

AMAC Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2017 @ 5:30-7:00, ARTS/West

*In attendance:* Josh Birnbaum, Carol Patterson, Beth Braun, Chelsa Morahan, Scott Winland, Andrew Chiki, Steve Patterson, Emily Beveridge, Kelly Lawrence

*Guests:* Nate Thomson, Elli Lavon, Hannah Burke

### *I. Call to order and legislative updates*

Mayor Patterson will check on the support of the bench project.  
Carol Patterson will contact the group too.

Stimson Ave. mural approved by City Council!

### *II. Minutes from November meeting*

Original sent by Josh, updates highlighted and forwarded to commission

**MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES AS REVISED - PASSED.**

### *III. Guests*

*A. OU students Elli Lavon and Hannah Burke visited to discuss possible involvement by AMAC in “Unchained.”*

Elli and Hannah had emailed AMAC about their project that relates to arts being used to raise awareness for human trafficking. The program is being brought to Athens. How can AMAC be involved, they wonder? They are with student senate.

Unchained is an organization in Columbus to raise awareness for human trafficking as a localized issue. These two are bringing the organization’s socially-themed, narrative fashion show here to OU/Athens in April. There are 26 garments and each represents a stage of what a human trafficking survivor will go through—it tells a story. It goes through three stages: innocence, violation, and

restoration. It will be on campus in Walter Hall Rotunda on Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 at 7pm. Could AMAC promote, help in fundraising, help get Athens community members there as well, they wonder?

Check out video link here: <http://unchainedfashionshow.com/>

Will they be charging? Students are uncertain. Free and suggested donation of \$5? There is a scholarship fund that helps survivors go to college. Have a cost but waive for students? Name your price? These are all options discussed with students.

AMAC advised reaching out to different college and admins. Fashion+Interior Design at OU and Patty Mitchell will be a good resource. They have been in touch with modeling groups on campus for a casting call. League of Women Voters will be interested. Student orgs.

Will there be an educational component? The non-profit will bring a live narrator, a speech before the show, then an hour-long show. There is a big education component.

AMAC wonders: can we take it into ArtsWest after the OU performance for some community dialogue? The Unchained folks will be there the Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. Perhaps a talk-back event, or a film component, or Q&A session, or an exhibition of garments.

AMAC Commissioners suggested that ARTS/West would be a good location for the casting call, which would help get people from the community and college students. Emily Beveridge will talk to them about availability. Makes it easier for advertising and getting the word out from the City.

AMAC recommended Arts for Ohio could be good for this project. Talk to Maureen Wagner. It would provide for free admission for all students. They will help with graphic design work and posters and distribution. Student counseling center would also be good to get involved.

Carol Patterson will put them in touch with AMAC and distribute the website. AMAC would be honored to host space and help promote.

The students mentioned the profound effect on them as participants when they were in high school. Would be able to promote to high schools as well.

*B. Nate Thompson from Athens Photo Project visited AMAC with an update on the Parking Garage Project.*

On Dec. 1st there was a public meeting to see progress on designs. Nate showed us current designs of this long-term project APP has been working on with City and University to engage long-term artists to create work to be displayed on E. Washington St. wall of parking garage. Rotating exhibit every 2-3 years from a new cohort who go through a 30-week curriculum about public art. It is a group art exhibition, not necessarily themed. The work is diverse each round, and it is democratic: any artist involved will be able to participate.

APP originally looked at wood as framing but that required a full roof structure that changed the scope of the project. So they moved away from that approach to make it more feasible. To streamline the design phase and begin engineering and highlight images, Hilferty and Associates were brought on board to design and engineer a feasible solution. Designs were taken to artist group and then a Dec. 1 small public forum.

Nate brought design mockups. Design will be wrapped up this winter, materials purchased and prepped in spring, summer install date. Art swappable. Artists are very positive, split between two designs. One design has artist statements on edges of photos and is 3-dimensional. Side panels could be colored according to a spot color derived from image. Will be on all 5 brick panels. Panel on the left side of parking garage wall about APP and on the right side about the Essence of Athens. Tim Pfaff has volunteered to work on writing and titles. Sarah McDowell will help with graphic design.

The second design had a color scheme that would be difficult to work with after images transition. The simplicity and

dimensional feel are attractive. Angles of photos will face Court Street.

Rail system, called uni-struts, can be mounted into mortar of bricks without damaging the wall. Mounted between 3-7 feet off the ground. AMAC wonders if there are ways to reduce the extrusion from wall to maintain ADA compliance. Some small LED lighting above can be done in the future. A high-res security camera will be put in the front office of the City Building so we can monitor.

Wood was difficult because of feasibility, weight, mounting, weathering and maintenance, cost. The uni-struts can be powdercoated to match wall. Wood took over the photographs. Image side panels could have tonal shift and mimic a photographic test strip.

Images are good for 10 years but will be rotated. The material is time-tested. Design is flexible into the future. Will be over 30 photos, one from each artist participant. Will expose community to their perspectives and add valuable public art from community artists. The funding the city puts towards this — it is public art — is coming from the parking fund, from people who utilize the parking garage and pay the meters. This is an appropriate way to use the money, Mayor Patterson said. The city could take over the structure platform and use it if APP ever decided to not be involved.

Discussion: how do we have an event around this and promote it so we can create talking points about this so people know and the community knows about it? Commissioners noted that it could align with a summer music and arts festival. Arts for Ohio will help contribute an event. June would be great. Hilferty is aiming to complete by early summer. Will have to work around Brew Week, Nelsonville Music Fest, and Boogie on the Bricks.

#### *IV. Continuing Business*

##### *A. Summer Activities update*

Scott Winland has been recruiting folks to help with the music end of things, possibly including theater, dance, music. Kelly and Scott will meet soon. Will look at ways of involving all kinds of art. Possibility of shutting down short part of Union Street and Scott has been talking to the business owners there. Could just be a small thing for an afternoon. Thinking of a plein air (outdoor painting) artist event. Art displays in the business windows could incorporate them and make a giant gallery out of Court Street.

### *B. % for Art fliers*

Ready for delivery. Kelly Lawrence will deliver to City Code office and tell them it is to be included in all contractor packets in order to explain to them how to go about incorporating public art into their project and the process of doing it. Will have City Planner Paul Logue step in to explain to office why it's important. Timing is perfect at start of 2018. Andrew Chiki will also put in a good word to help ease it into the city process.

### *C. Sculpture Park*

Discussed possible sculpture park between Armory and Dollar General area, perhaps multiple locations around the city. How will this flesh out with artists? Ownership? Mayor Patterson will meet with Carol Patterson and City Safety Director Paula Moseley Horan.

Mayor's update: this is part of renovating the Armory and surrounding area. It's ADA accessible: can be accessed from parking on east side of Armory. We will have a path. Will be using a lot of sandstone block that will help define the space. Will probably have five "stations" or pedestals for art to sit on. There are sculpture art loan programs or other possibilities for sourcing art. Area will be landscaped and sculpted. It will be a nice area to get off Court Street and sit and escape.

Mayor would like AMAC to be a part of vetting of sculptures; Mayor will look at overall space design. There will be trees and shrubs, from Joshua Tree and Mason Chambers. Will work with local woodworker to incorporate wood. Could be used as a public evening space for projecting movies, etc. Discussed possibilities for partnering with Dollar General and the Masonic Temple.

#### *D. Poet Laureate - RFP*

AMAC has to decide on dates. Would like to incorporate encouraging links to the Essence of Athens (Suggested language: III.B: Inspiration for projects should represent a broad spectrum of the population of Athens. Additionally, designees are encouraged to reference the Essence of Athens, see link here). Beth Braun suggested under project specification part B, at the end.

Emily Beveridge will continue to be the point person communicating with applicants and forward to Carol Patterson. Emily mentioned it is typical to have a nomination process, but Carol mentioned that this follows the city model for getting community artists involved.

Suggestion: under application requirements for delivery, add an email address: [amac@ci.athens.oh.us](mailto:amac@ci.athens.oh.us). Plan is to announce it Friday, Dec. 15th, 2017 and get it to appropriate folks for posting and announcement. Deadline will be Jan. 19th, 2018. Will possibly add that interviews will be conducted at the end of January so applicants expect this date. Will consider pushing back ad hoc committee. Commencement of tenure will then be Feb. 14th, 2018.

#### *V. Planning*

Commissioners should send ideas to Carol Patterson before the next meeting so she can distribute to AMAC and we can go from there.

## *VI. Announcements and other business*

Andrew talked to Paige Alost, who mentioned that the ACCVB is working on getting into more tourism, the arts, and federal development. Athens County is one of 7 counties in the country involved in this evaluation.

Are new traffic box art wraps up yet? We think they will be tabled until Spring most likely because of weather. Future submission process could be online and easier to manage since we plan to keep doing this. Are there ways we can help with image preparation and sizing? A possible walk-in help day? Topic for further discussion.

## *VII. Adjournment*

Next Meeting: Jan 10, 2018