

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Campus Art and Ground Aesthetics Committee

March 11, 2021

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attended: Gavin Watts, Mary Walker, Anna Romskog, Valerie Barrera, Todd Mocabee, Kathy Funk-Baxter, David McKenna, Antoinette Curl, Cecilia Espitia, Eliaz McCullen, Gary Coulton, James Meyer, Joseph Pickering, Justin Korver, Michelle Janysek, Richard Delgado, Sara Castillo, Sean Vina, Stephanie Black, Tamara Hinojosa

Absent: N/A

Minutes

- I. Welcome (Kathy Funk-Baxter)
 - a. Sessions will now be recorded for the purposes of transcribing the minutes.
 - b. Minutes from January 11, 2021 will be distributed via email, with request that any edits/suggestions be submitted via email.
 - c. Committee will be notified via email before minutes are added to the website: <https://www.tamusa.edu/aesthetics-committee/>

- II. Update from Subcommittees
 - a. Classroom Hall Wall Mural/Mosaic Subcommittee (David McKenna)
 - i. Collaborating with the San Antonio River Authority because of their extensive use of area artists on a number of various projects.
 - ii. The proposal (in composition stage) will go out to five area artists seeking their concepts and ideas related to development of this mural.
 - b. Lighting of the Cab Dome, Fountain Subcommittee (Todd Mocabee)
 - i. Subcommittee identified 16 existing occasions where the dome or tower is lit.
 - ii. Criteria for identifying lighting occasions is in development. A draft form has been created and research is underway to identify the best colors to settle on, given the limited number of colors. A new set of light fixtures was purchased for testing on dome.
 - iii. Another meeting set for next week and more clarity on various aspects should be available by the end of month.
 - iv. Suggestion was made to have a Microsoft Teams site for the group to share files with the committee, including the list of existing lighting occasions.

- c. Grounds, Gardens and Outdoor Space Improvements Subcommittee (Mary Walker)
 - i. Subcommittee will identify a few different projects and provide to the Committee the scope of work, expectations, and timeline for each one.
 - ii. Subcommittee is mindful to propose projects at various price points, ranging from the thousands to the million dollar range.
 - iii. A suggestion was made to consider a trail system. The City of San Antonio has long range plans to create more hike and bike trails, similar to the Medina River Trail. The University could potentially partner with the City to create a trail from our campus to other City trails.
 - iv. Stephanie Black added to the subcommittee.
 - v. Subcommittee asked to rank projects and provide the list to the committee with the plan to fund one of projects per year.

- d. Fostering Community Partnerships Subcommittee (Justin Korver)
 - i. Dr. Karen Burgard with College of Education and Human Development has been added to this subcommittee.
 - ii. Initial meetings with community partners are in development.
 - 1. Subcommittee members have met with Art Pace Director Riley Robertson and Education Coordinator Ashley Mireles.
 - 2. Members of the subcommittee are scheduled to meet with Kate Carey, Head of Education of McNay.
 - 3. Meeting with San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA) is in the works.
 - iii. Subcommittee is also working on ideas to publicize the existing partnerships with SAMA and McNay. Ideas include:
 - 1. Creating digital advertisements to display on campus TV screens.
 - 2. Postings on social media outlets in collaboration with Marcom.
 - iv. Subcommittee is also focused on promoting upcoming art events at the University.
 - 1. "The Personal as Political" featuring the artist Anthony Francis, Susan Gonzalez and Joe Hardjo. March 22, 3:00-4:15 pm.
 - 2. Artist Margarita Cabrera. March 22th, 3:00-4:00 pm, sponsored by Joseph Pickering and Office of Student Activity.
 - 3. In development: Subcommittee members Justin Korver and Joe Pickering are working on bringing the artist Ian Witlen's collection, a series of portraits called "Anguish in the Aftermath," focused on the community reflections on the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting.

4. Subcommittee was informed that the University has procured walls to be used for exhibits, photography, portraits and paintings. They are available to display exhibits.
- e. Student Volunteer Lead Opportunities Subcommittee (Joseph Pickering)
- i. The following ideas were proposed as potential opportunities:
 1. Painting of the crosswalks with different themes: Rainbow, Black Lives Matter, Military Appreciation
 2. Jaguar Statue on campus (maybe bronze that can be painted, or a design similar to the Yanaguana Garden at Hemisfair Park)
 3. Painting Viva A&M-SA on the wall where the Food Trucks usually are to add more color and spirit to that area on campus.
 4. Paint benches or design vinyl decals for benches to advertise student organizations and create spaces for them to be proud of as a group.
 5. Paint the light poles in the CAB courtyard or get some designs created and then wrap the poles with a vinyl (something that can meet the university marketing theme/campaign for the year).
 - ii. A suggestion was made to consider potential art projects for the two water cisterns near the Madla Building. Suggestions will be sent to Dr. Pickering.
 - iii. [Monthly student committee] suggested designing first floor of Central Academic Building to be more student friendly. Presently, the area houses the University bookstore, dining services, student involvement, and game room. The interconnecting hallways are more formal with artwork displays.

III. Projects in Progress (David McKenna)

- a. Classroom Hall: Jaguar Reflections finalization before fabrication
 - i. Vinyl installed on March 8. Remainder of project to be installed March 19.
- b. Nuestra Gente finalization before fabrication
 - i. Artist is working with vendor Titan on a design. Schedule TBA.
 - ii. This committee suggested quotes to incorporate into fabrication. The decision was made in discussions with the artist that several quotes would be incorporated into the work and would be spread through the collection of photographs. Those suggestions by the committee are still in the process of being collected.
- c. Entryway to Texas A&M University-San Antonio concepts underway
 - i. University will be meeting with Marmon Mok mid-March. Concepts from the developer will be presented to the committee for review and comment.

- d. Direction for Interior for College of Business and Library Building being developed
 - i. Theme of the building is the Medina River. Architects are making adjustments to the design based on feedback from Dr. Matson and others. This process is informed by various stakeholder groups and will be ongoing.
 - ii. Once the process is further along concepts can be shared with the broader committee.
- e. Partnership with SAAAMCO
 - i. Tim Gritten, with the President's Commission on Equity, has been working with SAAMCO for several months to have 10 panels displayed, similar to the McNay installation in the Science and Technology Building. The panels would represent local past and current San Antonio trailblazers in the field of science. A total of 12 African Americans and Latino scholars would be showcased. Panels will include a tag and QR code link to an oral interview about the subject. As of yet no images have been provided by SAAAMCO.
- f. Way Finding
 - i. The electronic way finding awaiting final proposal for SciTech and Classroom Hall. Need to get a good idea about the costs related to this. We are hopeful building funds will cover costs.
- g. Art exhibit for Black History Month and donated art from Lionel Sosa
 - i. Lionel Sosa's exhibit was a success and kudos were given to the Facilities group in setting up the exhibit.
 - ii. Two pieces from the exhibit were donated to the University and are currently, but not permanently, housed in the auditorium.
- h. Inventory of art (March 8-10)
 - i. Physical audit completed for 159 pieces of art across campus. Some conservation work is needed on a few pieces and artists will be contacted to see if they would be willing to come back to complete the conservation work.
 - ii. Audit serves various purposes, including providing information on where a piece is located and the condition.
 - iii. As the entity responsible for these valuable pieces and we need a process that handles the acquisitions of art on campus, to include the cataloging of pieces and determining which party will insure the pieces.
 - iv. A comment was made that several pieces had gaps in information that is typically standard, such as the date of completion. This could be a good opportunity to address those gaps.

IV. Discussion/Open Topics - none

V. Next meeting

- a. To be scheduled in May 2021—doodle to be distributed.

VI. Adjourn

There being no additional comments, meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.