for the fiscal year of 2020-2021, and that \$2,000 of that be allocated for the Pyramid Earth donation.

Annie VanGelderen made a motion which was seconded by Monica Neville to recommend a call for entry for artwork with the following terms for the fiscal year of 2020-2021:

- 1.) The five locations indicated on the call-for-entry map are prioritized, however the Public Arts Board may recommend other sites more suitable within the City;
- 2.) The artist is provided a stipend of \$2,000 for approved artwork which includes funding for installation and removal. The Public Arts Board recommends up to five sculptures total with an annual budget not to exceed \$10,000; with \$2,000 allocated to Pyramid Earth at Linden Park.
- 3.) The artwork is insured up to \$100,000 in value. If the total value of the artwork exceeds \$100,000, the artist(s) and/or the artist(s) organization will be responsible for additional insurance costs;
- 4.) The artist will coordinate with the relevant City Departments for requirements related to installation;
- 5.) Timeframe options include a loan with a minimum 3-year term, or an accepted donation to the City.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The next item discussed was a study session item reviewing amendments to the art on loan installation agreement. The Board reviewed comments from DPS which included suggesting that DPS have input as to what they can assist with and what should be done by a specialist. The Board agreed with the DPS comments that installation for art on loan should be reviewed by a case-by-case basis. Staff indicated they would come back next meeting with suggested requirements such as installation plan be included with application, and that sections of the loan agreement be reworded to encourage more collaboration with the City for art-on-loan.

A second study session item was discussed regarding an RFQ for a sculpture installation specialist on retainer for the City when necessary. This item also related to the installation process where DPS had commented that perhaps the City consider having an installation specialist do all of the installations, and they serve as a liaison between city-staff and the artists. The Public Arts Board commented on qualifications to consider that were listed in the memo, and mentioned that mount fabrication should be included in addition to pedestal fabrication. This item would be brought back next month for further discussion.

D. New Business

A third study session item related to wall art was discussed. Staff presented thoughts and concerns related to wall art that were discussed by the Design Review Board. The DRB had indicated an interest in murals directly on buildings along the Alleys and Passages Plan. The Draft Master Plan suggests murals in the Rail District, therefore staff suggested the first proposal contain language that limits murals to certain areas of the City which could possibly be expanded in the future. The Board was receptive to this idea.

Staff also presented an idea that the DRB discussed and was open to, which is having a wall art application and review process that is first reviewed and recommended by the Public Arts Board and then finalized by the Design Review Board. The Board was amenable to this idea and would review a suggested application process at the next meeting.

F. Communication

2021 goals would be on next month's agenda, and Barbara Heller mentioned that coordinating with the DIA for art programs should be included as one the goals.

G. Comments

E. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.