



**San Antonio Arts Commission
Public Art Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024
10:00 A.M. | Video Conference**

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff
René Barilleaux*- Commission Chair, Mayoral	Kaldric Dow	Lisa Biediger
Freda Facey*- Committee Chair	Ada Genitempo	Kirstin Cutts
Randy Guthmiller	Yadhira Lozano*- D3 Commissioner	Alyssa Franklin
Linda Hardberger*- Mayoral	Jacqueline Pugh	Diana Hidalgo
Adrian Highsmith		Krystal Jones
Emily Neff		Kimberly Mirelez
Andi Rodriguez		Laura Parker
Jessica Sanchez*- Mayoral		Jordyn Patrias
		Renée Talamantez

*Appointed by Mayor and City Council

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 A.M. by Freda Facey, Chair. Roll call taken by Renée Talamantez, Committee Liaison, and a quorum was present.

Item 1. Approval of minutes

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: None

Motion: Neff moved to approve the Public Art Committee Minutes from Thursday, September 5, 2024; Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Hardberger, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Adrian Highsmith joined meeting at 10:05 A.M.

Item 2. Project Initiation: District 8 Wurzbach and I-10 (Action)

Laura Parker presented Wurzbach and I-10 as opportunity for a public art project seeking Project Initiation approval. Map of the project locations and timelines were shared.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: Committee questions and staff answers included:

- Hardberger: Can we do both north and south locations? Parker: We are considering both sides. The budget will determine if both are feasible. Mirelez: We are still exploring scope and will see what we can do to try to include both north and south. Hardberger: If

lighting is too expensive, consider paint or other options to brighten space. Mirelez: Yes, it is all on the table at this point.

Committee comments included: None

Motion: Sanchez moved to approve Wurzbach and I-10 Project Initiation; Hardberger seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Hardberger, Highsmith, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Item 3. Artist Selection: District 10 LBJ Park (Action)

Laura Parker presented FabArts (Susan Calkins) for Artist Selection approval for LBJ Park. Map of the project locations, artist information and work examples, and timeline were shared.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: Committee questions and staff answers included:

- Facey: Not familiar with FabArts. How many in the artist group? Parker: Two artists in the group: Susan Calkins and James Hendricks. They also hire out other artists.
- Hardberger: What's the last project FabArts did for the Department of Arts & Culture? Patrias: James Hendricks was commissioned for benches on E Commerce Street 10 years ago. This did not include Susan Calkins or FabArts. Hendricks also fabricated the Orgullo Tejano sculpture by Luis Lopez, installed this year.
- Rodriguez: Will they design and fabricate for this project? Parker: Yes, they can do both and we will try for a design and fabrication contract. Mirelez: Today approval is for them as artists. Next steps, if approved, would be come back with concept design. We'll work out the rest with them, but they have extensive fabrication experience.

Committee comments included:

- Neff: Don't have a strong sense of work from the images.
- Facey: It is helpful when they come back with the concept design.

Motion: Hardberger moved to approve artist selection for LBJ Park; Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Guthmiller, Hardberger, Highsmith, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Randy Guthmiller joined at 10:09 A.M.

Item 4. Concept Design: District 1 City Tower Flores St (Action)

Renée Talamantez presented the City Tower Flores St concept design by artist Joe De La Cruz for Concept Design approval. Map of the project location, images of the concept design, and timeline were shared.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: Committee questions and staff answers included:

- Barilleaux: The mural will be made from tiles, not painted? Is the surrounding frame an illusion or will it be 3-dimensional? Talamantez: Yes, it will be tile. The frame is a 3-dimensional illusion.

- Rodriguez: How will the tile be made? Talamantez: The artist intends to hand glaze the tiles in his own studio.
- Rodriguez: It is a large wall and will be a lot of work. How many tiles will it be?
Talamantez: The artist is still determining size of tile. That will be finalized in this next phase of design.

Committee comments included:

- Hardberger: The outer frame does feel very heavy.
- Facey: Agree, framing feels heavy for beauty of painting.
- Facey: Loves the native flora; it is representative of San Antonio and Texas. Hope he won't cut too much out.
- Rodriguez: Agrees with Facey. Appreciates thoughtfulness of composition. Will be beautiful.
- Barilleaux: The McNay has work by Joe De La Cruz on view. He has a great vision and will deliver a great piece for the community.
- Facey: Exciting to see.

Motion: Rodriguez moved to approve City Tower Flores St. Concept design; Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Guthmiller, Hardberger, Highsmith, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Item 5. Concept Design: District 1 Milam Park (Action)

Kimberly Mirelez presented the Milam Park concept design by artist Cristina Noriega for Concept Design approval. Map of the project location, images of the concept design, and timeline were shared.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: Committee questions and staff answers included:

- Hardberger: What's on the inside of the semi-circle wall? Mirelez: It is a bench/seating area and has plaques informing who is buried there, a viewing area on this side.
- Barilleaux: Can we get some info on where photos were sourced? Cristina Noriega: Images from the museum at Mission San Jose; don't have complete bibliography at hand. Stakeholder Robert Garcia provided a book that tells history of Campo Santo. Some images came from there. Intention is to use present day people as models. I will photograph them in the poses you're seeing in rendering, which will give it a more realistic look. Also referenced the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions website and researched at the Alamo Museum. Can get a full list/bibliography to the committee. Barilleaux: That's great, thank you.
- Neff: Wow, so admirable on so many different levels. Quite powerful and kudos to artist for weaving together something incredibly complex. Intrigued by language and idea of working with a poet on wording. Do we not want to use the sun symbol since it is associated with a different locale? Given that connectivity (of a Camino) do we want to keep it? Noriega: Ramon Vasquez share a symbol that is more accurate and used by hundreds of tribes. It is still very similar to what you see here and has the same effect.

Committee comments included:

- Rodriguez: Absolutely gorgeous. Love imagery and storytelling and potential to collaborate with poets. Love the water and connection to the San Pedro Creek.

- Facey: very intricate and difficult. Thanks to artist for answering questions.
- Mirelez: Know there's a lot of symbolism/history on this mural. We'll have signage on site but also links to more extensive information so that folks can access that with full explanations.

Motion: Neff moved to approve Milam Park concept design; Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Guthmiller, Hardberger, Highsmith, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Item 6. Artwork Donation: San Antonio Public Library (Action)

Kirstin Cutts presented the donation of *The Contradictions of Memory* for donation approval to the San Antonio Public Library. Donor background, images of the artwork, artist information and work sample, and timeline were shared.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: Committee questions and staff answers included:

- Barilleaux: Does the library have an extensive collection of artwork? Mirelez: Central Library has an extensive art walk and gallery. They also have many loans that the Library Foundation owns. We work with SAPL to ensure the care of the collection.
- Neff: Echo Rene's comments. Would be helpful to hear what the goals are so we can be helpful in stewarding gifts in that direction if that's a goal of SAPL to increase its collection. The more informed, the better ambassadors. Mirelez: We can certainly investigate that, that's all handled by SAPL. Nathan Roberts present. Roberts: The Library is always interested in exploring opportunities as they come up. Want to make sure it's the right piece to compliment the space and the library.
- Barrilleaux: Is the work donated by an individual? Roberts: Yes.
- Rodriguez: Beautiful work and love library so much and the artwork and Artwalk. Is there an approximate value for the piece. Cutts: Value is \$2,200 doesn't require city council approval.

Committee comments included:

- Facey: This will be a nice addition to the library.

Motion: Hardberger moved to approve artwork donation to the San Antonio Public Library; Neff seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Guthmiller, Hardberger, Highsmith, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Item 7. Community Art on City Property: District 1 CENTRO Mural at Hemisfair (Action)

Kimberly Mirelez presented the plans for a CENTRO mural to be installed at Hemisfair for approval of community art on City property. Information regarding the ordinance for community art on City property was shared. Images of the proposed project location, and mural design by artist Chris Fonseca, as well as the proposed timeline were shared.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: Committee questions and staff answers included:

- Hardberger: Can we see each panel separately? Mirelez: This is the image we received from Artist. Jones: Recommended increasing screen size for better view.
- Hardberger: Would like to see what the flying figure was on the image. Chris Fonseca: Image includes a dragon as a placeholder, it will be a Quetzalcoatl.
- Neff: Asks artist to talk more about the background elements and the glyphs. Fonseca: Starting from the bottom left, glyph is the beginning of past-present future. This represents the arrival of where we are in San Antonio. Stonework going up are different glyphs and explained some of their meaning. The background is all the same cloud formation alluding to timelessness of memory. Stone is material and the structure we build. Middle glyph is the present time. Includes bluebonnet and indigenous flowers. On the right, top right glyph is glyph for future.
- Facey: Comment on people flying around pole. Hardberger: They were a big deal at Hemisfair. Fonseca: People flying around the pole is image of group of performers performing a rain dance. Hardberger: They still do it. They're called los Voladores.

Committee comments included:

- No other comments.

Motion: Highsmith moved to approve the community art on City property CENTRO mural at Hemisfair; Hardberger seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Guthmiller, Hardberger, Highsmith, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Announcements and Reports

Renée Talamantez announced community input opportunities for public art projects at District 1 Barbara Drive Park, District 2 Lockwood Dignowity Park, District 6 Animal Care Services, District 8 Medical Center Park, and District 10 Bulverde Road. Surveys for Animal Care Services and Bulverde Rd. Are open from October 25 to November 22, 2024. Surveys for Barbara Drive Park and Lockwood Dignowity Park will be open from November 11 to December 9, 2024. The survey for Medical Center Park will be open from November 18 to December 16, 2024.

Adjournment

Motion: Neff motioned to adjourn the Public Art Committee meeting; Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Barilleaux, Facey, Guthmiller, Hardberger, Highsmith, Neff, Rodriguez, Sanchez

Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.