



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

ART IN CITY LIFE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2020 at 5:00 PM
Joseph A. Doorley, Jr. Municipal Building
444 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903
Empire Conference Room, Third Floor

MINUTES

OPENING SESSION

- Call to Order: 5:05pm
- Roll Call: Xander Marro, Joe Haskett, Lois Harada, Stephanie Fortunato (ACT), Jason Almeida, Jonathan Bonner, Kate Blacklock, Dominic Molon, Gina Rodriguez (ACT)
- Vote to approve meeting minutes from November 2019 regular meeting
 - LH seconded all in favor, minutes are approved unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

- Approve Art Selection Panel recommendation for Public Art at PVDFest temporary projects
 - L. Harada described the call and art selection panel. Hardest site to review was civic center garage. Presented 3 strong candidates, one per site.
 - D. Molon moves to accept ASP recommendation. Seconded by J. Bonner, all in favor
- Approve Creative Community Health Workers Fellowship, project plan
 - J. Haskett moves to approve, seconded by K. Blacklock
 - Motion is approved unanimously provided there is an additional description for writers' work examples in the submissions portal

DISCUSSION

- Discussion: CIP funded permanent works
 - CIP passed on Thursday Jan 2, 2020, press event at 12:30pm 1/3/2020 at Zuccolo Recreation Center
 - ACT relays this timeline will move rather quickly and the civic infrastructure projects will come first - bike racks and sidewalk tattoos
 - ACT to schedule the CIP subcommittee mtg as soon as possible
 - K. Blacklock provided a report-out on the subcommittee's meeting with the 195 Commission and their presentation, positive about opening the entire site, we had asked about maintenance, suggests reaching out to Brown for funds as an abutter
 - ACT is involved with other departments lead by City Operations to work within the parameters of the bond funds.
 - Roughly \$885,000 for this Landmark artwork.



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- Commissioners request clarification as to whether the recommended 10% for ongoing maintenance and conservation for this work, can come from CIP funding
 - L. Harada: requested examples of what things cost and what you can get for this amount of money. J. Almeida seconded this request, it would be good to have a way to share what things cost to the public
 - S. Fortunato: 195 Commission did not get funds for park amenities this fiscal year but they are hoping to have more next year. However, they are engaging a third party vendor to manage the park, so there will be an entity there making sure that there are operations. Food and beverage stand will also eventually be in place at the park. With the Landmark work we want something iconic for Providence, that serves an interactive function and not just a contemplative object, as we shape this RFQ this criteria will become as precise as possible.
 - J. Almeida: Possible to see what has been done in comparable cities?
 - S. Fortunato: ACT looks at several cities for different sets of comparison. Examples are Pittsburg, PA, Portland ME, Richmond VA because it is also a capital city, Tucson in terms of age and diversity, New Haven CT, Baltimore MD, happy to share the larger list of benchmark cities.
 - ACT to create talking points for commissioners in case they are asked about the percent for art.
- Discussion: fy20 public art program budget
 - ACT will not be issuing a call for design for City Walk this year given the Ideas Competition awardee will be doing a crosswalk mural
 - Discussion: fy21 public art program proposed projects
 - SF – the budget is submitted to the Mayor’s Office on February 3rd, and in March we have a sense of what is potentially moving forward, and in April, Council reviews line by line. That process is supposed to wrap by the first week of June, this past year was not approved until the fist week of July.
 - SF- (responding to request for advocacy talking points)
 - Chairman Iggliozzi (Silver Lake) and head of Finance Committee is a good person to speak to as is their own City Councilperson.
 - Mayor is very supportive of the arts and encourages our bold requests. Council doesn’t have an easy job as they have to balance all the needs of the City and weigh ramifications.
 - We (ACT) do need people, we do not have enough staff, contract services do not allow for institutional memory or get out of the mode of training and retraining short term staff.
 - Other ideas worth exploring – in Oklahoma City, they had a penny sales tax for public art and public space improvements. SF has started the



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conversation with the City's Policy office. Looking for innovative strategies to fund public art.

- Regarding staff capacity, need an ACL officer to support with minutes and also request to return to monthly meetings.
 - X. Marr - Motion to approve L. Harada to be secretary, seconded by J. Bonner, all in favor, motion is approved unanimously
 - X. Marro -Motion to promote J. Haskett as vice chair, seconded by J. Bonner, all in favor, motion is approved unanimously
 - J. Haskett- Motion, to move to monthly meetings beginning in February 2020 on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm, seconded by L. Harada, all in favor, motion is approved unanimously

ACT STAFF REPORT

- ACT Public Art Residencies update
 - Parkists have moved into their homes at Esek Hopkins and Wanskuck House
 - City Archives Artists-in-Residence Opening January 23rd at City Hall
- Press forthcoming for Park-ist Residency and Public Art at PVDFest
- Ideas Competition projects implementation, Spring 2020
- Update: private developers and public art in Providence
 - Jeremy Small, owner of new development at Parcel 28 spoke with ACT staff about DDRC ruling that called for public art on the development and advise as to how to proceed.
 - Our recommendation was to contract a public art consultant to manage the call. The other option is for ACT to manage the call but would have to work out a fee for an endowment for maintenance for City permanent works.
 - Selected artist / artwork will go before Art in City Life Commission for approval per City protocol.
 - See this as an opportunity for ACT and the ACL to think about what we hope for in supporting public art on private development.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

ADJOURNMENT

- Moved to adjourn L. Harada, K. Blacklock seconded – all in favor, meeting adjourns at 6:17pm



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Important Information:

- Individuals requesting interpreter services must notify the Department of Art Culture + Tourism at 680-5770, 48 hours in advance of the meeting date.
- Contact Gina Rodriguez with the Department of Art, Culture + Tourism at 680-5770 or grodriguez@providenceri.gov if you have any questions regarding this meeting.