

## **Syracuse Public Art Commission Work Session**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024**

### **Minutes**

Commissioners Present: Tina Zagya Chair, Maggie Lovas, Bennie Guzman, Takarra Smith, Emanuel Carter, Elias Gwinn

Commissioners Absent: Davana Robedee, Ellen Blalock, Blondean Young, Anita Welych, Kelly Sickler

Staff Present: Anne Cofer

### **New Business -Election of Vice Chair**

B. Guzman stated he would like to serve as Vice Chair for Syracuse Public Art Commission. E. Gwinn nominated B. Guzman. E. Carter seconded the motion. Vote was approved unanimously.

### **Discussion- Syracuse Public Art Commission Task Forces**

Public Arts Artist Education and Outreach: Commissioners D. Robedee and A. Welych were absent from the meeting and therefore the Chair requested for this taskforce to be discussed at the next scheduled SPAC meeting.

Public Art Program Planning and Community Outreach: E. Carter discussed the I-81 Southside Panel meeting for contract area 5, (Colvin St. to Van Buren St.) that he attended, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He stated that public art was a topic of discussion at the meeting and referred to the design team's presentation which included the opportunity to use noise walls for public art. The design team requested suggestions for themes. In addition, E. Carter mentioned the larger discussion of the landscaping that will be situated on the new boulevard. He stated the DOT only provides the traffic lanes; therefore, funding must be acquired for public art to be featured along the boulevard. T. Zagya clarified that the Public Art Commission will need to prepare a proposal for a Public Art Program along the new boulevard. E. Carter indicated that a proposal could be adapted from his ESF Design Studio Course which created a plan for the boulevard. A presentation of the ESF Design Studio plan for the boulevard will be scheduled for the October SPAC meeting.

Public Arts Social Media and Website: T. Smith expressed that she would like to make Public Art more visible through social media, as well as through merchandising. A. Cofer mentioned that social media training has been scheduled for T. Smith and B. Guzman at the end of September. B. Guzman mentioned that social media should be used to highlight the process of making public art. B. Guzman asked whether the public art program

included performance art. A. Cofer mentioned that as the Public Art Coordinator was now situated in the Department of Parks and Recreation this created the opportunity of collaboration around performance-based work. B. Guzman articulated that performance art is a great discipline to represent on social media platforms. T. Zagyva asked if any work had been done on the public art website. A. Cofer said she needed to reach out to the communications department to initiate the next steps in the website design process. B. Guzman asked who had the social media log in information. T. Zagyva stated that Anne Cofer had the information required for each social media platform.

Public Arts Funding and Financing: T. Zagyva had a written report prepared and highlighted the short-term goal of developing a mechanism to get funding through a fiscal sponsor and then they disburse the funding to the program. T. Zagyva asked how other groups who work with the Parks Department to do projects in the parks. T. Zagyva stressed that the Public Art Commission should establish a policy for artists to facilitate public art projects in the city of Syracuse. In particular, the policy should state how artists can process external funding as well as outline the parameters for installing art in public spaces. E. Carter suggested that the Community Foundation had been considered to enable solicitation of private funds for the Public Art program and he stated that it would be worthwhile learning what the parameters are to develop a mechanism for this. E. Gwinn mentioned NYFA as a good resource for artists as they offer classes for artists to support them with the business side of the artworld. He continued to state that they may have webinars about fiscal sponsorship as well as a model that the Public Art Commission could adopt for this purpose. T. Zagyva mentioned percent for the arts, as a long-term goal to fund public art in Syracuse. T. Zagyva also mentioned maintenance of the current public art inventory and asked if any artwork had been decommissioned. A. Cofer added that she was unclear regarding the procedures for repairing a work of art and/or decommissioning works of art. E. Carter continued to state that as new public artwork is commissioned it needs to be clear how the artwork should be maintained. A. Cofer offered to make enquiries into the maintenance procedures for artwork in the Syracuse Public Art program collection.

Public Arts Business and Organizational Partnerships T. Zagyva suggested partnering with the Downtown Committee. This collaboration would support the goals of the Syracuse Public Art Master Plan which emphasizes promoting and installing Public Art in the downtown area of the city. T. Zagyva also informed the commission that CNY Arts are hosting a public art forum in the fall. She also noted that the Public Art Commission should participate in this event. Further, T. Zagyva mentioned a partnership with Syracuse University to curate student artwork within a public art context. E. Carter responded by stating that the city parks had been introduced as a possible location for student work and he agreed to research the potential of this idea. T. Zagyva raised the possibility of using

interns to support the work of the Public Art Commission. E. Carter and T. Smith both stated they could help find candidates who maybe able to help in this capacity.

Public Arts Master Plan and Public Arts Procedural Documents. M. Lovas stated that the Master Plan needs more specificity and direction. M. Lovas continued to express that as she learned more about the Commission and the individual roles and responsibilities of its members, she would like to meet with the different members to start the revision process of the Public Art Master Plan. The application form to install public art was mentioned by M. Lovas as a focus for revision as the application and the plan itself should be more user friendly. She added that it was important to have the expectations for the applicant clearly laid out to cut down on miscommunication which would lead to encouraging more artists to apply to install public art in Syracuse.

#### Public Arts Coordinator Updates.

The Public Art program is collaborating with the Environmental Storytelling Series (ESS) of Central New York to encourage more families to use the parks and enjoy the natural environment. The collaboration will bring artists and educators to the recreation centers in the parks to work with the youth programs. More information can be found at <https://envirostorycny.com/about>. To support the ESS/ Parks and Rec collaboration an application was submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts for an Our Town grant. If awarded the grant will fund programing for the 2025-27 academic years.

This fall the Public Art program will host the Syracuse University's Photography and Literacy Project (PAL) to facilitate a 6- Week pilot program at the Recreation Center in Kirk Park. PAL works with students to tell stories through photography and writing. It was founded by photographer and public educator Stephen Mahan in 2010. More information can be found at <https://artsandsciences.syracuse.edu/engaged-humanities/ehn-associated-youth-programs/>

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7.00 pm.