

## **Public Art Commission Meeting, March 19, 2014, 6pm**

PAC Members: Alex Van Praagh, Christopher Sokolowski, David De Celis

Staff: Lillian Hsu, Jeremy Gaucher, Rika McNally

### **1. New Commission Candidate – Berta Pentoja**

Staff has previously distributed Berta Pentoja's bio and CV for consideration for a seat on the PAC. Alex has a positive recommendation. David knows her and recommends based on her experience. David moves to accept the nomination. Vote: All in favor, Aye. Motion approved.

### **2. Fern St. Site Committee, Artist Selection Meeting**

The Selection Meeting will meet April 2 at DPW at 5:30. All PAC members are welcome. Site committee follows a consensus process as much as possible. Alex and David will be present as voting members of the Site Committee.

Q: shouldn't PAC members also have an equal say in the consensus if more than two? LH feels that we shouldn't 'dominate' the jury with 'insiders' i.e. city staff, commission members, etc. and have the public members have a majority of the say.

### **3. 1% Discussion**

PAC would like to come away with some action steps to forward the discussion regarding the \$100,000 Cap on 1% funds. PAC feels this is an opportune time to address this with the recent turnover in the City Council and City Manager's office. PAC points out that Mark McGovern and Dennis Carlone might be new councilors who could be advocates for a literal interpretation of the 1%.

PAC wonders if we should send an open invitation to attend this meeting.

LH: stated that a political route would be one outside of staff. PAC members can approach city council. Former City Manager placed the \$100,000 cap on the 1% over 5 years ago. Roughly two years ago, a letter from the PAC was sent to the former City Manager. Deputy CM and DPW Commissioner attended a PAC meeting and addressed the issue but would not change the current policy. Lillian could draft language for the PAC detailing why this policy will affect the scope and quality of the program going forward. Alex feels that a new letter could come from the PAC re-addressing the issue, directly to the City Manager. Letter could identify what, why, when, with data points – what the budget could have been (maybe site other cities' examples of the difference a larger budget makes of projects). PAC agrees this is the moment to make that change and a lasting contribution to the legacy of the city and its artistic heritage. Lillian will draft the information requested by the PAC and will present that draft to the PAC at the April meeting.

PAC feels that there may be certain CAC Advisory Board members that would join in this effort. The more people to back this effort would be stronger and that perhaps an updated letter from current CAC board membership would make a stronger impact.

PAC feels that a document with 'talking points' about this issue would be a very good thing to have front of mind when art and city programs are part of the agenda. i.e a 'crib sheet' for advocacy. Review letter and bullet points for next meeting.

Private development percent programs exist in other cities with % for art mandates. The play brochure is an example of a way to suggest design changes without an official ordinance.

#### **4. Draft Selection Process**

Handout: new draft. This new version goes up to the point of PAC Approval of a project proposal. Staff will create second phase of project 'creation and existence'. Jeremy will update this draft with additional steps under RFP. PAC suggested that PAC and CAC STAFF could be delineated by Color.

Staff to look at St. Paul master plan Public Art doc to inform a smaller version for Cambridge.

PAC recommended updating next draft with web in mind – i.e. links to Slideroom, definitions, ordinances, send interest in being a juror, on the site committee, upcoming projects.

#### **5. Upcoming Gallery Exhibit**

Next exhibit in the fall is likely about Magazine Beach reconstruction/future. Exhibit will highlight past/present/future – possibilities through art and design. Boston AppLab meetings led to idea about a rich public space and open space.

#### **6. New Green Line stations with 1/2% for Art**

Public meetings about 10 artists to be interviewed on Q's to be integrated. Are schematics available online? LH will look and send. Artists are limited to using only materials already being used in the architecture.

#### **7. Other:**

- Poetry in the sidewalk – conversations happening
- Little Libraries – some city staff working on helping with that idea (4-5 in Cambridge).
- \$27,000 in Pool Funds. Hurlbut St is a soon future calming site. Lillian talking with Mitch Ryerson about remaking Pooh house.
- Pearl st Garage mural is a problem (failing) – Rika hiring a painting conservator report. Likely needs to be decommissioned. PAC Q: could there be funds to replace in some way. Should traffic calming funds be used? PAC policy discussion will be on process will be added on a future agenda.
  
- Staff will work on dates for next Public Art Tour outing with both boards.
  
- Next meeting: April 16, 6pm

**Meeting adjourned:** 7:45pm