

## Minutes from Public Art Committee Meeting 1.21.26

Greetings from new director of Arts Center of Kershaw County Chad Henderson

Dot made motion to approve minutes of previous meeting, Forrest seconded motion. All approved.

James Austin, Gallery 537 owner, in attendance for discussion with committee regarding the proposed mural and the committee's recommendation to deny the proposed in its current state. He explained the business concept to committee members. Muralist who was involved with the design has resigned from the project. James asked the question of the committee if a mural was wanted, and if so, what type of design would the committee approve. Presently, James and his wife and co-owner Suzan suggest letting the committee take over the process, perhaps a competition for artists to submit ideas. Committee would handle the logistics, and James and Suzan would be included in the decisions. James mentioned the cost associated with the project, and while happy to absorb some of the costs, but perhaps the competition could have a cash prize that the committee could be responsible for.

Committee members are interested in seeing the original mural design. James mentioned it was created by another local muralist. She would be interested in participating, and James is hoping that Michael Geddings will assist in the application to ensure it's done in a way to maintain the integrity of the mural. James showed the committee the rendering of the original design and all members agreed they liked the design and thought it would be more appropriate for the building. James will organize a proposal to submit formally to the committee, including paint swatches or a palette and plans for maintenance, etc. Committee members had comments about the placement of the words "More Than A Revolution". Dot will send an image or sketch to James to help explain her vision.

Discussion continued and referred back to the competition concept for the mural, taking the original keyboard idea and creating a call for proposals from more artists. James asked if there were funds that the City could provide. Kat suggested a grant from the SC Arts Commission that cultural districts could apply for. It was decided that a call for artist proposals would be the direction to take. Must include maintenance plan, budget, etc. Kat will draft proposal for committee and Austins to review.

Moving to discussion of public art plan, Forrest followed up on suggestion of auctioned pieces of art that many cities have done or are currently doing. Hendersonville has bears, and Friends of Hendersonville organizes the process, proceeds are donated to a local nonprofit. Twenty bears are fabricated, artists propose designs, finished pieces are auctioned off. Columbia has had a variety – palmetto trees, doors, and currently trout. Forrest had emailed Kat a link to the Painted Ponies of Southern Pines, NC, Kat forwarded the link to the committee. Will need a pricing structure, fees/sponsorships paid by businesses will go directly to pay the artists. Roland suggested keeping the limit to 10 the first year. Cost may be an obstacle for many businesses. Where should they be displayed? A park, walking trail, for limited time – 3 months? Not downtown? Forrest mentioned the Mayor's suggestion to focus on the gateways or different corridors and rotate through. Inspiration and themes could come from nature, history, etc. Camden Art Guild has now been established as a 501(c)3 status and could facilitate the process. Kat mentioned that Chad may want the Arts Center to take a role in the process. Charleston mentioned the funds that the Arts Center still holds funds raised for a Richard Kirkland statue.

Next steps? Should Forrest continue with putting together a concept and choosing partners. Roland said that this could fit into the public art plan – community engagement, site selection, how to we utilize this project and help achieve the goals of the public art plan. Committee needs to focus on how it fits into the larger picture, building out the corridor that connects the Arts Center to Rutledge Street, and continuing into the heart of downtown. Concerns of the cost of the process may turn people away, may need to consider starting smaller. Monica mentioned the art scene doesn't experience many big ticket items on a regular or consistent basis.

Meeting ended at 10:10 am.