Visual Arts Commission Minutes
Thursday, December 13, 2018 | 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Collins Conference Room (Lower Level)
101 1st Street SE, Cedar Rapids IA

Commissioners Present: Bill Stamats - Chair
Lynn Ocken
David Van Allen
Alexis Dagit – left 3:50 p.m.
Kayt Conrad
Jonathan Berger

Commissioners Absent: Anne Johnson
Karla Scriven
Ashley Glassberg

Community Development Staff Present: Bill Micheel
Eric Pate
Charlie Nichols
Jillane Gilmour

1. Approval of Minutes
   Commissioner Conrad motioned to approve the minutes for November 8, 2018. Commissioner Ocken seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input
   Jane Gilmor (Mount Mercy University) and Ellen Kleckner (Iowa Ceramics Center & Glass Studio) were invited to the meeting by Commissioner Van Allen to share their project, “Shifting Ground – Outro Chão”, with the Commission. The Iowa Ceramic Center & Glass Studio and international artist collective, CREATURA, have received funding to begin a social outreach project with recent immigrants to the Cedar Rapids area. This project will use elements of art making and the creative process as a vehicle for learning about each other and for finding a sense of place within a new culture, while retaining pride in their original heritage. The Visual Arts Commission invited Ms. Gilmor and Ms. Kleckner to attend the next meeting on January 10, 2019 in order to provide City staff time to research potential funding for this project.

3. Discussion & Possible Action Items
   a. League of Women Voters Centennial Memorial
      This item will move to the January 10, 2019 agenda.
b. City Hall Art Project Discussion
The Commissioners discussed the City Hall Art Project timeline and importance of continuing to move forward in the process by posting the call for entry on CaFÉ. City staff will contact Jesse Thoeming with the Downtown SSMID to discuss their level of interest on working with Visual Arts Commission for this project. The Commission will delegate the artist selection to a sub-committee that will narrow down to three individuals by March 14, 2019. Special VAC meetings may be scheduled throughout this process to stay on track with the timeline. By April 11, 2019, the selected artist will be able to begin working on the project. Three check-in meetings with the artist will be scheduled during the summer of 2019 to stay up to date on progress. Commissioner Ocken motioned to recommend installation of a piece of public art on the grass lawn of City Hall, not to exceed $60K in cost, by October 1, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Berger.

c. Work Plan Update
Mr. Micheel shared an overview of the Visual Arts Commission 2019 Work Plan, and discussed the three main sections of the plan, as well as the goals, ongoing tasks, and action items associated with each section:

1. Manage the City’s Art Collection
2. Public Outreach and Education
3. Support Arts within the Community

Staff will send a copy of the Visual Arts Commission 2019 Work Plan with Commissioners after the meeting.


d. UFG Pocket Park Project Update
Mr. Micheel shared an update on the UFG Pocket Park Project. The City received one quote from McComas-Lacina Construction and was double the cost of what the consultant estimated. The consultant initially provided unit prices and signed quotes for those prices from vendors. The mobilization cost was three times higher than anticipated with McComas-Lacina, explaining the significant difference in cost. The consultant stated that when they reached out to other construction companies to inquire why they did not submit, they stated they could not complete until spring 2019 with their current project workload. The City will go out for quotes again and the project will be completed in spring 2019 at the cost originally anticipated. City staff are preparing the contract for Cara Briggs-Farmer to sign so she can begin work on the sculpture. Mr. Micheel stated that UFG would need to determine the condition of the wall for the mural.

4. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2018