



S A V A N N A H - C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
December 1, 2016 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 1, 2016 HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

HDRB Members Present: Eli Karatassos, Chair
Thomas Gensheimer, Vice-Chair
Dolores Engle
Dr. Nicholas Henry

HSMC Members Not Present: Ryan Madson
Kristopher Monroe

MPC Staff Present: Ellen Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
Sara Farr, Historic Preservation Planner
Mary E. Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

1. [Order and Welcome](#)

Mr. Karatassos called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

2. [2017 Calendar](#)

Ms. Farr gave the report on the 2017 Savannah Historic District Calendar. Chatham County-Savannah is fortunate to have more than 8,000 documented historic and cultural resources and over 20 National Register Historic Districts. These resources contribute to the character of our community's neighborhoods and create a quality of life that is unique to our city, county, state, and country. Heritage tourism has become the basis for attracting tourists and residents to our communities and contributing billions of dollars to the local economy.

Ms. Farr said the 2017 "From the Archives" calendar was initiated to promote

awareness of our numerous historic and cultural resources. It is hoped that the community will embrace the architectural legacy in Chatham County-Savannah and help the Historic Preservation Department promote awareness of Savannah's historic and cultural resources. She gave the Commission members a 2017 calendar.

Mr. Karatassos asked staff if they can also put slides of murals and other works of art on the calendar.

Ms. Farr said staff will look into this for the 2018 calendar.

Mr. Karatassos, on behalf of the Commission, thanked the staff for the beautiful and informative calendar.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

3. [Approve November 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [11-03-2016 Minutes.pdf](#)

Board Action:

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument
Commission does hereby approve November 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Dolores Engle

Dolores Engle - Aye

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Not Present

III. Regular Agenda

4. [Petition of SCAD Museum of Art | 16-006153-PA | 601 Turner Boulevard | Public Art](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet - 601 Turner Blvd 16-006153-PA Art Tower.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Mr. Shawn McGee was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval for temporary public art at 601 Turner Boulevard. The project will consist of a vinyl material on the glass tower of the SCAD Museum. This project is part of a larger project called "deFine" that

will run February 21-23, 2017. The art will be installed January 23 to February 6, 2017 and removed July 10-12, 2017.

Ms. Farr stated that according to the petitioner, the mural encapsulates the artist's ground breaking interest in the way color is experienced by the public, and is an abstract design consisting of overlapping color bands. The manner in which these color bands interact, based on the position of the viewer, create a subtle optical effect, where new colors are perceived. The artists is recognized as a leader in the international Kinetic and Op Art movements, and the artwork is the first of this scale by Cruz-Diez in the United States.

Ms. Farr explained that the petitioner additionally provided information that the proposed artwork Induction Chromatique is a major new work by the internationally renowned and prolific artist Carlos Cruz-Diez. The work is related to color theory and concepts developed by the artist during a career spanning over seven decades. The mural encapsulates the artist's ground breaking interest in the way color is experienced by the public. The artwork will also serve as a beacon for SCAD Museum of Art during its display, bringing attention to the museum building as a dynamic site for the celebration of contemporary art and historic preservation. The artwork will bring a significant new work of art to the public of Savannah, and has been conceived specifically for the contemporary architectural feature of the SCAD Museum of Art, the glass tower. This feature is already a landmark in the city of Savannah. The artwork will enhance this aspect, as the vinyl used to create the work emits light in both directions, and will create a soft glowing effect at night time. The artwork has been conceived to be sensitive to the existing architectural features of the SCAD Museum of Art.

Ms. Farr said that public notice was sent to property owners within 200 feet of the property and neighborhood groups. She reported that staff recommends approval of the public art with the condition the art is approved by the HDBR, because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Dr. Henry asked if the tower will be lit and if so, will it be constantly lit?

Ms. Farr answered that the tower will be lit when the museum is lit up. This is something that the petitioner can answer. The request is located in the Historic District; therefore, it has to be approved by the Historic District Board of Review.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Shawn McGee, Director of Operations for SCAD thanked the Commission for reviewing their petition. He explained that the tower will be lit at night. He said that Mr. Christian Sottile designed the light to be a beacon light. When persons enter the bridge coming from South Carolina they will know from the lights that they have arrived in Savannah.

Dr. Henry asked if there will be an assortment of continuous colors.

Mr. McGee explained that each tower will have a piece of vinyl placed over it. Therefore, the color, itself, is static. The display will be dismantled in July, 2017. If there is an issue with any of the pieces of vinyl, they are easy to remove and reinstall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the design, color and how long the design will be on display. The Commission is only approving the artwork for now through July, 2017.

Board Action:

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the public art with the condition that the art is approved by the HDBR, because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Dr. Nicholas Henry
Second: Dolores Engle
Dolores Engle - Aye
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye
Eli Karatassos - Aye
Kristopher Monroe - Not Present

5. [Petition of SCAD Museum of Art | 16-006154-PA | 601 Turner Boulevard | Crosswalk Art](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Submittal Packet 1.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Submittal Packet 2.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Mr. Shawn McGee was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for public art at 601 Turner Boulevard. The art will include two crosswalks around the SCAD Museum of Art. the first location is on Fahm Avenue and the second is all the way through Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. These pieces will be part of the deFine Art program.

Ms. Farr stated that the applicant provided the following information: The first location is on Fahm Avenue and the second location is all the way through Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the concrete sidewalks hugging the museum. The artwork will bring a significant new work of art to the public of Savannah, and has been conceived specifically for the vicinity of the SCAD Museum of Art, by creating a visual and symbolic connection between the museum and public spaces. The artwork will also serve to bring attention to pedestrian uses of an important artery used by students, and create visual awareness,

potentially increasing safety for pedestrians.

Ms. Farr explained that the petitioner also provided the following information: The artist is Carlos Cruz-Diez. He has lived and worked in Paris since 1960. He is a major protagonist in the field of Kinetic and Op Art. His body of work has established him as one of the key 20th century thinkers in the realm of color. His artworks are housed in prestigious permanent collections at institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Tate Modern in London, England.

Ms. Farr reported that staff recommends approval of the public art with the following conditions:

1. Traffic engineering provide written approval for the crosswalks;
2. Funding details are provided;

because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSION DECISION

The Commission was concerned that if a terrible rain storm occurs, will the artwork's paint be washed away and after six months of wear and tear, how will the artwork look? It was explained that the artwork should hold up well in the weather and wear and tear as it is designed for this use.

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the public art with the following conditions:

1. Traffic engineering provide written approval for the crosswalks; - PASS
2. Funding details are provided;

because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results

Motion: Dolores Engle

Second: Dr. Nicholas Henry

Dolores Engle	- Aye
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye

IV. Other Business

6. [Commissioner Items](#)

Mr. Gensheimer said his term on the Commission expires December 31, 2016. He is not sure whether he will be selected to serve another term. Mr. Gensheimer said it was a pleasure serving on the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

Mr. Karatassos thanked Mr. Gensheimer for his service and advised him that he serves at the pleasure of City Council. This Commission has two terms expiring on December 31, 2016. City Council has received two applications for this Commission and Mr. Gensheimer is one on the applicants. Hopefully, he will be reappointed by City Council. But, his understanding is that Mr. Gensheimer will serve until he receives notification from City Council.

Mr. Gensheimer said it will be a pleasure to continue serving on the Historic Site and Monument Commission. Hopefully, City Council will reappoint him to this Commission.

7. [Next Meeting - Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E. State Street](#)

V. Adjournment

8. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EIH:mem

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.