



CUYAHOGA FALLS  
PUBLIC ART BOARD  
**MINUTES**  
March 6, 2025

Planning Division  
2310 Second Street  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
330-971-8135

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## **Thursday, March 6, 2025**

Board Members Present: Tom Sullivan, Secretary  
Molly Hartong  
C. Arthur Croyle

Board Members Absent: Rick Krochka, Chair  
Danielle Dieterich, Vice Chair  
Meika Penta (Non-Voting)  
Mark Gilles (Non-Voting)

Planning Division: Adam Paul, Asst. Planning Director  
Lori Jones, Admin. Specialist

Mr. Tom Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. He welcomed everyone and explained the meeting process, and asked if there were any conflicts of interest with any items on the agenda, and hearing none, he continued.

Ms. Molly Hartong read the Agenda into record.

Mr. Sullivan opened the first item to the City.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **ART-25-00004**

Mr. Adam Paul went over the staff report for the record, he explained the various locations and the funding for the art installations. He showed renderings that were provided to the City, and stated that the applicant would be presenting more detailed information.

Mr. C. Arthur Croyle questioned if everything he sees in the packet will be implemented, and Mr. Paul stated that this can be discussed with the applicant, but yes, if approved tonight, City administration has seen the various ideas provided and they approved to allow any of it to be installed, but this was just a sampling.

Mr. Sullivan closed the item to the City, and opened it to the applicant.

Ms. Jennifer Schulman – 1632 Ritchie Rd.- Cuyahoga Falls Art Teacher – stated that this project grew from the last Home is where the Heart is project, and it comes from the idea of wanting to bring comfort and safety aspects to the experience the students have on their way to and from school. She explained their funding sources and the artists that are working with the school to help on this project. She stated that the students are also here to share their ideas

and why they feel the various areas could use the art, and why and how it helps the safety of the location.

Mr. Mac Love – Art X Love – 35 S. Main St. – explained how the project came about with the new school construction. He stated that the demonstrations are a range of concepts and are only a sampling of visions. He showed renderings of concepts to be used at various locations, and stated that they have talked to the property/business owners at the sites and they intend to run all concepts by them as they continue.

Ms. Katie Finnegan – 2520 16<sup>th</sup> St. – lives near Portage Trail and Northaven and she walks on this crosswalk regularly. She stated that having this colorful piece of art there would brighten people's day and words of affirmation may be added to the utility boxes and on the other sidewalk to help drivers slow down because it would catch their attention. She stated another idea is to use color to create happiness. She stated that they also are considering doing something with school spirit related art on it for the utility box on 13<sup>th</sup> St, since it is on school property.

Ms. Leah Collins – 1856 10<sup>th</sup> St. – stated that she feels her area is a good area because many walk on this street. She wants to create good vibes, make people drive slower as they look at the art, which is safer, and feels that the designs have vibrant colors which create cheer and give off good energy.

Ms. Savannah Fuller – 1355 Highbridge Rd. – stated that walking home is boring, and she feels that having art will bring life to boring places like 6<sup>th</sup> St. It will make people slow down and take in the beauty. She stated that the art to be installed outside the Smile Center will make people smile more as they leave there. She stated that some of the utility boxes have vandalism on them, and this will cover that with beauty such as nature, and bring life to help snap people out of the everyday monotony. She spoke of coordinating some to lead people across the road and all of the art providing beauty to the community.

Mr. Jacob Learher – 3315 Charles St. – Spoke of the bridge near his home being empty and wanting to add nature and beauty to it.

Ms. Spider Jones – 1243 Weathervane Ln. – spoke of things being so colorless and plain, and the need to add art to empty locations, and how she wants to cover the boxes on both sides in places that are dark and desolate now. She feels that this can impact the community to help them feel better and make them smile. She spoke of being a senior and wanting art to be around the City and being able to point to something and say she knows the artist who did that, even if it was not her, having it be a friend, is really cool and leaves an impact on the City.

Mr. Love provided mock ups of the utility boxes to the Board members to see and stated that their goal is to start in April or May, but the temperature has to be above 55 degrees in order for the stain to stick to the concrete. He spoke of adding the art, and how it helps bring pedestrian awareness and encourages walking, and stated that he is happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Sullivan closed the item to the applicant and opened it to the Board.

Mr. Croyle questioned if each location and box is designed by a different student, and Mr. Love explained that they have two different classes of students, and one is doing the utility boxes and one is doing the sidewalks. He explained the designs and the applications. Mr. Croyle

questioned if there will be any relation between the designs on the boxes and the sidewalks, and Mr. Love stated that the goal is to try to relate ones that are close to each other, if approved. Mr. Croyle questioned how many are working on each location/box, and Mr. Love stated that they have shared plans for implementing some items, but as a whole it is about community and connectiveness.

Mr. Sullivan questioned if they will have a place to practice painting on the concrete prior to installing the actual art, and Mr. Love stated that yes, they will be able to practice on the school grounds, and he stated that the designs will all be created with ease of maintenance in mind.

Mr. Croyle stated that he has concerns, and although the boxes are exciting, the sidewalks don't seem to be as much. Mr. Love explained their vision of having this on all four corners of some intersections of 8<sup>th</sup> Street to bring togetherness, and spoke of the photos that showcased these ideas and how it will all look like it goes together when it is completed.

Mr. Paul tried to explain why the initial submittal and the final allowance may seem disjointed due to the parameters and change requests that the City requested, and Mr. Love stated that they did not know if they would be approved, and he stated that they may not end up having time or funding to all of the areas that they have listed, but they will start and finish one before moving to the next.

Ms. Hartong questioned is it based on time and money, and when will they know what all they can do, and Mr. Love stated that if approved today, they would start at one location, and see how it goes.

With no further comments or questions from the Commission members, Mr. Sullivan requested that a motion be made.

Ms. Hartong made the following **MOTION**:

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Public Art Board moves to **APPROVE** file **ART-25-00004**, Patchwork Pathways public art installation of vinyl wraps and sidewalk art of original designs at various locations of city right-of-way as described in the project file. The following conditions of approval apply:

1. Confirmation of artist agreement and all necessary permitting and approvals prior to installation.
2. The City of Cuyahoga Falls shall not be liable for maintenance or replacement of the installations in part or in whole due to vandalism or otherwise. The provided maintenance plan shall be followed.
3. Applicant to take full responsibility for any city property damaged in the installation or upkeep specific to the art installations.

The **MOTION** was **seconded** by Mr. Croyle.

With no further discussion, Mr. Sullivan requested a **Vote**:

**The Vote to APPROVE the item: Yes- 3, No- 0. The MOTION is APPROVED with a vote of 3 to 0.**

## **ART-25-00008 – Portage Trail Bridge Underpass Mural**

Mr. Paul read the staff report into record, and he went over getting to this point.

Mr. Sullivan closed the item to the City and opened it the Artist.

Ms. April Bleakney – Herman Ave. Cleveland – stated that she was very excited to have been selected as the artist for this project. She stated that she is a historian and artist, and she used this to blend the design. She spoke of using the river, the city, people, nature, and the evolution of the settlers and industry from past to present to create the imagery all around the river. Spoke of creating three options and explained each one a little, and then went over the 4 color options that she added as well.

Mr. Croyle questioned the color schemes and where she sees this going. She stated that she feels that mono chromatic makes the most sense. Mr. Croyle stated that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> design, it looks like a gondola at the bottom, but it may look better as it gets enlarged, but he feels this is very exciting, and then he questioned which is her favorite of the 3 options. She stated that she feels drawn to number 1 in dark green, but worries that it may not pop enough. He then questioned if she is proposing to use the rust pallet, and she stated that none of what she has is final, these are just initial designs. He stated that it is a great proposal.

Ms. Hartong stated that she has provided amazing work, and Ms. Bleakney questioned if there is anything that is loved or hated, and Ms. Hartong stated that she loves the black, and that it feels like it is supposed to be there, and Ms. Bleakney agreed. Ms. Hartong stated that she is the artist, and she should do what she feels is right.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he likes sepia.

Ms. Bleakney spoke of the possibility of needing to paint the underpass wall prior to installing the art, and possibly using a color or greyscale.

Mr. Paul spoke of the initial pieces and the convex look to them, the theater in them, and how he loves the top line and the staircase. He stated that most of the feedback received has agreed that they like it without color, especially since being next to the Riverloop, and since that will have so much color of its own.

Mr. Croyle questioned what happens next, and Mr. Paul stated that the artwork moves forward, or changes can happen, if needed, and then the final version gets approved.

Ms. Bleakney stated that she would like to have an opportunity to come back with a final version for their approval. She then showed the Board the material that will be used for the installation and explained the application.

A discussion then ensued about the bridge maintenance and when it is to start, and then about whether to approve or table the item this evening.

Mr. Paul advised that tabling might be the best option. With that said, Mr. Sullivan requested that a motion be made.

Ms. Hartong made **MOTION** to **TABLE ART-25-00008**, and **MOTION** was **seconded** by Mr. Croyle.

With no further discussion, Mr. Sullivan requested a **Vote**:

**The Vote to APPROVE to TABLE the item: Yes- 3, No- 0. The MOTION CARRIED with a vote of 3 to 0.**

## **Green Deck Public Art Project Update**

Mr. Paul updated the Board that the art was installed, and that it is to still be extended into the City on utility boxes. They discussed 6 but have decided to do 5 boxes. He provided details of what will go on each one and showed renderings of each one with explanations of them. He stated that the various City departments have approved of all locations, and that they would still like to have a celebration for this art installation at some time in the near future.

With no further comments or questions, Mr. Sullivan closed this item to the City.

## **MINUTES**

**January 9, 2025**

With no comments or corrections, a **MOTION** was made by Ms. Hartong to **APPROVE** the minutes from January 9, 2025. The **MOTION was seconded** by Mr. Croyle. **The Vote to APPROVE: Yes- 3, No- 0. The MOTION CARRIED with a vote of 3-0.**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Ms. Hartong questioned what happened to the grasses at Stacy Leavy's project location, as it appears they have been removed.

Mr. Paul spoke of a life span of 4 years, and having to be cut during certain times of the year, but that he is not aware that anything was torn out.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he heard others speak about needing to re-plant things there.

Ms. Hartong stated that being on the Art Board, she would like to be able to have answers when people ask, but she doesn't, and would like to know, if possible what is happening.

Mr. Paul stated that he would find out and let them know.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made to **adjourn** the meeting by Ms. Hartong. The **MOTION was seconded** by Mr. Croyle. **The VOTE to APPROVE: Yes- 3, No- 0. The MOTION CARRIED with a vote of 3-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Minutes submitted by Lori Jones