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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Art Committee (PAC)
Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 3:30 PM
MCAD Board Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 3:34 pm.

2. **Roll Call.**

Members Present: Kim Bauer, Edmund Castle, Gregory McNicol, Marina Monsisvais, Isela Ocegueda, Daniela Quesada Rivas and Stefanie Block Uribarri

Members Absent: Melissa Barba, Robert González and Ann Kruzich

Others Present: Pat Dalbin, Aidee Guevara and Misty Monteros

3. **Public Comment.** None

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Gregory McNicol so moved; Stefanie Block Uribarri seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on the Direct Selection of Artist Julio Sanchez De Alba and his Design Concept for the 9/11 Memorial to be located at Fire Station 19, 9501 San Jose Road.** Pat Dalbin explained that Julio Sanchez De Alba is one of the only sculptors in town that can capture this realism. He will incorporate the previously donated cross into his work so that it does not look like a cross, and she noted that the intent is to direct select him and also approve the design concept for the 9/11 Memorial. With that, she introduced Julio to members and he began his presentation with a maquette for the project, *Rising Stronger*, which commemorates the events of September 11, 2001, and pays tribute to the firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice. The 9-foot bronze sculpture depicts a fireman kneeling on World Trade Center rubble, picking up the helmet of a fallen comrade while his companion offers comfort as he looks at the horizon with conviction. He reviewed sculpture placement, a description of the sculpture composition, project cost estimates, timeframe, payment terms, his artist statement and past works via a PowerPoint slideshow. He described how he will use the cross in his work, noting it will be surrounded with rubble and rusted, as if it has been outside in the elements. With that, he closed his presentation and opened the floor for questions. Gregory McNicol asked if the cross was steel, and Pat replied affirmatively. Greg further asked if the cross would be inserted into the base, and Julio that it would be on the base where the firemen are standing. Stefanie Block Uribarri asked if the cross would be a different color than the bronze, and Julio replied affirmatively, noting that the firemen will have a patina, but the rest will be concrete, steel and the rubble that will be used. Pat asked about the mixing of the metals, and Julio replied nothing would be mixed. The bronze will stand on top of the rubble and there would be minimal contact between the bronze and the steel, and it is something that he does normally. Greg expressed his own concern with the bronze and steel touching and the need for a separator in those areas; Julio replied that he would not need to separate them and it would be fine to have those two elements together before asking Greg what his concern was. Greg replied his concern would be that the two metals eat at each other and Edmund Castle asked about a cathodic reaction. Julio replied that nothing would hurt the bronze or the steel. Kim Bauer asked what the rubble would be composed of, and Julio replied it would be steel. General discussion followed. Chair requested a motion to accept direct selection of the artist, Julio Sanchez De Alba, and his design concept for the 9/11 Memorial to be located at Fire Station 19, with the exception of the cross, which requires further modification to eliminate any issues regarding separation of church and state. Isela Ocegueda so moved; Edmund Castle seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

6. **Discussion and Action on the Direct Selection of Hal Marcus for the Richard Burges Library Public Art Project.** Pat Dalbin briefly explained that the Richard Burges Library is opening a children's section that will be enclosed in glass, and it was thought that Hal Marcus would be a good candidate for the art as he works with colors and his work speaks of El Paso. General discussion followed wherein it

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was explained by Pat that the fabrication would be done by the contractor. The artist will submit his proposed work to scale and it will go to a glass fabricator for fabrication before the general contractor does the installation. Examples of past works were shown via a PPT slideshow. Stephanie Block Uribarri moved to approve the direct selection of Hal Marcus for the Richard Burges Library public art project. Gregory McNicol seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on the Proposed Artwork for the Dyer Rapid Transit System by Artist Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan. Laura Haddad began her presentation by discussing the research and concepts for the project, noting they decided to work with the concept of camouflage. Different forms of camouflage will be used for the five districts identified along the Dyer RTS route; dazzle in the north end, camouflage netting in the Franklin Mountains district, a mimicry design that picks up on the history of the cavalry along Van Buren and towards the base, ornamental toile camouflage in the historic district and a pixelated version using faces downtown. Images were shown via a PowerPoint slideshow, and the artist provided maquettes and material samples for members to review. She discussed their method and inspiration using photos of historic images for the five shelters. The last part of the project is at the 5 Points Transit Station; a sculpture titled *Queen of the Night*, which will be illuminated at night in such a way that the inside of the sculpture appears to "bloom". It will have 5 points made of bead blast stainless steel and suspended acrylic pollen, reminiscent of a Night Blooming Lilly. A maquette was available for members to review. General discussion followed. Gregory McNicol made a motion to approve proposed artwork for the Dyer Rapid Transit System by Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan. Daniela Quesada Rivas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Art Status Report. Pat Dalbin noted that *The Cloud* has been completed, installation of *Los Lagartos* will take place next week, and installation at the Irving Schwartz Library on the corner of Trawood and Montwood will begin on February 25th.

9. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Gregory McNicol so moved; Isela Ocegueda seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm. Next meeting scheduled for March 8, 2016.

Approved for content by:
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Manager

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Monteros, Administrative Assistant

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