

Minutes from Public Art Committee Meeting 12.17.25

All members present – Vanessa Adams, Forrest Fortier, Dot Goodwin, Monica Laschanzky, Roland Matthews, Charleston Thompson

Motion from Monica to approve previous minutes. Dot seconded. All approved.

Review of proposal – Kat read the email from James Austin to the committee regarding the mural at Gallery 537. Committee would like to have Austins attend a future meeting, in order to have a more in depth discussion, rather than try to respond to the email with details and thoughts.

Rickie Good presented a walking trail project at the Revolutionary War Visitor Center, including a concrete trail and panel installments that represent each year of Camden's involvement in the Southern Campaign. It will be a multi-year project with new additions each year between 2026 and 2033. Grant funding from the SC 250th Commission will fund the first two years. Rickie explained that they want to include at least two more pieces of art as part of the walking trail. All art has to be durable, as it will remain outdoors, and has to relate specifically to the Revolution. She gave the example of the story of Ab Dick, a goat that was owned by the British during the occupation and has a bit of a legend. Another example is a photo drop of a daily life nature, possibly children. Another would be a Quaker gun. Working with local artists including Amy Sheheen. The goal is to have something to unveil on June 27, 2026. Monica suggested talking to Sally McInerny, who has previous experience with walking trails. Vanessa asked if it all would be specific to Kershaw County. Rickie said the panels would include local and statewide information. During the conversation, it was mentioned that "everyone" includes a Palmetto tree, but the history about the involvement of the enslaved people in that period is rarely included. Vanessa and Rickie agreed to discuss further what that might look like in sculpture.

Dates will include January 21, which will take place at the Arts Center, at 9 am. February meeting will also take place at the Arts Center. Kat will publish all 2026 dates on the City's website.

Public Art Plan – Roland began by saying he looked at City-owned property, as that would be easier than trying to dictate what private property owners should have for art. He suggested art would be appropriate in the greenspace at the corner of Lyttleton and DeKalb, most likely sculpture, as that will be the new City Hall and it's accessible. He also mentioned Hampton Park, perhaps a walking trail with additional art. Charleston referenced the Art Center's public art/sculpture plan, with some ideas that have yet to be accomplished. Forrest referred back to the gateways and having something artistic in each direction. Another idea would be to get businesses involved, an annual theme involving public art that businesses would sponsor and then be auctioned off. Artists would submit their portfolio, but each piece could relate back to the business. Cypress tree could be a good idea, different from what's been done before, i.e. animals. It would be a good way to get the public involved and focus on multiple pieces, as opposed to just one big project. Dot referenced the jockey silks that had been done many years ago. Forrest referenced the Palmetto tree or trout in Columbia. Roland asked about how to go about the logistics, purchasing the "blank slate"? In the instance of the jockey silks, the City paid for the initial pieces, businesses would pay the artists to decorate. Discussion of the details, how much to pay the artists? How to tie in East Camden? Forrest volunteered to look into the Columbia project details in order to move forward. Funds from auctioned items would go back to fund the next project. Vanessa asked about a water feature? Roland asked about a splash pad as part of the new amphitheater downtown. Vanessa would like to see something added to the

Mather Academy recognition installation on Campbell Street, with the gate and the bench. There's another location with a gate and posts. The historical marker for the school is on DeKalb. Vanessa also suggested a mural on the Broad Street side of City Arena, with the multiple panels. Forrest suggested a big bulldog somewhere in the vicinity of the high school.

Committee members reminded Kat to provide a map of City limits and the historic districts that were delineated during the 2014 branding/way finding.

Charleston shared a public art program from 2001. Some of the suggestions/proposed sculptures have been completed, but placed in locations other than what was originally proposed. Funding for public art will be discussed in coming months as part of the regular budget discussion. Charleston also mentioned that the Arts Center has \$3,000 in funds raised for a Richard Kirkland statue.

Vanessa moved to adjourn meeting, Forrest seconded. All approved.

Meeting ended at 10:17 am.