



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Art in City Life Commission

April 12, 2016 at 4:45PM

444 Westminster Street, 1st Floor Conference Room

Present: Chair Sussy Santana, Howard Ben Tré, Jessica Brown, John Smith, Yarrow Thorne.

Absent: Vanphouthon Souvannasane, Eric Telfort.

Also present: Mayor Jorge Elorza; Theresa Agonia, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor; Stephanie Fortunato, Director, Department of Art, Culture + Tourism; Lizzie Araujo-Haller, Cultural Affairs Manager, Department of Art, Culture + Tourism; Elizabeth Keithline, Public Art Program Consultant, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA); Eduardo Robles.

1. Welcome: Sussy Santana, Chair of the Art in City Life Commission, called the meeting to order. Stephanie Fortunato, Director of Providence's Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, announced that the meeting had not been posted to the State of Rhode Island's Secretary of State's Open Meetings website; as a result the Commission would take no action during this meeting. Santana introduced Mayor Jorge Elorza.
2. Remarks: Mayor Elorza thanked the commissioners for their service and spoke to the role of the commission within civic life.
3. Introductions: Commissioners and guests introduced themselves.
4. Overview: Fortunato presented a brief overview of different types of public art in Providence. She introduced the 9 person Art in City Life Commission's charge to develop policies for public art, public monuments, and memorials installed in public space and guidelines for private developers in conformance with regulations and will provide provisions the complement existing policies set by related Boards and Commissions for the City of Providence.

The City's public art administration is currently handled on a case-by-case basis. The aim of the Commission is to standardize public art policies and procedures. Commissioners inquired about the existence of surveys of public

art in Providence. AC+T does not have a dedicated catalogue of public art installations on publicly held land. Keithline shared the Public Art Archive, a free, crowdsourced, online resource for public art and encouraged Commissioners to add artworks to the growing listing of public art worldwide. Commissioners would like to invite the 195 Commission District to a future meeting to learn more about the Creative Mile and the public art installations they have commissioned as an interim use strategy.

Commission will develop a work plan, set benchmarks and establish priorities that address comprehensive public art policies. Commissioners will still be eligible to create works but will have to recuse themselves from discussion about these projects. The Art in City Life Commission does not have a dedicated budget.

5. Presentation: Elizabeth Keithline presented an overview of RISCA's public art protocols and past 1% for art projects. On behalf of RISCA, Keithline administers the state's 1% for art program; she is also a public art consultant who provides recommendations on public art policies and ordinances to municipalities outside of Rhode Island. She noted that she does not work as a consultant for hire in state and is attending the Commission meeting as a guest. Keithline suggested the Commission follow the recommendations created by Craig Dreeszen's Brown University Cultural Policy students for AC+T. This report will be shared with Commissioners at the next meeting. Keithline will make her presentation available to the Commission following the meeting.
6. Logistics: The Commission will meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Send Commissioners link to the [Public Art Archive](#) and [Art in City Life Ordinance](#). The next meeting will take place on May 11, 2016. Since it is a new Commission, the Mayor appointed Commissioners to either a one- or two-year term; Commissioners will receive correspondence confirming each individual's commitments. On April 28, the New England Foundation for the Arts will hold its next Public Art Discussion Series on the Business of Public Art.
7. Closing: Meeting adjourned at 6:07PM.