

Minutes

Tuesday, November 09, 2021

Via Zoom at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Susan Ashukian, Catherine Chin Yet, Mark Roe, Stephen Remus, Coun. Carlos Garcia

Absent:

Ayo Adewumi, Justus Düntsch, Michael Zuberec

Staff:

Ashley Judd-Rifkin, Lori Mambella, Michelle Nicholls, Noora Rizvi

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

4:26 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

S. Ashukian acknowledged that the land on which the Public Art Advisory Committee meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. Amendments to the Agenda

Under Item 9.5 – Other Business: Update on the Rodman Art Institute of Niagara request for funding

Under Item 9.5.iv – Review and Approval – Rodman Hall Sculpture Relocation Strategy: Letter from S. Remus on behalf of PAAC members to Culture Office

4. Motion to approve the agenda for November 09, 2021

Moved: M. Roe

Carried

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of October 12, 2021

Moved: C. Chin Yet

Carried

6. Declarations of Interest

None

7. Presentations (invited guests)

None

8. Business arising from the minutes

None

9. Business

a. 9.1 Civic Art Collection Report – No Report

b. 9.2 Committee Work Plan Report – No Report

c. 9.3 Public Art Programming Report

i. 2021 Annual Juried Exhibit: The Art of Resilience

- Art Acquisition

S. Ashukian noted that PAAC needed to pass a motion to go In-Camera for: commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality.

Motion to go In-Camera:

That the committee meet In-Camera pursuant to By-law 2015-121, Schedule A, Section 11.1(i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization, regarding: potential acquisitions into the City's Civic Art Collection from the 2021 Annual Juried Exhibit.

Moved by: M. Roe

Carried

S. Ashukian stated that the Committee would go In-Camera and would come back out to the public session once the art acquisition discussion had taken place. She explained to the Committee that they would be moved into a breakout room.

In-Camera: The artworks from the Annual Juried Exhibit: The Art of Resilience were presented to the Public Art Advisory Committee for acquisition consideration.

The Committee moved back into Open Session at 4:57 p.m.

Motion Arising from In-Camera Session

Motion:

That the Public Art Advisory Committee acquire the artworks: “Rooted Resilience” by Floyd Elzinga; “Front Street” by Rea Kelly; and, “Super Hero” by Kathy McBride from the 2021 Annual Juried Exhibit: The Art of Resilience as determined in the In-Camera Session.

Moved by: S. Remus

Carried

d. 9.4 Report from Cultural Services Office – M. Nicholls / N. Rizvi

- Culture staff have been in the new offices at the Old Courthouse for almost a month and feel very welcomed by the CRCS team.
- The SCCIP funding recommendations made at the previous ACAC meeting represent the final recommendations for 2021. Staff plan to bring the recommendations to Council within the next month and, if approved, funding can be released before the end of 2021.
- Culture Days was a great success and took place from September 24 to October 24. There were some amazing events and activities – both online and in-person. Please be sure to check out the Culture Days playlist on the City’s YouTube page as videos and workshops are still available. Visit www.stcatharines.ca/culturedays for more information.
- Arts Awards are coming up on Sunday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m., in partnership with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. Planning is in full swing. The event will take place in Partridge Hall with multiple nominee performances on stage. Those who are interested are welcome to watch from home via the PAC’s livestream. For details, including a list of the nominees, please visit www.stcatharines.ca/artsawards.

Motion to accept report: M. Roe

Carried

e. 9.5 Other Business

- i. Update on Niagara Artists Centre (NAC)
NAC is screening films on Wednesday to Friday evenings and weekends. Trying to prepare offer to purchase properties for arts hub which will include maker space, recording studio and multi-use venue. NAC also wrote a letter to the Rodman Art Institute regarding the payment of artist fees, in relation to an online exhibit.
N. Rizvi noted she also had a conversation with Rodman Art Institute, reiterating that they will be held to task in relation to paying artist fees,

especially if they intend to apply to funders such as the OAC and Canada Council in the coming months and years.

ii. Update on Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force – N. Rizvi

The top seven candidates have been shortlisted to participate in the Negotiated Request For Proposals (NRFP). Candidates have six months to develop their design proposals, which are expected to be submitted in mid-March 2022. The Task Force is currently focused on fundraising and the donation website is live. Likely no more updates until the proposals are submitted in March.

S. Ashukian questioned if there is information on the fundraising webpage about funds raised to date. N. Rizvi noted that the webpage does not have that functionality.

iii. Update on Fallen Firefighters Commemorative Task Force – N. Rizvi

The top-rated proposal from the NRFP process has been selected and will be going to Council on November 29 for approval, along with an overview of the fundraising and communications strategy. Plans are being developed for a launch event in December.

iv. Review and Approval – Rodman Hall Sculpture Relocation Strategy – N. Rizvi

We are very close to finalizing the new locations for the Rodman Hall sculptures. N. Rizvi noted staff have been taking PAAC sculpture location recommendations into consideration and have been consulting with the Rodman Art Institute as well as various other City departments (Engineering, Parks, Facilities), the moving company and the conservator to create the current shortlist. Proposed locations are:

- *Carolina Blue* (Reinhard Reitzenstein) – FirstOntario PAC Side Garden, adjacent to Stage Door on Carlisle Street. Will now constitute a live Carolina Poplar tree, lit with blue light, in relation to the bronze casting.
- *Settlement* (Mary Anne Barkhouse) – Includes bronze sculptures and border gardens that take the form of a frontier dwelling and planted with a three sisters (corn, beans and squash) garden. Will be located adjacent to the Meridian Centre, in the green space beside parking lot.
- *The Race* (William McElcheran) – City Hall garden.
- *Profile II* (Sorel Etrog) – City Hall garden (opposite The Race).
- *Homage a la Vitesse* (Marino di Teana) – FirstOntario PAC, Front Entrance, between flower planters.
- *Flowering of Time* (John MacGregor) – FirstOntario PAC, Mann Raceway Plaza, bottom of staircase.

Staff reviewed the Public Art Policy to determine suitability of sites. Additionally, staff received a directive from the Rodman Art Institute that

the pieces needed to be moved downtown, in relation to each other and, because of the land license agreement, had to be on City property. Staff also considered visibility, public safety, traffic, the suitability of the site for the piece itself, the way the piece might interact with users, and landscape design.

The Rodman Art Institute wanted the pieces to be in prominent public locations with high traffic where they could be monitored, kept safe and well-lit, as liability for the pieces remains with the Rodman Art Institute. City is providing budget and project management around the move of the pieces to their new locations. All pieces with concrete plinths are getting new plinths created.

In terms of timeline, the pieces will hopefully be removed by the end of the month, placed in storage, and installed in their new locations in spring 2022.

S. Ashukian asked if these are the final proposed locations for the sculptures, and N. Rizvi provided an overview of the entire process as follows:

- Relocation budget approved by Council on August 8; Rodman Institute's Chair, Jean Bridge had already proposed some locations.
- Went on a walkabout downtown with members of the PAAC and Peter Vietgen (Rodman Institute).
- PAAC at that time had been considering a sculpture garden, and the idea was to pivot to focus instead on using the Rodman sculptures to create a downtown sculpture walk.
- P. Vietgen was part of that discussion and vetoed many locations because of potential threat of vandalism.
- On September 14, S. Ashukian did a presentation at PAAC to show longlist of potential locations.
- Got feedback from the FirstOntario PAC and checked feasibility of proposed locations on that property
- Ultimately, all locations needed to be City-owned property and ideally located in relation to existing building where security existed. Also directed by City staff to avoid Heritage sites.
- Came back to PAAC October 12 with shortened longlist, then went back to various City departments and Meridian Centre to determine feasibility.
- Now have a draft land license agreement currently being vetted by the Rodman Art Institute and there is a preliminary costing being creating in consultation with various City departments.

In relation to the letter written by S. Remus on behalf of PAAC, N. Rizvi noted staff feels they have done due diligence in relation to determining appropriate sculpture locations in consultation with PAAC.

S. Remus thanked N. Rizvi and noted the chronology was very helpful. He questioned why PAAC was not consulted in advance of Council's initial budget approval for the sculpture relocation.

Coun. Garcia noted his surprise at how quickly the issue came to Council.

Motion: That the Public Art Advisory Committee accept the Rodman Hall Sculpture Relocation Strategy as per staff's recommendation.

Made by: S. Remus

Carried

N. Rizvi updated PAAC regarding the Rodman Art Institute of Niagara's request to Council:

- Brock has committed \$700,000 for up to 5 years of collection and maintenance.
- The artwork itself has all being catalogued and moved to an offsite location. The hope is to digitize the entire collection and have it available online.
- Their focus will be on operating as a "gallery without walls", including digital exhibitions, vinyl murals downtown, pop-up showings in different regional galleries.
- Rodman Art Institute requested \$75,000 from City Council in 2022 toward strategic planning, community consultations and developing organizational capacity toward developing a public art gallery in downtown St. Catharines.
- Councillors referred the report back to Staff to request more information about municipal comparators. N. Rizvi is now researching and writing that report for the next Council meeting.
- There is a belief that City support will signal to other funders that there is local support and may unlock funding from other levels of government.

10. Date of next meeting

Tuesday December 14, 2021

Via Zoom

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

11. Motion to Adjourn

That the Public Art Advisory Committee be adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Moved by: S. Remus

Carried