



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Art in City Life Commission
June 8, 2016 at 4:45PM
444 Westminister Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room

5:08: Official Call to order

In attendance: Joe Hasket, Yarrow Thorne, Yesica Guerra, Stephanie Fortunato (Director, Department of Art Culture + Tourism, Eric Thornfort,

Review of April 12 2016 minutes- April was an unofficial meeting, no action was made.

5:11 New Business

Discuss Commission Structure:

Reviewed ethics packet (sent via mail in May 2016).

Reviewed annual schedule for commission, need to secure an alternate date for the October meeting due to a holiday conflict, confirmation that 4:45pm is a good start time

Announcement: Theresa Agonia will be scheduling a swearing in ceremony to the commission, June 21st, if commissioners are unavailable there will be a second ceremony

Review Art in City Life Commission overview, from city ordinance.

- *Question from commissioner can this mission statement be altered during the course of the commission?* City hopes that this commission will create a standardized public art policy. Until this point, public art has been handled on an ad hoc / case by case basis, hoping that this commission will provide comprehensive policy.
- *Question from commissioner—can (Stephanie) provide an example of a case-by-case basis and what worked and didn't?* Discussed previous public art mural developed by Avenue Concept – discussed insurance, private developers, review boards, creating documents along the way. Examined Los Angeles Mural Registration Process flowchart—wanting to develop something that is clear for various mediums (transformer boxes, murals, sculptures) perhaps think about “adopt a spot” model and provide clear and accessible language and directions. This commission will also help us develop a process to connect to other city departments that touch public art, similar to what AC+T does for public events (city council, DPW, city planning, street closures and permitting).
- Qualifiers for appointees to come directly out of the city ordinance.
- Proposed year one work plan reviewed. *Question from commissioner: would we be fundraising and programming commission as well?* Goal of the commission is to make sure that public art is responsive to community and is developing comprehensive and sustainable policy. *Question from commissioner: is there a point where we as a commission identify a community partner to*

staff / support this? We should figure out early on who is picking up the phone and responding to folks. In other departments, RFPs are reviewed by City Staff who will bring comprehensive (and correctly completed registration forms) to the commission for review/decision. Art Culture + Tourism will be staffing this process that respects the time of the commissioners. Question from commissioner: does our work, in setting guidelines and policies help AC+T? Yes.

- Public Art Master Plan to come later on, after process and policies are in place and people know how to follow
- Art in City Life Ordinance reference number: 1980.ch. 80-39 1, 9-12-80 Sec. 2-351. –Purpose
- *Question from Commissioner: will this commission be a part of PVDfest curation for next year and managing the RFP process? – Seems commission makes sense to have an interface with the festival, cannot confirm anything regarding planning for next year.*
- Discussion regarding best practices for RFPs? - *Liked Los Angeles model*
- For our commission and mission statement—what is public art? There is a difference between temporary and permanent structure. Existing policy for temporary art for up to three years. *This commission* will allow for those policies to be standardized across all commissions/departments. (Current ordinance has been held with DDRC) Will likely add monuments and markers to commission’s definition of public art. Revisit this discussion in a later meeting. Important to talk about intention within the registration process.

5: 35pm: Skipped to number 3 on agenda, will return to agenda item 2

- Reviewed Proposed public art policy commissioned from Brown University Cultural Policy class
- Recommendation in this report to amend existing ordinance (written in 1980). 1 percentage for art programs from public buildings has not been applied this commission will support to make this a reality (schools are exempt, public safety complex was built but percentage was not collected). AC+T to share State of RI (RISCA) presentation from Elizabeth Keithline who will also serve as an advisor to this commission. Perhaps this commission can make recommendations to private developers.
- Commission will develop standardized systems for community input. We need to think about cultural context and sensitivity. Discussion of the role of art in the public. Art’s ability to push status quo and create conversation. Task is how to maintain space to be provocative without being insensitive, create ways to encourage art that is appropriate for the public, not as overt or confrontational. At this point ability for our city to become a model of consistency. In other places, public art can seem disjointed.
- Succession policies for installations
- Best practices

5:59 pm: Updates on existing projects

- PVDfest commissioned 12 temporary public art installations, small projects up to \$1000 each. Experiential projects as well.
- City Council passed a new ordinance for traffic calming, will partner with Avenue Concept to pilot sustainable model for intersections to be painted for the start and turn projects into community development projects. 2-D resident artist to drive this program this summer in Elmhurst.
- Projects that may come to the commission:
 - Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers project
 - HP Lovecraft sculpture proposed for the
 - Kennedy monument in Kennedy Plaza
 - Rotating sculptures on land that is contested (city departments, state). Avenue Concept has been waiting for existing paperwork regarding easements (leasing? Adopt a spot?) Existing policies need to be updated, and need to conform with ACL future policies. AC+T to meet offline with Avenue Concept and *Influx* installation schedules, and recusal policy
 - Infrastructure and public art related projects that have already been signed off on and / or paid for

6:09pm: Election of officers

- Will need a Vice Chair and Secretary by July meeting, Treasurer in the future
- Decision not to nominate and vote at this meeting – nominations to be delivered to Chairwoman via email by June 17th 2016.
- Chairwoman will be contacting all commissioners to ensure their commitment to the commission, in the case of a no, commission will make recommendations.
- Chairwoman will be absent in July, July meeting will be a working document-building meeting
- Concern from commissioner that the work plan deadlines are not feasible—creating sustainable and legal language may take far longer than by September.

6:29pm: Meeting adjournment