



CONNECTING THE ARTS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 8:30 a.m.
MINUTES

PRESENT: Dennis Bradbury, Jeff Price, Lynne Massey, Susan Wallerstein, Kathy Hebert, Becki Christopherson, Julyen Norman (public art consultant), Tony Velez, Diane Jellerette (Norwalk Historical Society)

Public Comment - NONE

BUSINESS

1. Tony Velez welcomed as new member recruited as a result of September conversation. Lynn talked about her follow up efforts.
2. September minutes reviewed and discussed. Vote deferred pending further edits by Dennis Bradbury, including review of Julyen Norman's audio recording of the meeting.
3. Membership and meetings
 - Frequency/day & time discussion – Members voted (Jeff, Lynn, Tony, Becki & Dennis in favor; Kathy Hebert and Susan opposed) to restore regular monthly business meetings in November and December, in addition to community conversations.
 - Suggestion to formalize role of executive committee or board.
 - Partnership Opportunity Conversations: Becki volunteered to host a spring conversation meeting. Jeff Price offered to host a session focusing on "The Business of Art."
 - Dennis conveyed the importance of diversifying the commission. Susan described the follow up she had done after September conversation and suggested actual commission work (as opposed to programs/activities) perhaps less engaging/interesting to most.

PROJECT UPDATES

1. Public Art Inventory - Julyen Norman
 - Consultant Julyen Norman distributed first draft of public art inventory, explaining what has been done so far and what still needs to be completed.
 - Susan confirmed additional funding to support this project from Parks & Recreation (\$1K), Redevelopment (\$1K), Parking Authority, and Norwalk Library.
 - Lynn Massey volunteered to assist with adding public art information into "Past Perfect," the software application used by the Historical Commission/Society.
 - Final report in December with plans to begin creating database in January.
 - 73 pieces of estimated 100 documented to date.
 - Discussion about some of the items including installations in 95 underpass which have been heavily damaged.
 - Capacity to upload both digital images of the art, condition, provenance, etc. as well as video files with artist interviews. This, along with public art policy and standard for signage would be additional scope.
 - Question about whether WPA murals in Past Perfect; Diane Jellerette to follow up.
2. West Ave. Corridor Public Art – Redevelopment Agency consultant, Julyen Norman, described the "Gateway to Norwalk Community Sculpture" and the exciting process lead artist Suikang Zhao will use to engage the community, capturing diverse languages as basis for his work. The project is on hold pending approval by the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (received following the meeting per email from Julyen).

Meeting adjourned about 9:45 AM.

REVISED 2014-15 MEETING SCHEDULE

November 10, 2014 (8:30 AM) – Business meeting (financial, membership, project update)
November 19, 2014 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) Partnership Opportunity Conversation @ Norwalk Community College, East Campus Gallery
December 9, 2014 (8:30 AM) - Business meeting (financial, membership, project update)
January 13, 2015 – Business meeting (financial, membership, project update)
February 2015 – **Partnership Opportunity Conversation #3 (need volunteer; date/time TBD)**
March 11, 2015 – Business meeting (financial, membership, project update)
April 2015 – **Partnership Opportunity Conversation #4 (need volunteer; date/time TBD)**
May 13, 2015– Business meeting (NEA grant wrap up; etc.)
June 2015 – Celebration & Recognition Event TBD

Attachments: Gateway to Norwalk Community Sculpture handout, public art inventory handout (Susan's copy with notes)

Mades

NAC

PUBLIC ART CHECKLIST

<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
50 Washington St.	Sculpture	2
Art Park West Ave	Sculpture	1
Calf Pasture Beach	Sculpture	1
	Murals	3
Cranbury Park	Sculptures	4
Marshall Street	Tile mural	1
Mathews Park	Sculpture	1
N. Library @ Belden	Prints, paintings	24
	Sculpture	1
Oyster Shell Park	Sculptures	2
	"Star" sculptures	5
	Street Art Murals	4
Parks & Rec office lobby	Photographs	4
Police HQ	Sculpture	1
SNRR	Sculpture installation	1
	Painted cut out installation	1
SONO and Downtown	Murals (Brec Morgan)	4
SONO rail underpass	LED sculpture	1
Traffic Graphics (various)	Painted boxes	8
Waterfront @ Aquarium	Sculpture	3
	Memorial	1
City Hall	to do	
S. Norwalk Library	to do	
Transit District Office	to do	
Fire HQ	??	

73

Lynn
Volunteer
+ Intern

in underpass
heavily damaged

17 elements
31 elements

Maint

curate
maint./repair
loan/purchase
Transit

P+Rec \$1K

Redev. \$1K

Parking Auth.

member of library
of Friends of library

100% can upload video files w/artist
digital images

POLICY

SIGNAGE

15
WPA
In
past few

GATEWAY TO NORWALK COMMUNITY SCULPTURE: LEAD ARTIST SUIKANG ZHAO



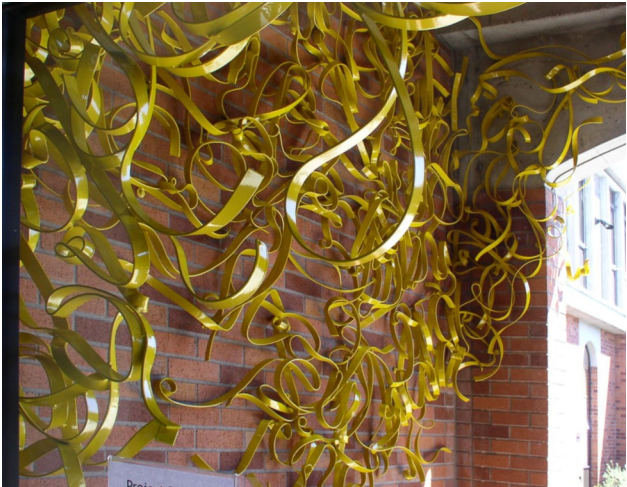
The artwork will include embedded LED light tape, sensory color controlled by the movement of the passing cars at night (not shown).



The new work is based on a similar sculptural project that Zhao created for the University Health and Counseling Center, Eugene, Oregon (detail images shown). In appearance the twisted metal elements resemble a tangle of vines and roots, but are in fact words and phrases in multiple languages, distorted and intertwined.



Detail image of *Vine of Scripts*
Letter puzzle
A public art project at University Health
and Counseling Center, Eugene, OR



Artist Suikang Zhao was chosen from a field of 144 entries to create a new public art work for the City of Norwalk. The new work will be created with input from community participants over the course of the next twelve months.

Suikang Zhao is a native of China, but has lived in New York City for more than 30 years. He has created many public art works throughout the U.S. and abroad. He will visit Norwalk over the next several months and conduct informal gatherings with a wide range of community groups, gathering source materials in the many languages spoken in the local area - English, Spanish, Greek, Russian, Dutch, Hungarian, Chinese, Pashtu, Korean, Italian, Polish, Haitian - to name just a few.

The final work will be created on site in Norwalk with the assistance of local artists and students.

Final installation is projected for September 2015 .

Gateway to Norwalk is a project of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency.