

Approved 1/06/22

West Chicago Cultural Arts Commission
Thursday, November 4, 2021
7:00pm

1. Call to Order at 7:01pm by Heidi Kuharich; Roll Call: Uwe Gsedl, Anni Holm, Heidi Kuharich, Buddy Plumlee, Deborah Walsh, and City Liaison Rosemary Mackey in attendance; Quorum established; Statement from Mayor Pineda read
 - a. Judi Horsley joined at 7.22pm
 - b. West Chicago Public Library Director, Ben Weseloh, joined
 - c. Community member, Crystal Riani, joined
2. Approve Minutes of October 2, 2021
 - a. Buddy Plumlee made motion to approve, Deborah Walsh seconded; Approved unanimously
3. Proposal to Collaborate with West Chicago Public Library
 - a. Ben Weseloh presented idea for building a wall at western border of Library entrance and adding art to Library-facing façade; estimated completion date likely 2 to 3 years out
 - b. Currently envisioned at 120-150 feet of length, 8-12 feet high; concrete panels similar to highway barrier usage
 - c. Suggestions for art include:
 - i. Continuing the historic perspective of the mural in Library stairwell, adding cultural perspective as well
 - ii. Interactive (would require ample placement of sidewalk); eg, <https://thomasdambo.com/works/happywall1/>
 - iii. Wall could be taken as one piece in entirety or in smaller pieces or “panels”
 - iv. Could be swapped out every few years
 - d. Major benefits include:
 - i. Adding to the art already around the entire downtown area
 - ii. Working in concert with the eventual placement of the new City Hall location
 - iii. Linking the construction and the art might assist with the funding overall via grants, etc
 - e. Discussion on next steps centered around further specificity on the function to more directly continue discussions on the form; Rosemary Mackey will begin discussing with City partners best able to advise on the necessities of such construction; Ben Weseloh will join Commission at January meeting to report initial findings
 - f. Deborah Walsh made motion to pursue partnership with Library on art aspect of endeavor; Buddy Plumlee seconded; Approved unanimously
4. Update Status of Public Art Master Plan [Cultural Arts Commission Master Plan]
 - a. Heidi Kuharich suggested adding a segment on partnerships with an eye toward forming closer working relationships, examples include this meeting’s case with the Library, past cases with Garden Club, etc.
 - b. Buddy Plumlee suggested earmarking specific sections that could be written by other Commission members; will have list ready at January meeting
5. Follow-Up on Downtown Trunk-or-Treat Outreach
 - a. Master Plan-style survey question posed to attending children: What type of public art would you like to see in West Chicago? Options provided: Sculpture, Murals, Community Art, Interactive Art
 - b. In the spirit of the event, children were asked to “vote” their choice using spent candy wrappers. [Advance information from Library advised 300 children in attendance, reality was closer to 1,000] Results:
 - i. Sculpture = 66 votes
 - ii. Murals = 49 votes
 - iii. Community Art = 73 votes
 - iv. Interactive Art = 53 votes

- v. Total = 241 votes
 - c. Heidi Kuharich and Deborah Walsh were on hand to assist and agreed on anecdotal findings: very valuable as an outreach effort. Kids were polite and excited to participate, understanding easily what was being asked of them and why; parents seemed thrilled to have the kids asked; many of both expressed gratitude and commented on what fun it was to create art in such a way
6. Brainstorm Ideas for Frosty Fest CAC Outreach
- a. Heidi Kuharich posed to Commission, based on success of Trunk-or-Treat Outreach, to move forward with something similar at Frosty Fest [December 4, 4-7pm]
 - b. Discussion on options/ideas, considering unknown location constraints, time to plan, time to hold participant attention, permissions necessary
 - c. With some details still needed, but considering Commission meeting schedule in light of event date, Commission determined to build a snowflake framework that children can add pipe cleaners and ribbon to as a means of building a WeGo one-of-a-kind art snowflake; Heidi Kuharich will serve as point person, Deborah Walsh offered to volunteer at the event, Judith Horsley offered to communicate with contacts as needed, Rosemary Mackey will follow up with Nicolette Stefan on permissions, placement, etc.
 - d. Anni Holm made motion to move forward on this proposal with the caveat that many details will be worked out in the next month; Buddy Plumlee seconded; Approved unanimously
7. Other Business
- a. Anni Holm outlined upcoming art workshops being offered at Gallery 200 or on Zoom as a collaboration between PMV and WeGo Together for Kids; currently slated for first and third Saturdays beginning November 20; all will be led by professional artists and include a component of self-care and rebuilding
 - b. Rosemary Mackey reported that the Garden Club has expressed an interest in working with the Commission on further programming/projects
 - c. Rosemary Mackey outlined efforts to update the City website to include an Environmental Stewardship section that includes a focus on connecting art and the environment; the process has the added bonus of filling in some of the holes noted by the Commission on certain pieces of art in West Chicago missing from the Gallery page
 - d. Rosemary Mackey provided follow-up note on public art repair needs: she has reached out to Public Works and is waiting for response
8. Public Participation: N/A
9. Adjournment: Uwe Gsedl made motion, Anni Holm seconded, unanimous: 8.33pm