Visual Arts Commission Minutes
Thursday, August 9, 2018 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm
City Hall - Collins Conference Room (Lower Level)
101 1st Street SE, Cedar Rapids IA

Commissioners Present: Bill Stamats, Chair; David Van Allen, Anne Johnson, Barbara Green, Lynn Ocken, Ashley Glassberg; Alexis Dagit, Kayt Conrad
Community Development Staff Present: Bill Micheel, Seth Gunnerson, Eric Pate

1. Public Input
   None

2. Project Updates
   a. Newbo Arts Festival Follow-Up
      Commissioner Stamats informed the Commission that the Newbo Arts Festival had been successfully executed and well-received. A total of 37 vendors participated. However, due to rain, the festival generated less revenue than the previous year. Local business owners outlined a few concerns including a preference to see the festival not take place on the tax holiday next year, with Labor Day weekend being highlighted as an appropriate time.

3. Discussion & Possible Action Items
   a. Legion Arts NEA Grant Request
      John Herbert with Legion Arts introduced a grant project seeking funds to support an effort to incorporate various cultural motifs of recent immigrant and refugee populations into the design of a proposed extension of regional recreation trails through communities with growing multi-cultural populations. It was mentioned that the trail will help connect neighboring communities and provide places to meet and gather for local residents where there currently are few. (See attached handout).
      Stamats moved to express the support of the Visual Arts Commission for Legion Arts and their NEA Grant application for public art along the Cherokee Trail. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

   b. Work Plan Item – Public Art Project
      Commissioner Green gave an overview of the Commissions efforts at identifying proposed locations for a large public art piece. Of the sites reviewed by the subcommittee, City Hall was chosen as the preferred location. A conversation relating to the possibility of light art being incorporated into the work took place. Community Development Planner Seth Gunnerson will draft an RFQ and present it to the September VAC meeting for discussion.
Stamats motioned to formally accept City Hall as the project site and to commence efforts to select the artist through a subcommittee that will select the parameters. Commissioner Dagit seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c. UFG Pocket Park

City of Cedar Rapids Assistant Director for Community Development and Planning asked for VAC support for incorporating public art into the plans for a pocket park screening the 2nd Street SE sidewalk from the UFG parking lot expansion. Potential for public art includes a mural on the side of the building housing the Cobble Hill restaurant and a sculpture within the pocket park. Two subcommittees, one for the mural and one for the sculpture, will be established to pursue both components.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned around 4:30pm.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2018