

Approved as submitted

Syracuse Public Art Commission  
Special Meeting  
June 13, 2023  
Common Council Chambers  
5:30 p.m.

**I. Attendance**

Present: Lauren Boldon, Emanuel Carter, Elias Gwinn, Michael John Heagerty, Davana Robedee, Kelly Sickler, Tina Zagyva

Absent: Ellen Blalock, Bennie Guzman, Anita Welych, Blondean Young

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

**II. Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.**

**III. Review Minutes**

The commission reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes of May 23, 2023, as submitted.

**IV. Old Business**

*No Old Business*

**V. New Business**

**SPAC 23-03: *Great Blue Heron*, Cecily Thomas.** Artist Cecily Thomas presented her application for *Great Blue Heron*, a mural to be painted on the Barry Park fieldhouse. She was awarded the work by the Eastside TNT neighborhood planning sector as part of the *City As Canvas* program. This is the third mural in the *City as Canvas* series. The mural will be located on all four walls of the single-story fieldhouse located at the northwest corner of Barry Park. The design features a Great Blue heron on the south façade, a rising sun with the words “Barry Park” and “Syracuse, NY” on the north façade, and large flowers on the west and east facades. The mural is rendered in shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow.

C. Thomas described her connection to the park and the neighborhood, noting that she went to both Ed Smith School and Nottingham High School and that Barry Park was part of her everyday life growing up. She has recruited several Nottingham High School students to assist with the project, which she will begin painting in July.

After brief discussion of the proposal, L. Bolden made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by E. Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

**SPAC 23-04: *Southside Mural*, Rosario Freeman.** Artist Rosario Freeman presented the application for *Southside Mural*, a mural to be located at 2315 S. Salina Street. The Southside TNT neighborhood planning sector awarded R. Freeman the commission through the *City As Canvas* program's competitive selection process. It is the fourth mural in the *City As Canvas* series.

The mural will be located on the south façade of the single-story brick structure located at 2315 South Salina Street. The design depicts a series of hands of various skin tones that spell out the individual letters of the word "Southside." The base of the mural features grass, flowers and smiling faces. Above is a blue sky with clouds, bees, and butterflies.

R. Freeman explained that he is a life-long resident of the southside neighborhood, an alumnus of Corcoran High School and is now an art teacher at Roberts K-8. The intention of the mural is to bring dignity, light, and beauty to the Southside neighborhood. He hopes to include students from Roberts in the creation of the mural. After brief discussion, D. Robedee made a motion to approve the application, which was seconded by E. Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VI. Discussion**

Lipe Art Park – Josh Wilcox (City Parks). Josh Wilcox, landscape planner for the Parks Department, came to the meeting to discuss Lipe Art Park. He reported that City Parks recently purchased the Lipe Art Park property from the Syracuse Industrial Development Agency. He noted that it is the only park designated for art in the city and discussed the possibilities of developing the park into a more organized and well-run community asset. He also reported that the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council is currently working on a connectivity study of the existing and potential links between downtown to the city's westside with the art park creating a bridge between the two neighborhoods. The commission members expressed their interest in partnering with City Parks on the art park. D. Robedee noted the possibility of creating rotating/temporary modern sculpture exhibitions. MJ Heagerty also mentioned the possibility of the installation of land art.

J. Wilcox stated that the next steps were to inventory the property's existing artwork and other site features. K. Auwaerter noted that she could be of assistance with the inventory of the existing artwork, some of which went through the SPAC review process. J. Wilcox said that City Parks was also interested in reviving the friends group (formally the Stewards of Lipe Art Park). It will be essential to have an advocacy group to help market and manage the park. The commission discussed the possibility of having the friends group eventually curate the artwork for the park, in a similar to the way that Light Work curates the UVP installations. MJ Heagerty noted that SPAC would want to be represented in the friends group and was ready to assist as needed.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.