

Draft

Syracuse Public Art Commission
Regular Meeting
August 8, 2023
Common Council Chambers
5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Present: Ellen Blalock, Lauren Boldon, Emanuel Carter, Bennie Guzman, Elias Gwinn, Michael John Heagerty, Davana Robedee, Kelly Sickler, Blondean Young, Tina Zagyyva

Absent: Anita Welych

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 July 11, 2023, as submitted.

IV. Old Business

No Old Business

V. New Business

SPAC 23-07: *Inspire at the Grainery*, Jacqueline Colello. J. Colello introduced her application for a mural on the south façade of 128 S. Warren Street. The mural will encompass the entire three-story wall of the building and is divided into two panels representing day and night. The panel representing daytime features the figure of a woman with long dark hair on a backdrop of the sun with flower and hummingbird motifs. The panel representing nighttime features the figure of a woman with long red hair on the backdrop of the crescent moon with butterfly and waterfall motifs. The two figures are in profile and face each other.

In discussion, J. Colello stated that the work was commissioned by the owner of the property, who runs a salon business in the building. The mural is meant to have broad appeal but is also complimentary to the business in the building. She noted that a company will prep and paint the wall before she paints the mural and that the owner will be responsible for the maintenance of the mural.

In discussion, J. Colello explained that she will use a grid system to scale up her design and that she used various reference images to help develop the design, but that there are no copyright issues involved. The commission reminded J. Colello that if she decides to make any significant aesthetic or conceptual changes to the design that she would be required to submit the modifications to the commission. The commission agreed that minor alterations in the design are to be expected and would not necessarily require

commission approval. J. Colello stated that she would be in contact with staff to discuss any design changes as the mural progresses.

E. Gwinn made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by K. Sickler. The motion passed unanimously.

SPAC 23-08: *Northside City as Canvas Mural*, Clove Flores. The artist Clove Flores presented the application for the *Northside City As Canvas Mural* project. This is the sixth mural in the City as Canvas program.

The mural will be located on the north facing wall of the Pastime Athletic Club at 1314 N. Salina Street. The design features the figure of a young African American girl in silhouette on an orange background that fades to purple. The figure is blowing on a dandelion and the word "Northside" is arched above the figure's head.

In discussion, B. Guzman noted that the lettering in the rendering was too dark to be clearly legible. C. Flores agreed and stated that she will adjust the grade so that it is more legible.

The commission also discussed the preparation of the wall and noted staining coming from a couple roof drains visible in the photographs. T. Zagyva stated that she would contact the owner of the club to discuss repairs necessary to prevent further staining.

D. Robedee made a motion to approve the application subject to the condition that steps are taken to eliminate the cause of the staining on the wall prior to the installation of the mural. This is necessary to improve the longevity and protect the appearance of the mural.

E. Blalock seconded the motion, which was approved by the commission by majority vote with T. Zagyva abstaining.

VI. Discussion

Updates: T. Zagyva provided additional updates on the City As Canvas program, including that Southside and Eastside murals are nearing completion. It was also noted that artist Tommy Lincoln, whose proposal for a mural came before the commission at the July meeting, successfully completed the mural at the Huntington Family Centers building as part of the United Way Day of Caring event.

L. Boldon reported on the progress in the development of a new city public art website. She is working with members of the city communications team and K. Auwaerter on the framework of the site. There will be an opportunity for the commission to test the navigation of the site soon.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.