

Cultural Planning Meeting Notes

November 1, 2017 12 noon

In Attendance: Jane Wolforth, Nicole Losch, Meagan Tuttle, Barbara Perry, Milton Rosa Ortiz, Jill Badolato, Nina Safavi

Missing: John Gonter, Margaret Coleman

Staff: Sara Katz, Doreen Kraft

Introductions of committee members in attendance. This committee has expertise in many areas, including public art in other states, with advocacy and data analysis at the state level, planning from three city departments, as artists, as city councilors, and as participants in establishing Burlington's public art program over the years.

History of Public Art Program in Burlington.

- Burlington established a formal Art in public places program in 1991 through a City Council Resolution. The program designated BCA as the department in charge of managing public art processes for City projects.
- Guidelines were established in 1999 and a new resolution was passed that created further clarity around process for selections, commissions and gifts of work, etc. These are the guidelines we procure work under today.
- Soon after, BCA worked to propose a ½% for public art and drew up a resolution, but it was never voted on by City Council because the Mayor at the time felt that it would be better to work on a voluntary basis and prove the worth of Public art first.

Why a percent for art now?

- There are a number of projects in the pipeline that would benefit from public art inclusion, and the Mayor is eager to ensure that our public spaces express the uniqueness of Burlington through our public art.
- City Staff from many departments are working together to support the public components of these projects, from Great Streets, to the bike path, City Hall park and the new City Place project. Staff are eager to include public art in streets, right of ways and parks, but need clarity well in advance about funding and process so that they can include it in their budgets and work plans and keep projects moving forward.
- For BCA, this is an important formalization of a process that supports artists and improves livability, key mission components.
- A city percent for art will provide a benchmarks for working with private developers too. There may be opportunities to work with existing planning efforts to further expand the potential for private development. Form Based Code, for example, would have a requirement in the downtown for a certain amount of publically accessible space for developments of a certain size, which would be a perfect area for future private partnerships.

Ordinance Committee Process

- The ordinance committee is the city council committee that we would work through to pass a 1% for art on City Capital projects. We first need ensure alignment with the Mayor (who is already advocating for this) and the CFO, who will need to be on board with budgetary impacts.
- The Park Arts and Culture Committee is an important committee to keep up to date well before advancing to the ordinance committee.
- Gene Bergman is the City Attorney who staffs ordinance. He sent the following from the council rules:

14 [Introduction of ordinances.]

On introduction to the council, a proposed ordinance or amendment to an existing ordinance shall identify the city department or city councilor sponsoring the proposal. A proposed ordinance shall be read in full at two (2) separate meetings before being adopted. It shall be read the first time upon its presentation and may then be discussed. Upon proper motion, a proposed ordinance may be defeated upon presentation and first reading. If not so defeated, the proposed ordinance shall upon proper motion following discussion, if any, be referred to the ordinance committee. Alternatively, upon a motion to suspend the rules a proposed ordinance may be adopted if approved by two-thirds vote of those present and voting. If referred to the ordinance committee, such committee shall consider the proposal, consult with the city attorney and any department concerned, and report to the council no later than sixty days following referral of the proposed ordinance to it. If the proposal remains in the committee beyond a sixty-day period, the committee shall report to the city council at least once every thirty days on the status of its continuing review. The city council may adopt the proposed ordinance at any time following its second reading.

Ordinances have to be passed by the council and signed by the mayor. After that, they must be published and they only become effective on the 21st day after publication.

Advocacy and Communication strategy

- Gene, in his communication to us said, “You need to be prepared to support the ordinance in the most convincing way you can and explain why it is needed. This may be needed at every juncture, especially for controversial changes. “
- The language around public art can and its value can be confusing for some. It will be helpful to review our language carefully in this process.
- It may also be helpful to review larger statewide initiatives and reference ways in which the public art investment supports those efforts; diversity and inclusion for example.
- We can also integrate the recent results from the AEP 5 study that show the power of the arts to drive tourism dollars.

Work plan approach

- City staff will send Sara a list of cities recently used as comps for other planning documents as a starting place for research on other communities.
- We will be looking for actual ordinance language where possible as well as advocacy approaches and pitfalls experienced by others.

- Sara will also connect with Americans for the Arts prior to our next meeting.

Next meeting

- The next meeting will be on **December 7 at 12 noon at BCA.**
- Agenda items will include confirming research process and research and writing sub-committee participation, establishing a timeline and leadership, and writing a mission statement for the cultural planning committee.