

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Campus Art and Ground Aesthetics Committee

May 17, 2021

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Minutes-DRAFT

Attendees:

Anna Romskog, Antoinette Curl, David McKenna, James Meyer, Joseph Pickering, Kathryn Funk-Baxter, Justin Korver, Richard Delgado, Gary Coulton, Michelle Janysek, Eliaz McCullen, Gavin Watts, Valerie Barrera, Cecilia Espitia, Mary Walker, Tamara Hinojosa, Karen Burgard, Stephanie Black

Absent:

Sean Vina

- I. Welcome (Kathy Funk-Baxter)

- II. Minutes from March 11, 2021
 - a. Minutes distributed via email May 5, 2021 and included in calendar invite.
 - b. No updates or edits to minutes. Minutes approved.

- III. Update from Subcommittees
 - a. Classroom Hall Wall Mural/Mosaic Subcommittee (David McKenna)
 - i. Received a few proposals from the list of artists suggested by San Antonio River Authority. Evaluations have been received from the subcommittee.
 - ii. Subcommittee will meet this week to review proposals and will present those to the full Committee at the next meeting.
 - b. Lighting of the CAB Dome, Fountain and Tower Subcommittee (David McKenna)
 - i. Todd Mocabee, who was leading the subcommittee, is no longer with the University. That said, the subcommittee has made substantial progress toward its objective.
 - ii. Recommendations were provided to the full committee for review and consideration, including
 1. We have 13 existing events that have been approved in the past for special lighting. This represents a comprehensive series of events.

2. There being no additional comments or recommendations to the recommendation, this matter is now closed and the recommendations will be shared with the VP for Advancement for comments and suggestions.
- c. Grounds, Gardens and Outdoor Spaces Improvements Subcommittee (Mary Walker)
- i. Projects have been ranked
 1. Adding additional shade structures around campus. Group is identifying appropriate spaces and costs, as well as ideas.
 - a. The Rose Garden behind Madla is being considered as one of the potential spaces for a shade structure.
 - b. Refining space to the east of Patriot's Casa to include pillars in the park area for students to bring their own hammocks.
 2. Outdoor lighting for Auditorium Courtyard. This would be a great space for events and for students to hang out between and after classes.
 3. Sidewalk Painting Project: we are working with a company to repaint the sidewalk between lot 2 and lot 3 in the same fashion as the rainbow crosswalk near San Antonio College.
 - a. The recommendation from the City was to paint the sidewalk rather than the crosswalk due to complication of applying a heat application method which is considered necessary to be durable which may not be available for this application as well as the vehicle wear and tear on crosswalk painting diminishes the life of the painting.
 4. Leveling sidewalk next to Madla Welcome Center. Sidewalk is not leveled and given this is a high traffic area for visitors it has been identified as an area to address.
- d. Fostering Community Partnerships Subcommittee (Justin Korver)
- i. McNay: As part of the existing partnership with the University, the McNay has made new commitment to do two educational outreach events for our campus. Subcommittee is working to connect those events to other art events on campus and art classes.
 - ii. Contemporary Art Month (CAM) (March 2022). Committee for that event, which is composed of members from the SA Community, is chaired by Justin Korver. For the CAM Perennial, the board is partnering with different educational institutions and A&M-SA is being approached to serve as a venue.
 1. CAM would pay for curator, travel, hanging of exhibition, and curators' time. One commitment we would need to make is to allow the curator to have the freedom to select the exhibit.

- a. The existing exhibit walls may work for this exhibit provided it fits the curator's concept for the art placement.
 2. A written statement of what the partnership would entail requested before firm commitment can be made.
 3. No objection to having a partnership with CAM for March 2022.
 - iii. Walls could also be used for an exhibit in the Fall called "Anguish in the Aftermath" by Ian Witlen, which focuses on the voices of family and friends of those impacted by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School 2018 shooting—provided funds can be located to transport the exhibit.
 1. No objections to bringing the exhibit provided funding could be located.
 - iv. Walls could also be used for 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001 attacks. Military Affairs working with the George Bush Presidential Library on an initiative to bring part of a special exhibit to A&M-SA, with the other part to be displayed at SMU. Exhibit to include paintings, pictures, and artifacts from lost firefighters and NYPD officers.
 1. This will be done in conjunction with the Travis Manion 9/11 Heroes Run event.
- e. Student Volunteer Lead Opportunities Subcommittee (Joseph Pickering)
- i. Group is supportive of rainbow sidewalk between lot 2 and lot 3 and interested in opportunity for student involvement.
 1. There is an opportunity in the middle of Lot 2 where the orange barricades to add benches and have them painted or wrapped, and have the barricades removed.
 - ii. Incorporate "Jaguars remembered" statements or graphics into the cisterns next to the Rose Garden, where that ceremony takes place each year.
 1. Suggestion made to have jaguar pride on one side of the cisterns and remembrance reflection on the other side.
 - iii. Herf Jones Ring Monument: Herf Jones proposed adding a small plaque on a pedestal next to the university seal which would include the story of the ring ceremony. Herf Jones, which manufactures the rings, would provide the funds per an existing agreement.
 1. Sample of concept was shared with the committee which included a prominent ring in place of a plaque.
 2. Committee voiced concerns with having the plaque next to the University seal in the main courtyard and suggestions were made to consider placement in the Rotunda, in the hallway that has the timeline

or in a niche, or in a different space not necessarily right in the middle of campus.

3. A concern was shared about having a public sculpture on our campus that could be perceived as serving as advertisement for a private company to sell their product to our students.
 - a. The idea is to share what the ring ceremony is, the symbolism behind the design, and share the story as a university tradition.
 - b. Committee shared widespread support for not including any company names in the monument and procurement will need to provide a comment on provisions in the contract for the monument.
 4. Company required to provide \$50K that could be used at our discretion.
 - a. Idea was put forth to do a mural with students wearing class ring and in graduation regalia, or some other visual piece where students would want to take a picture during commencement but would also be beautiful to look at the rest of the year.
 - b. Opening it up to a local artist to provide an art installation would also integrate our vision to incorporate more community art on our campus.
 5. Joe Pickering will be working with Mary Ellen Walker on the cisterns and the ring monument to bring new ideas to the full committee.
- iv. 1st Floor of CAB: Students have mentioned that there is a need to have jaguar pride space on this campus. Usually the student union would serve that purpose but without that space built yet, the first floor of CAB might serve as a good space.
1. Kathy and Mary have been working on graphic concept art to be located between elevators on first floor to bring to the committee.
 2. Bulletin boards on our campus are hidden and controlled, rather than out in open spaces like there are on other campuses but having open spaces in CAB might work well for creating that college-feeling space.
 - a. In classroom hall there are walls where flyers can be posted but anything posted on campus still needs to go through the appropriate process to get the relevant approvals
 - i. Kathy would need to talk to Joseph offline to discuss how to make this happen.
 - b. Open bulletin spaces could also serve as exhibition spaces for student art to be promoted and showcased, along with TV monitors.

- c. Mechanical yard in next building will have flat walls for the purposes of showcasing outdoor mural or other art placement, which is suggested to be student art.
- d. The space next to Patriots' Casa service yard would also be appropriate for a mural inspired by the American Flag, perhaps something done in collaboration with a local artist. Richard to send Kathy a picture of the space.

IV. Projects in Progress (David McKenna)

- a. Jaguar Reflections: Panels are up and requested additions are coming and being put together. Some posters that are included in the display don't have attributions to artists but those will be added. We are doing write-ups of the donor and maker of each poster.
 - i. Generally convention holds that the artist is the first one acknowledged in write-up and only on the second paragraph the provenance of the work (donor) would be acknowledge. Recommendation made to stick closely to this widely-accepted convention.
 - ii. Suggestion to reconsider the placement of the safety "EXIT" sign that is in front of the word "Jaguar" because of the mirror effect the red light is producing.
 - 1. This will be reviewed and fixed. An update will be done in mirror letters to include "2020" next to the left of the display.
- b. Nuestra Gente: Photos have been installed and are working on minor adjustments to the President's quote.
 - i. Suggestion made to have the paper prints that form this exhibit protected by glass or acrylic.
- c. Entryway to Texas A&M University-San Antonio concepts underway: initial review has been done and designer is focused on one package to bring that modified work to the committee. Renderings forthcoming to the committee within the next month.
 - i. Palo Alto College built a large bulletin board out of wood to hang vinyl banners to promote events to those driving along 410. It is a less expensive alternative to a more permanent installation.
 - ii. The plans in progress include a video display board to include prominent university events. The two sides of the tower would be more monument-type elements that would include lighting to show university name and branding much more prominently than the university seal on the tower.
 - 1. We will have to look at what Palo Alto has.
- d. Direction for Interior for College of Business and Library Building is in development with significant progress underway. Various stakeholders have been contacted to get their

thoughts on building an educational story within the building, the story of the Medina River and the Native populations that were part of the history in our area.

- e. Partnership with SAAAMCO: meeting next week to discuss size and locations of pieces being loaned.
- f. Way Finding: work is in progress on digital wayfinding initiative which will address SciTech Building, as well as Classroom Hall and then followed with install in College of Business and Library.
- g. Placement of donated art from Lionel Sosa (*Living in My Skin*): They'll be located in Madla Building stairwells between 1st and second floors.
- h. Inventory of art (March 8-10): Roughly 125 pieces. Now we have location, setting, style of the artist and location of each piece.

V. Discussion/Open Topics

- a. Permanent stop signs have been installed on our campus.
- b. Suggestion made to have a new stop sign or speed limit sign should be posted between CAB and Classroom hall.
 - i. There have been near-misses with people driving between lot 2 and lot 1 using that space. Police have not issued citations due to lack of signage which David Mckenna will follow up with facilities to have installed.
- c. Art of Four: Tim Gritten coordinating next meeting this week to discuss location for pieces and size of pieces. Meeting to include Mary Ellen Walker, who can speak to the Facilities perspective. Mary will bring updates once meeting takes place.
- d. Seal in the courtyard is being reworked as seal tiles kept popping off. University connected with SARA to get recommendations on artist and Oscar Alvarado has been selected to install the new seal; his work is featured throughout San Antonio.
 - i. Anticipated deadline for completion: before next ring day.

VI. Next meeting

- a. To be scheduled, likely July. Doodle poll will be done to get availability

VII. Adjourn

- a. There being no additional comments, meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.