



METRO ARTS

NASHVILLE OFFICE OF ARTS + CULTURE

MINUTES

Public Art Committee

November 14, 2024, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Metro Southeast

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Antioch Room

METRO ARTS MISSION:

Drive an Equitable and Vibrant Community through the Arts

Committee Members in Attendance: Campbell West (Chair), Arlene Nicholas-Phillips (Commissioner), Beverly Watts (Commissioner), Shaun Giles, Stacey Irvin, Carlton Wilkinson, Dr. Paulette Coleman (Interim Executive Director, *ex-officio*)

Committee Members not in Attendance: Sara Lee Burd, Cara Robinson

Staff in Attendance: Anne-Leslie Owens, Atilio Murga, Jesse Ross, Masonya Osei, Vivian Foxx

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair West called the meeting to order at 11:04AM.

B. Public Comments

None given.

C. Approval of Minutes: August 8, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2024 meeting was made by Chair West and seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Action Items

1. Deaccessioning for *Helga* (Lending Library) and Resiting for *Lotus* (Bike Rack)

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens acknowledged that the Public Art Guidelines do cover deaccessioning of artworks but primarily for site-specific works. The guidelines do not address situations involving theft, accidents, or natural disasters. The Lending Library is a newer type of program and presents unique challenges not directly addressed in the current guidelines. The guidelines may need to be updated to add theft, accidents, or natural disasters as reasons for deaccessioning artwork from the collection. *Helga* artwork was reported as lost and standard replacement fee paid by library patron.

Library understands that lost items do sometimes return. For Lending Library artworks, we can note as lost in collection records. There was no action item. At a future meeting, we will consider revisions to Public Art Guidelines pertaining to deaccessioning.

Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens provided background on the *Lotus* bike rack, installed at Fannie Mae Dees Park in 2013. This artwork was created from upcycled bicycle frames. While the design was initially successful, issues arose due to rust forming from condensation inside the metal tubes. When it was clear it was no longer structurally stable, the piece was moved to storage. The Public Art Guidelines outline process for resiting an artwork at a new location. New locations that promote cycling are being considered, such as Nashville Department of Transportation, community centers, and transit stations. Interior locations and suspended installations are also a possibility. Discussions are ongoing with these departments to identify a new location. The artist, Michael Allison, will be involved in resiting discussion. Staff will come back at a future meeting with a recommendation on next steps.

2. Arthur Avenue Public Art Lighting Artist and Sitework Budget

- Overview: Public Art Collections Manager Anne-Leslie Owens provided a history of the Arthur Avenue public art project, located in North Nashville where the interstate crosses over Arthur Avenue. The project emerged from a collaboration with Metro Public Works, now part of the Nashville Department of Transportation (NDOT), and artist Simone Boyd, who engaged over 300 community members to address issues like traffic safety, crossing improvements, and lighting for the underpass.
- Initial Funding: Metro Arts, in partnership with NDOT and the Nashville Department of Transportation, secured an NEA grant of \$75,000 for public art lighting, with an additional \$75,000 match from the Public Art Fund. However, the initial budget did not meet the community's expectations for the project size and scope.
- Budget Expansion: In November 2022, the Commission approved an increase in the budget to allow for a larger project. Metro Arts and NDOT committed an additional \$100,000, increasing the artist's budget to \$500,000. The artists were invited as semifinalists in July 2023, and a community selection panel chose artist Alex Braden and his proposal, "Be As Water."
- Site Work Considerations: As the project has progressed, site work requirements have grown. Site work, which includes infrastructure needs such as electrical work, sidewalk repairs, and potential repainting of I-beams (previously painted green by TDOT), is expected to cost more than standard 20%. Painting the I-beams, in particular, is anticipated to require extra funding due to prep work and environmental considerations.
- Need for Additional Funding: The current artist budget of \$500,000 included \$400,000 from Metro Arts and \$100,000 from NDOT. Since that time, we've had clarification that NDOT's \$100,000 must be used for infrastructure. Additionally, sitework expenses are higher than normal 20% as this is not part of a larger Metro capital project. Estimate for electrical (\$100,000), sidewalk repairs (\$75,000), and painting (\$300,000). Public Art Team recommends increasing the artist budget and sitework budget accordingly.
- Maintenance Considerations: The project team has addressed maintenance concerns, particularly regarding the lighting and structural components of the artwork. A

maintenance manual will be provided by the artist, and Metro Arts is developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU will clarify responsibilities for maintenance between Metro Arts, TDOT, NDOT, and NES. Additionally, the 4% Fund, and artist warranties will support maintenance for the project.

A motion to increase the artist's budget to \$500,000 and authorize up to \$400,000 for site work was made by Chair West and seconded by Shaun Giles. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Project Updates

1. Arthur Avenue Artist Site Visit and Lighting Testing

- Artist Alex Braden and his lighting programmer visited Nashville on October 6 for site testing at Arthur Avenue.
- The team tested different lighting fixtures to enhance the underpass's visibility. Challenges such as water drainage were also addressed.
- The public expressed excitement about the project, with many commenting on how dark the space had been previously.

2. Lending Library Launch at Donelson, East, Green Hills, Hermitage, Old Hickory

- Installation is 95% complete at all five branches. Minor issues at Donelson are being resolved by the weekend.
- A site visit will occur to check and finalize the artwork displays, including frames and labels for each piece.
- The flexibility of the project across various library spaces was highlighted, with each location adapting to its unique environment.
- Conversation was had about if artwork is not returned, lost, or damaged. Only one is allowed per library card. There is a fee of \$50 for lost artworks.

3. Nolensville Pike Transit Shelters Reinstallation

- The reinstallation of the vinyl wraps for the Nolensville Pike transit shelters is complete.
- In collaboration with Metro ITS, short video interviews with the artists were conducted to document the process.
- The videos are expected to be available by the end of the year, showcasing each artist's work and the community engagement process behind it.
- There were some reports of vandalism, but most shelters have held up well.

F. New Business / Old Business

1. 25th Anniversary of Nashville's Public Art Ordinance Discussion

- Commissioners discussed plans for the 25th anniversary of the public art ordinance.
- Staff will continue to explore ideas for events and programs and come back to the PAC with recommendations.

2. Public Art Manager Hiring Update

- The hiring process for the Public Art Manager has been paused and will be reposted.

G. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1:04 PM.



If any accommodations are needed for individuals with disabilities who wish to be present at this meeting, please request the accommodation through hubNashville at <https://nashville.gov/hub-ADA-boards> or by calling (615) 862-5000. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is recommended.