Visual Arts Commission Minutes  
Thursday, March 14, 2019 | 3:30 – 5:00 pm  
Collins Conference Room (Lower Level)  
101 1st Street SE, Cedar Rapids IA

Commissioners Present: Bill Stamats - Chair  
Kayt Conrad - Vice Chair  
Lynn Ocken  
David Van Allen  
Jonathan Berger – Arrived 3:32pm  
Anne Johnson  
Ashley Glassberg

Commissioners Absent: Alexis Dagit

Community Development Staff Present: Bill Micheel  
Eric Pate  
Jillane Gilmour

1. Approval of Minutes  
Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the minutes for February 14, 2019. Commissioner Van Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input  
There was no public input.

3. Discussion & Possible Action Items
   
a. League of Women Voters Art Piece Location  
Eric Pate shared an update on a location for the League of Women Voters Art Piece. The LWV is seeking suggestions on where to place this piece of art. They are interested in stained glass, mural, or an indoor/outdoor sculpture. Mr. Pate shared “Ideal Sites for Future Public Art” as outlined in the 2016 VAC GAP Analysis:
   - Brucemore Cultural Hub  
   - National Czech Museum & Library  
   - NewBo City Market  
   - Grant Wood studio  
   - McGrath Amphitheatre  
   - Time Check Greenway  
   - Mays Island Park
The Commission discussed a budget for the piece, and suggested keeping it closer to $20,000. City staff will provide some dimension suggestions for a sculpture, a potential mural inside the NewBo City Market, and an idea for lighted stained glass hung like a mobile. The Commission discussed excluding the Grant Wood Studio and Brucemore from the list.

b. Northwest Neighborhood Action Plan Public Art Survey
Mr. Pate shared a map highlighting the Northwest Neighbors Public Art Inventory. Mr. Micheel shared that the Norwest Neighborhood Association brought this up when their work plan was being reviewed. They are looking for general guidance on reasonable locations for public art. The 6th to Ellis connection will be a priority and constructed within the next two years. It will connect Ellis Boulevard to downtown. There is a lot of developer interest in this neighborhood, and Ellis picking up steam. There is a desire from residents to put some of the commercial services back. The Commission discussed the importance of a gateway, but looking for direction from the Northwest Neighborhood Association on where they would like to see public art.

c. Market After Dark Projection Art
Mr. Pate shared a recap on the Market After Dark Projection Art with the Commission and Jesse Thoeming. The art can be mapped or static depending upon preference. Mr. Thoeming shared that in 2018 during Market After Dark, the alleyways were lit and those were approximately $10,000 apiece. Mr. Thoeming shared that weather can also play a factor in this. Armstrong Bank was proposed as an idea. Permanent projection at night idea on wall where it has been difficult to get a mural. Kayt will get back to Dan and provide some feedback via email.

d. Public Art Project Updates
   i. UFG Pocket Park
Mr. Micheel shared an update on the UFG Pocket Park. He spoke with Cara Briggs-Farmer, and she is interested in partial payment before she begins work on the sculpture. Mr. Micheel is also communicating with contractors. Copy Works keeps plans on file and they keep track of who picked them up. Will be reaching out to these individuals in hopes of obtaining a bid soon.

   ii. City Hall
Mr. Micheel shared that the City is finalizing specific points where the Flood Control System (FCS) will land. The final FCS will not affect the location; however, they are going to need some of the lawn area during construction and to drive the pilings in. They need to protect the foundation of City Hall, and the sculpture would need to be moved and stored during construction. City staff suggests waiting on this project until construction is complete in two years. General fund money does not build upon itself unless specifically requested. Mr. Micheel shared that this is a great opportunity to begin collaborating with the Downtown SSMID on leveraging resources. Jesse shared that they
want to shine a light on the fact that the 4th street trail is a national trail system. The cycling community is growing in the area and could be the first piece of a collection to create a link to these two signature projects. When the Guaranty Bank project is done, the City will have something unique. A potential mural on the parking garage could highlight the trail on a national and local level. The Commission discussed keeping momentum and expressed interest in spending the $60,000. There is a potential for a bigger project by combining with FY20 funds. The Commission discussed a lighted piece in the “lantern” at the US Cellular Center. Mr. Micheel will speak with the DOT since it is a state highway. The Commission also discussed the lawn across from the Vets Building and where Lady Liberty currently sits. Once a final location is agreed upon, the VAC will work with Mr. Thoeming on the project.

4. Member Updates/Announcements

5. Adjournment
   The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

   Next Meeting: April 11, 2019