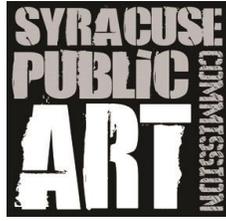


Approved as submitted



December 12, 2017  
Room 215 City Hall  
5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Present: Ellen Blalock, Emanuel Carter, Karen Convertino, Bob Doucette, Nancy Keefe Rhodes and Dan Ward

Absent: Rick Destito, Corky Goss, Sofia Paniagua, Joanna Spitzner, Bahar Zaker

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

II. Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of November 14, 2017. K. Convertino made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by E. Blalock. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

SPAC 17-17: *2311 S Salina Street Mural*, Emma Stoll and Arc500.04 Class. Emma Stoll and representatives from the Syracuse University Arc500.04 Class presented the revised proposal for the mural on the south-facing wall of 2311 S. Salina Street. Their professor, Sekou Cooke, provided a brief introduction of the seminar class, which was an exploration of hip hop culture and architecture. His students' assignment was focused on the history of graffiti and its potential to shape environments and communities, especially marginalized communities. The students then described the project timeline; site and surface conditions of the wall; their engagement with the community, including surveys and one-on-one conversations with people in the neighborhood and business owners; and the results of the engagement process. From these findings they redesigned the mural, which now features the words "South Side" above the silhouettes of children. The applicants explained that the silhouettes would be of actual children from the Southside Communication Center, who would have their outlines drawn onto the wall and then be invited to color in their own silhouettes (using the pre-selected color palette).

In discussion, the applicants indicated that the imagery and graphics as well as color palette are based on the overall aesthetics of the Sankofa-themed marketing materials chosen by the residents to represent the neighborhood. They noted that, in addition to the surveys and conversations with people in the neighborhood, the mural was reflective of the results of a neighborhood charrette conducted by the Southside TNT that indicated that the neighborhood

was focused on a future vision of itself, rather than on a view to past history. (This was in reference to the initial design that featured a stylized version of the Erie Canal.) In general, the Commission was appreciative of the amount of outreach that the students had completed in a short timeframe and stated that the revised design was a significant improvement over the original design presented to the Commission in November.

The Commission discussed the timeline. With winter weather approaching, the Commission members were concerned that the mural would not be finished in time. The students stated that the paint could be applied in cold weather and that if necessary they were committed to completing the mural in the spring. K. Convertino expressed frustration that the project was tied to the semester schedule, noting that the students had already begun work on the mural prior to Commission approval in order to meet their class deadline. In addition, she and N. Keefe Rhodes noted that with more time, a more fully developed proposal would have been possible. In review of the image of the partially completed mural, E. Blalock noted that it was smaller than depicted in the application, which was disappointing, because the smaller scale reduced its overall impact. It was noted that the owners of the building – Peoples' Community Development Corporation – would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the mural. E. Carter suggested that it would be appropriate for the source of the mural, specifically Syracuse University's Architecture Department, to take some responsibility for the future maintenance of the mural. After further discussion, B. Doucette made a motion to approve the revised mural design, which was seconded by E. Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the vote on the application, Charles Pierce El, president of the South Side Community Coalition, spoke of his general support of the mural. He also emphasized the importance of involving the neighborhood residents in these types of projects and being sure that the people with whom artists and project organizers interact truly represent the neighborhood and neighborhood interests.

In addition, the Commission discussed the need for a clearer policy regarding student/amateur artwork in the public realm. E. Carter offered to develop a policy statement for the Commission to review that could be posted on the Commission's website.

IV. New Business

*No New Business*

V. Discussion

2018 Public Art Program priorities. The Commission decided to postpone the discussion of 2018 priorities until the January Commission meeting.

VI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.