



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Urbana Public Arts Commission

FROM: Anna Hochhalter, Public Arts Coordinator

DATE: December 9, 2009

SUBJECT: Urbana Sculpture Project Recommendations from Juries

Background

The Urbana Sculpture Project was launched in September 2009 as a combination of two projects described in the Public Arts Program of Work for FY 2008-2009: the Philo Road Beautification Plan Public Art Project, and the Iron Post Sculpture Loan Project. The program originated from a 2005 City Council goal to “integrate art into every feasible public works project – promote functional and streetscape art”. Additionally, the 2009 Urbana Sculpture Project provides the public art component described in two streetscape plans: the Philo Road Beautification Plan, and the design of the Iron Post Courtyard renovation. Through a call for art distributed nationally, applications were received for the Urbana Sculpture Project. Two juries reviewed the submissions and a recommendation for the four sculptures to be installed for a two-year period is presented below.

Discussion

On September 4, 2009, sculptors were invited to submit digital images of existing sculptural works to be considered for temporary placement (two years) in two open air settings with high visibility and renovated streetscapes in Urbana. Up to four free-standing sculptural works of art are planned for installation as part of this project. The goals for the project include the following:

- Integrate public art into the urban environment, creating a sense of place and purpose, and promoting tourism and commerce
- Beautify and improve the city streetscape
- Preserve and commemorate local and multicultural traditions and histories
- Enrich the lives of Urbana residents and visitors

Location Details

The artwork will be installed in two areas of the city: in the Iron Post Courtyard in downtown Urbana, and along the Philo Road Business Corridor. The Iron Post Courtyard is an open air setting in the recently renovated Iron Post Courtyard, on the corner of Race and Elm Streets, in downtown Urbana. The courtyard is highly visible in the heart of downtown, adjacent to the Iron

Post Restaurant and Bar, a popular venue for live music and outdoor dining. One sculpture will be placed in this location. The submitted artwork for this location was encouraged to explore or express a suggested theme of music, for example the work could express the experience of music, history of music, or musical instruments in its design. While a music theme was encouraged, artwork outside this theme was also considered. The display of artwork will be in the center of the courtyard between two public benches. The work will be installed within an existing planter box and attached to a reinforced concrete pad. The planter is 54.5" x 51.5" in dimension. The artwork must fall within the maximum dimensions of 50" x 45" at ground base.

The Philo Road Business Corridor location includes sites for up to three sculpture pieces as part of a newly implemented streetscape beautification project on Philo Road between Florida and Colorado Avenues. Philo Road is a mixed-use business corridor adjacent to high-density and single family residential properties. Recent streetscape beautification with a prairie theme has included significant landscaping, new pedestrian and traffic lighting, bike lanes, and benches. The submitted artwork was encouraged to explore or express a theme of sustainability or of the prairie; for example the work could express ideas of human interaction with the environment or native fauna or flora of the Illinois prairie in its design. Again, while this theme was encouraged, artwork outside this theme was also considered. The artwork will be installed in three locations along the Philo Road Corridor. Two of these locations are on public-right-of-way property and are confirmed. The third location is currently being negotiated with property owners. Images of the confirmed locations are below. Appropriate bases and installation methods will be determined by the artist in coordination with City of Urbana personnel. Proposed artwork was requested to fall within the maximum dimensions of 60" x 60" at ground base; however, larger pieces were also considered.



Iron Post Courtyard location



Philo Road location: Corner of Colorado Avenue and Philo Road



Philo Road location: Corner of Florida Avenue and Philo Road

Selection Process

By October 19, 2009, the submission deadline for the project, a total of 34 artists had submitted images of original, pre-existing artworks, resulting in 98 sculptures to be considered. The applicants were from 14 states and two countries. Two selection juries were convened to review the submissions. The first jury met on November 19th, and was comprised of residents with training and experience in public art administration and visual art. The jury included Robin Hall, founder of Wandell Sculpture Garden and Urbana Public Arts Commission Chair; Kathleen Harleman, Director of Krannert Art Museum; and Michele Plante, College of Fine and Applied Arts Coordinator of Career Services. The first jury reviewed all 98 submissions and selected 10 sculptures to be reviewed by the second jury.

The second jury met on December 8th to review the 10 preselected sculptures and select the 4 pieces to be recommended to the Public Arts Commission for installation. The second jury included a broad range of stakeholders invested in the locations of the installations. The jury was comprised of the following seven residents:

- Dennis Roberts, Alderman for Ward 5
- Diane Marlin, Alderwoman for Ward 7
- Geoff Bant, Public Arts Commissioner, Ceramics Artist and Teacher
- Paul Wirth, Owner and Operator of the Iron Post
- Jan Chandler, Owner and Operator of Heartland Gallery
- Barak Rosenshine, Philo Road resident
- Shawn Lee, Philo Road resident

Both juries evaluated the artwork using the following criteria:

- Artistic quality of the piece;
- Aesthetic quality of site integration;
- Public accessibility/interaction potential;
- Ability to withstand the normal wear and tear experienced in an outdoor public setting adjacent to commercial activity and automobile traffic;
- Constructed with the highest quality materials that withstand harsh weather conditions including sun, heat, rain, wind, and snow;
- Demonstrates structural soundness, safety and stability for an unsupervised general audience;
- Durability and requires limited to no maintenance;
- Appropriate size to be installed in the locations.

Final Jury Recommendations

Using the selection criteria described above, the final jury panel reviewed the 10 preselected sculptures and discussed their opinions of the pieces in relation to the locations. Insightful discussion took place on the role of public art in public spaces, as well as the experience of public art in each location. The following sculptures are recommended by the final jury for installation as part of the 2009 Urbana Sculpture Project. Additionally, the jury has made recommendations on alternate sculptures in the event that the initial recommendations are not feasible.

Sculpture Location	Sculpture Title	Artist Name	Artist Location
Iron Post	<i>Fanfare</i>	Morin, Shawn	Bowling Green, OH
Colorado/Philo Road	<i>Prism Arc VI</i>	Billingsley, Carl	Ayden, NC
Florida/Philo Road	<i>Landing</i>	Lueza, Cecilia	St. Petersburg, FL
Mid-block Philo Road	<i>Bench 9</i>	Hehemann, Barry	River Forest, IL
Alternate for Iron Post, and Colorado/Philo Road	<i>A New beginning</i>	Karpowicz, Terrance	Chicago, IL
Alternate for Florida/Philo, and Mid-block Philo Road	<i>Barnacle</i>	Reardon, Kari	Minneapolis, MN

Images and additional information on the sculptures being recommended are attached (Exhibit

A).

Next Steps

Following the review and final approval by the Public Arts Commission, staff will contact the artists to inform them of the status of their submissions. Additionally, staff will present an informational item to the Urbana City Council, and an agreement between the City of Urbana and the Artist will be created which clearly describes the responsibilities of both parties. Upon execution of the agreement, the sculptures will be installed. Installation is anticipated to take place in January, 2010.

Budget

The total budget for this project is \$12,000, which represents a \$2,000 two year rental fee and up to \$1,000 for transportation, installation, decommissioning and removal for each of the four sculptures. The 24-month rental will commence when the artist installs the sculptural work. The \$2,000 rental fee may be put toward the purchase of the sculpture, should the City decide to purchase the sculpture at the conclusion of the 24-month installation period.

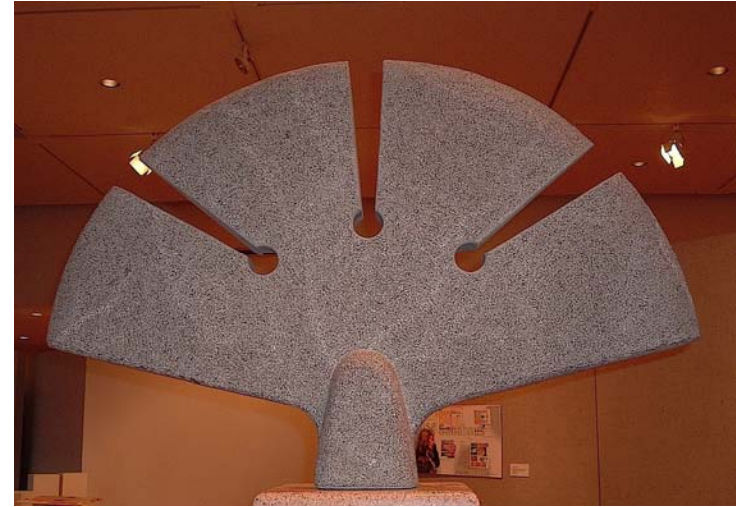
Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission review and approve the attached Sculpture Recommendations.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Sculpture Recommendations and Information

Sculpture Recommendations



1. *Fanfare* by Shawn Morin, granite, 45" x 12" x 81"H, for the Iron Post Courtyard



2. *Prism Arc VI* by Carl Billingsley, painted steel, 4' x 4' x 9.5'H, for the NE corner of Philo and Colorado



3. *Landing* by Cecilia Lueza, stainless steel, urethane, paint, epoxy, 58" x 2" x 77" H, for SE corner of Philo Road and Florida Avenue



4. *Bench 9* by Barry Hehemann, steel, concrete, 14'8" x 6'8" x 3'8" H, for the mid-corridor Philo Road site

Alternates if needed



1a. *A New Beginning* by Terrance Karpowicz, steel, granite, 3' x 3' x 9.5 H, for Iron Post Courtyard and NE corner of Philo Road and Colorado Avenue



2a. *Barnacle* by Kari Reardon, steel, concrete, 5' x 4' x 8' H, for SE corner of Philo and Florida Ave, and Philo Road mid-corridor location