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

Commissioners Present: Kayt Conrad - Vice Chair
Lynn Ocken
David Van Allen
Jonathan Berger – arrived 3:32 p.m.
Anne Johnson
Ashley Glassberg

Commissioners Absent: Bill Stamats
Alexis Dagit

Community Development Staff Present: Bill Micheel
Eric Pate
Jillane Gilmour

1. Approval of Minutes
   Commissioner Johnson motioned to approve the minutes for January 10, 2019. Commissioner Glassberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input
   There was no public input.

3. Presentations
   a. Market After Dark Projection Art Project
   Eric Pate shared a presentation on projection art and proposed an idea to display pieces of art on building façades during Market After Dark. This project can feature one artist, or multiple artists working together. City staff reached out to the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance with the opportunity, and they expressed interest as they have considered a similar project. The Economic Alliance will assist in finding locations.

   Mr. Micheel shared that City staff would assist by helping find the artist(s) and locate equipment if an artist did not have their own. The Commission discussed the project, and interested in exploring additional events. Additional topics discussed were where the projector location would be, and collaborating with property owners on an appropriate location. Artists can send digital files, and would not necessarily have to be present. The Commission agreed that starting small with one event would be a positive first step and grow from there. Commissioner Berger volunteered to send Mr. Micheel information on projection artists in St. Louis, as well as potential local artists. Commissioner Conrad volunteered to check with the Division of Performing Arts at the University of Iowa.
b. Art Project Updates
Mr. Micheel shared an update on the UFG Pocket Park and that it will go out for bid after the February 26 City Council meeting. The contract with Cara Briggs-Farmer is final, and she is completing work on the sculpture. Mr. Micheel shared that it has not been determined why the paint is peeling on the wall after speaking with Alliant. They are committed to repainting the wall, but will not be a high priority until the weather improves. Mr. Micheel shared that he will begin speaking with them more frequently for an answer on the wall.

Mr. Pate shared an update on the City Hall Public Art project. The last time the City used CAFÉ was in 2013 for the McGrath Amphitheatre sculpture. With the length of time that surpassed, the contract needed to be renewed with CAFÉ. The fee associated with a call for entry is $525 per posting, which required a series of steps to draft another contract. This process has pushed back the process approximately one month. The content to be posted on CAFÉ has been developed by City staff already, and discovered this when preparing to post. The Commission discussed the timeline and agreed to make some adjustments. Language will be added to the listing stating flexibility with the timeline. Community Development staff will also submit in a budget request to revamp the 2% Policy, and will know by the next VAC meeting in March.

The updated timeline is as follows:
- 2/28: Posting date
- 4/30: Submissions due
- 5/1-5/7: VAC review individually
- 5/9: Review of submissions during VAC meeting, select top finalists
- 6/30: Proposal deadline
- 7/11: Final selection of artist
- TBD Artist meetings #1-3
- Spring 2020 completion and installation

4. Discussion & Possible Action Items
   a. Shifting Ground – Outro Chao
The Commission discussed support of the project in relation to the VAC Mission and Vision. This project would not affect art project funds, as it comes from the maintenance budget. Commissioner Van Allen motioned for City support of $2,500 for the project. Seconded by Commissioner Glassberg. The motion passed four to two. Commissioner Conrad and Commissioner Ocken opposed. Mr. Micheel will discuss obtaining copies of the book and presentation with Jane Gilmor and Ellen Kleckner.

4. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 14, 2019