

**ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM**

Committee Present:	Councilmember Roberto C. Treviño, <i>District 1, Chair</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i>
Committee Absent:	Councilmember William “Cruz” Shaw, <i>District 2</i>
Staff Present:	Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Debbie Racca-Sittre, <i>Director of Arts & Culture</i> ; Shanon Shea Miller, <i>Chief Preservation Officer & Director of Historic Preservation</i> ; Cory Edwards, <i>Deputy Preservation Officer</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Jimmy LeFlore, <i>Public Art Manager</i> ; Lisa Biediger, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Alma Lozano, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Roger Gonzalez, <i>Executive Management Assistant</i> ; Cecily Hope Pretty, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7 Councilmember</i> ; Suzanne Scott, <i>San Antonio River Authority</i> ; Susan Beavin, <i>San Antonio Conservation Society</i> ; Vince Michael, <i>San Antonio Conservation Society</i> ; Yaneth Flores, <i>Citizen</i> ; Graciela Sanchez, <i>Citizen</i> ; Richard Acosta, <i>Citizen</i> ; John Butchkosky, <i>Citizen</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Treviño called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the minutes from the March 28, 2018 Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee.

Councilmember Gonzales moved to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2018 Arts, Culture & Heritage Council Committee. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Briefing regarding recommended sites for Viewshed Protection.

Shanon Shea Miller stated that the Office of Historic Preservation began working on Viewshed Protection earlier in the year as a result of a Council Consideration Request (CCR) from Councilmembers Shaw and Sandoval. She provided an overview of the public input process and noted a public survey for citizens to comment on proposed views and suggest additional ones. She stated that Viewshed Protection Districts were Zoning Overlays that addressed building height and placement. She noted that Viewshed Protection was proposed to direct development rather than deter it. She stated that the process would begin with Unified Development Code (UDC) amendments to extend eligibility to additional types of landmarks. She noted that once

sites were selected, individual Viewshed Overlays would be adopted for each site by full City Council approval. She outlined the following goals of the Viewshed Protection initiative:

- Provide updates and clarifications to the original ordinance
- Identify additional views and methods through public input
- Provide City Council with appropriate tools for future decision-making
- Facilitate public conversation

Mrs. Miller stated that the UDC amendments would provide criteria to evaluate potential Viewsheds fairly and objectively. She noted that Viewshed Protection could only be initiated by City Council. She stated that Viewshed Protection did not offer protection for 360° views but rather for a single directional views from a publicly accessible viewpoint. She noted that the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) would determine site eligibility prior to City Council consideration. She stated that economic development analyses would be performed for each site to understand what limitations on development might occur as a result of designation. She noted the following sites for Viewshed Protection consideration:

- San Fernando Cathedral
- Tower Life Building
- Hays Street Bridge
- Basilica of the Little Flower/Woodlawn Lake

Mrs. Miller provided an overview of the proposed viewpoints for each site and noted there were two viewpoints under consideration for the Hays Street Bridge and Tower Life Building. She stated that adoption of all four would only affect 2% of the downtown area and most downtown sites were already subject to the design review process.

Councilmember Treviño called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Susan Beavin stated that the San Antonio Conservation Society was represented on the Technical Advisory Committee for the process and spoke in support of the UDC amendments.

Yaneth Flores spoke of the importance of community input and protection of the Hays Street Bridge for existing residents rather than developers.

Graciela Sanchez spoke of the importance of protection for the Hays Street Bridge and noted wide community support for the viewpoint at Cherry Street and Lamar Street.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the determination process for viewpoints. Mrs. Miller replied that staff had a general idea of desired viewpoints based on community input but additional input would be gathered if City Council approved the UDC amendments and proposed sites. Councilmember Viagran expressed support for strategic development that protected iconic sites and views.

Councilmember Brockhouse expressed support for the proposed sites. He noted the importance of balancing input from the development community and residents and expressed concern with the input and development process for the Hays Street Bridge.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of future steps. Mrs. Miller replied that the HDRC and Zoning Commission would consider the proposed UDC amendments before full City Council consideration. She noted that the UDC amendments and resolutions to initiate Viewshed Protection for each site could be approved concurrently. She stated that following the passage of the resolutions, staff would begin another public input process before the Zoning Overlay Districts were brought to the full City Council for approval. Councilmember Gonzales expressed concern that Viewshed Protection was too complicated and discouraged density and building height to accommodate future growth. She noted that she had asked for all District 5 sites to be removed from consideration and stated that additional overlays would promote sprawl.

Councilmember Treviño recognized Councilmember Sandoval.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed the importance of Viewshed Protection and asked of plans for future outreach. Mrs. Miller stated that staff would conduct targeted outreach and general calls for public input in addition to legally required public hearings and meetings. Councilmember Sandoval asked Committee Members to support the initiative.

Councilmember Treviño expressed the importance of clarity in defining Viewshed Protection and noted the need to customize solutions for each site. He asked that staff apprise the Committee of ongoing public outreach and input.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward the proposed sites to the full City Council for approval. Councilmember Brockhouse seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

AYES: Treviño, Viagran, and Brockhouse. **NAY:** Gonzales. **ABSENT:** Shaw.

3. Briefing and possible action on the Public Art Strategy, Pre-Qualified List of Public Art Professionals, and authorization to submit a grant application to Bloomberg Philanthropies' Public Art Challenge.

Debbie Racca-Sittre provided an overview of components of the Cul-TÚ-Art Plan previously considered by the Committee including Film, Centro de Artes, and Arts Funding Guidelines. She stated that the strategy's strategic vision was the following: "We open the landscape to diverse voices and narratives to create engaging public art." She noted that the current Public Art Policy designated funding at 1% of eligible Capital Improvement Funds. She provided an overview of the results of Public Art San Antonio (PASA) from the 2012-2017 Bond Program including full enactment of the 1% funding and the addition of 58 artworks. She noted the following observations as a result of the program:

- Art must be intentional and curated
- Maintenance must be considered
- Engage the community early and often
- Local artists must have opportunities
- Celebrate art

Mrs. Racca-Sittre provided an overview of community and stakeholder input opportunities including the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Council Committee, San Antonio Arts Commission, Curatorial Committee, district meetings, resident and visitor surveys, and general community feedback. She provided an overview of the membership and activities of the San Antonio Arts Commission and Curatorial Committee. She reviewed public survey results and noted that 91% of respondents wished to see more public art in San Antonio. She provided an overview of benchmarking comparisons with other cities' Public Art Policies and noted that most cities utilized a Pre-Qualified Artist List but did not allocate funds for maintenance. She stated that the Arts & Culture Department engaged a consultant who recommended the following:

- Update policies to include maintenance and murals
- Utilize curators to select artists in addition to the open call process
- Create signature public art projects

Mrs. Racca-Sittre proposed the following public art strategies:

- Enhance existing policies
- Improve the public art development process by prioritizing community input and expanding the artist selection process to increase flexibility
- Propose signature projects that are in line with the community's desires and have a citywide impact

Mrs. Racca-Sittre stated that Fiscal Year 2019 policy updates would include the following:

- Update and streamline processes
- Develop mural policy
- Refine maintenance strategy
- Include public art language in the UDC

Mrs. Racca-Sittre provided an overview of planned community outreach and artist selection. She noted the importance of providing opportunities and mentorship to participating artists. She stated that the call for Pre-Qualified Artists generated 330 applicants and staff was recommending 195. She stated that the list included open call artists, mentorship artists, curated artists, support services, and collaborative partners. She noted that artists could work on projects throughout the community including signature projects and she highlighted the San Antonio T Public Art Garden. She stated that the T included street- and river-level projects with three permanent curated sites and five to seven active sites. She noted that the Pre-Qualified List allowed for acquisition of existing artworks which would encourage donor participation. She stated that active sites would feature festivals, neighborhood art projects, Sister City art, and loaned art. She noted that neighborhood art could be featured at the T prior to permanent installation in its originating Council District. She provided an overview of the proposed budget with \$8.3 million from the 2017 Bond Program, a potential Bloomberg Public Art Challenge Grant of \$1 million, and a goal of \$500,000 to \$1 million from private funding. She stated that the intent of the Bloomberg Grant was to support innovative temporary public art projects that enhance the vibrancy of cities and solve a community problem. She noted that the department intended to use the grant to focus on connectivity, activations, and gatherings. She recommended approval of the Public Art Strategy and Process, 2018 PASA Pre-Qualified Professional Arts

Resources List, and application to the Bloomberg Public Art Challenge Grant for full City Council consideration on April 19, 2018.

Councilmember Treviño expressed support for staff recommendations and highlighted the T as an innovative approach to connect art citywide.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the demographics of the Pre-Qualified Artist List. Mrs. Racca-Sittre replied that this was the first time demographic information had been requested and she would provide it to the City Council. Jimmy LeFlore added that male-female participation was approximately equal and staff was committed to improving data analytics in the future.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward staff recommendations to the full City Council for approval. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for funding art citywide and spoke of the Tricentennial as an opportunity to showcase the arts in San Antonio.

Councilmember Brockhouse expressed support for the recommendations and asked for continued application of the Equity Lens to spread public art citywide. He suggested mobile art pieces to expand access and spoke of the importance of mentorship for local artists.

The motion to forward staff recommendations to the full City Council for consideration carried unanimously by those present.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberto C. Treviño, Chairman

*Cecily Hope Pretty
Office of the City Clerk*