



Melinda Katz
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Patrick A. O'Brien
Chairman

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

March 8, 2016

Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee

Attendees

Stephen Cooper
William Garrett
Kenneth Greenberg
Benjamin Guttmann

Absentees

Czarinna Andres
Badrun N. Khan
Lakshmi Reddy

Guests

Jennifer Lantzas, NYC Parks
Allison Kaufman, Mary Ann Unger Estate

Mr. Cooper welcomed everyone to the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee meeting.

AGENDA

Presentation by Jennifer Lantzas from NYC Parks on Temporary Arts Proposal

Ms. Lantzas stated that she would be speaking about Mary Ann Unger, a celebrated sculptor best known for her large-scale works evoking the body, bandaging flesh, and bones. Ms. Unger died of breast cancer in 1998 at the age of 53. Roberta Smith wrote in her New York Times obituary, "(Mary Ann Unger's) works occupied a territory defined by Eva Hesse and Louise Bourgeois. But the pieces combined a sense of mythic power with a sensitivity to shape that was all their own, achieving a subtlety of expression that belied their monumental scale."

Ms. Lantzas stated:

The Mary Ann Unger Estate was founded in New York City in 2008 to further the understanding and appreciation of Ms. Unger's artwork. The estate facilitates the ongoing placement of Ms. Unger's work in museums and private collections and exhibits a rotating selection of Ms. Unger's works.

The proposed art work will be replacing "The Bench" which is at the location now. The Bench will be removed from the site in mid May 2016, and the art work piece placed at the site, at 46th and Jackson Avenue, the triangle in front of PS 1. It will stay in place until October 2016.

An exhibition of Ms. Unger's work appeared on view at the Maxwell Davidson Gallery space in Chelsea.

Ms. Lantzas introduced Allison Kaufman, Director of the Mary Ann Unger Estate, who spoke about the artist and the art work proposed for this location.

Ms. Kaufman stated that the piece proposed to be exhibited at the NYC Parks is a sculpture, made of aluminum, weighing 75 lbs., and titled "Unfurling".

The piece, "Unfurling", is:

- Related to Ms. Unger's earlier work.
- Very geometrical and mathematical.
- One of only three pieces that the estate has that are of Ms. Unger's outdoor works.
- To be placed on a cement platform, and the pedestal that the piece is sitting on will be made part of the sculpture work, and will be anchored into the cement platform to secure the sculpture.
- To have signage created by the Parks Dept. with all pertinent information relating to the sculpture written on a placard for viewing.
- To be maintained by the Parks Dept. since this is a green street.

Ms. Lantzas stated that the Parks Public Art Program is a really great opportunity for artists:

- Technically, any city park can be considered for an installation, depending upon what it is that is being proposed.
- There is a rolling submission's office.
- There is no deadline that artists or organizations need to meet to exhibit.
- The city stipulates that temporary public art is art work that is less than one year, because anything that is more than one year needs to go to the Public Design Commission.
- Those who have an interest in art would submit their art work proposal to the Parks Dept.

Ms. Lantzas provided the procedure involved, and the steps that needed to be taken in the processing of a proposed art work. The art work is then reviewed internally:

- For aesthetic interest,
- Whether it is appropriate for the site.
- Whether it is durable to withstand the outdoor element.
- In terms of the interaction that the public might have with it.
- Whether the artist or organization has the understanding or capacity of what is needed to install in an outdoor space.

Once the art work is reviewed internally:

- It is shared with the Parks Manager.
- An on-site visit is made.
- The work is discussed and the specific location identified.

- It is then reviewed with the Borough Commissioner.
- It is then brought to the Community Boards.

Ms. Lantzas stated that once all of the above steps have been completed, a license agreement would be entered into with the artist, which, in essence, could act as a permit for use in the park space.

Ms. Lantzas reported on a special opportunity, the Claire Weiss emerging artist's award. She stated that Stephen Cooper, Chairperson of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee, who has worked with many artists professionally, and is currently working with LIC Artists, was able to participate in this current award, where the Parks Department provides funding to artists.

In this instance, the award was a \$10,000 award that was reviewed with Mr. Cooper as a representative of Community Board 2, as well as a curator and formal artist. It was stated that in this instance, the park that was chosen, Court Square Park, is in an underserved area, and these awards are given in areas that are underserved. These awards are subject to the same review process as are all other park proposals, but with the added benefit that additional funding is provided. Many of these awards are provided for by grant funding through the District Arts Council.

Ms. Lantzas stated that most of the exhibitions are temporary, three to six months in display.

There was a discussion as to the types of spaces provided for exhibitions, and how they are chosen.

Mr. Cooper requested a copy of the lists which include the names of individual artists, and for profit arts organizations, and parks.

Mr. Cooper thanked Ms. Lantzas, NYC Parks Department, and Ms. Kaufman, Director of the Mary Ann Unger Estate.

Discussion and update on the Art Space in LIC

Mr. Cooper provided a brief synopsis of the Art Space in the Maximillian Building in Long Island City. He stated:

- In 2006, CB 2 was asked to vote on whether a BSA applicant should be granted a certain space.
- CB2 was under the understanding that part of that space was to be designated for arts and culture.
- The space was not designated as such.
- The building was built.
- The BSA applicant chose another location, the space remains empty.
- It was at one point offered to The Chocolate Factory, and approximately two years ago the space was offered to LIC Artists.

Mr. Cooper reported that he has been working with LIC Artists since that time to try to secure the space.

There was a discussion regarding various aspects of the use of the Art Space, and the involvement of QCA.

No agreement has been finalized to date. Mr. Cooper stated that CB 2 would like to see this space serve the local artists and the local community, which would not be so if the area would be used for office space.

A committee member suggested presenting a letter from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee with information about the ways that the LIC artists and the CB 2 community could benefit from having an arts and cultural space in the Maximillian Building.

Mr. Cooper reported that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 (2nd Tuesday of the Month).

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joan Bergman

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