

## Baltimore City Public Art Commission (PAC) Meeting

February 2024

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

PAC Chair Aaron Bryant called the commission to order at 10:07AM.

#### 2. Roll Call

PAC Chair Bryant asked PAC Manager, Kirk Shannon-Butts, to take roll call.

##### Present:

Aaron Bryant

Jacqueline Bershad

Lady Brion

Jessica Bell Brown

Danielle Brock

Sam Christian Holmes

Alma Roberts

##### Absent:

Jaz Erenberg

Evan Richardson

##### Guests:

Baltimore City Comptroller Bill Henry

Celeste Amato – Chief of Staff, Office of Comptroller Bill Henry

Tonya Miller Hall

Rachel Graham, incoming CEO, Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts

Media

BOPA Staff

#### 3. Minutes

Kirk announced there was a glitch in the Zoom recording and the minutes from January are not ready. The January minutes will be ready and approved for the March PAC meeting.

#### 4. Updates

- Agency Check-Ins

Baltimore City Public School System – No school will move into Garrison Middle School building. Waiting to hear of next steps for Garrison.

Kirk shared that Baltimore City Public School System informed him that Garrison Middle School will not be used in the Fall school year. According to Baltimore City Public Schools this school is not accessible for now. Kirk shared that he would stay in contact with BCPSS for updates.

Kirk acknowledged BOPA's newly appointed CEO, Rachel Graham. Rachel introduced herself and stated what she is looking forward to working with the Public Art Commission.

PAC Chair, Aaron Bryant, and members of the commission welcomed Rachel.

**5. PAC Guest Visitors:** Baltimore City Comptroller Bill Henry  
Comptroller Henry's Chief of Staff, M. Celeste Amato

Kirk introduced Baltimore City Comptroller, Bill Henry, and his Chief of Staff, Celeste Amato.

Comptroller Henry greeted the PAC. He went right into the 1% For Art program. Comptroller Henry provided firsthand context on the history and functioning of Baltimore's Percent-for-Public-Art ordinance.

The conversation focused on the functionality of the 1% For Art process and centered around the idea to rewrite the Percent-for-Public-Art legislation to address its operational issues, making it easier for City agencies to figure out how much they owe and potentially expanding the City's commitment to public art on an annual basis.

He acknowledged no one is consistently pushing for the 1% from city agencies. His office is working with the Mayor's Senior Advisor of Arts & Culture, Tonya Miller Hall, to secure agencies outstanding 1% For Art payments.

Mayoral Advisor, Tonya Miller Hall, inserted she is working diligently with city agencies and the Comptroller's Office. She is seeking solutions for the Public Art collection process. She re-sent all the PAC's 2022 and 2023 invoices as prepared by BOPA for the PAC to city agencies.

She offered that the Department of Finance may be able to evaluate construction projects that qualify for the 1% For Art program.

Commissioner Bershad: The PAC can budget the money for conservation once the PAC has the amount. The PAC can plan and anticipate art projects. What is the best way to enforce the 1% For Art ordinance?

Comptroller Henry: He is working with Tonya Miller Hall to create a separate budget for the 1% For Art fund. It will be a line item for each capital budget.

Commissioner Sam Holmes: Asked about quasi city projects and Lexington Market.

Comptroller Henry responded: Project like Lexington Market are not quasi city projects. It is a private project." He spoke briefly on the David Bramble Inner Harbor redevelopment project saying, "The 1% For Art will be triggered if the project receives capital construction funds.

Commissioner Holmes: Asked about the conservation of the artwork at Lexington Market.

Comptroller Henry: If the artwork sits on Baltimore City property, then it is the responsibility of the city and the PAC.

Commissioner Holmes: But these developers do not pay into the 1% For Art fund.

Comptroller Henry: Developers should be required to submit a conservation plan at the beginning of the deal to sustain the artwork. Money producing leasing agents like Lexington Market should maintain and conserve the artwork on their property. He stated it is complicated to mandate if it is not covered in the lease.

Commissioner Danielle Brock inquired: Who is checking the 1% For Art accountability by the agencies?

Comptroller Henry: There is no art point person within the Mayor's Office. Maybe Tonya Miller Hall can help. Each agency has a project manager for each capital project. The Planning Department may be able to flag qualifying 1% For Art projects.

Mayoral Advisor, Tonya Miller Hall told the PAC she is brainstorming solutions. She also noted that she has met with the agencies and submitted the 1% For Art invoices for 2022 and 2023.

Comptroller Henry: Met with the Department of Finance to look at the total capital budget and take the 1% For Art fund from here. He offered the scenario, if the total capital construction budget for the city is \$80,000,000 for the year, then the 1% For Art program would receive \$800,000 which would go into an account for conservation, new commissions, PAC operations, and other PAC costs. This pot of money would be available to city agencies under the discretion of the PAC and according to the PAC guidelines as outlined in the ordinance.

Commissioner Brock: Has the idea of taking from the top been presented?

Mayoral Advisor, Tonya Miller Hall: It is an idea. It has not floated up to the mayor.

Comptroller Henry: Councilman Ryan Dorsey is advocating for the administration to re-write the legislation.

Commissioner Lady Brion: How can the PAC champion this?

Mayoral Advisor, Tonya Miller Hall: Let me think on that.

PAC Chair Aaron Bryant: The administration needs to meet with the agencies.

Comptroller Henry announces he has an 11AM meeting.

PAC Chair Bryant asks the PAC commissioners if they have any other questions for Comptroller Henry. There were no other questions.

Comptroller Henry exits the PAC meeting.

## **6. Commissioners Q & A**

Chair Bryant opened the Q & A portion of the PAC meeting.

The PAC discussed the 1% For Art process and introduced Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS). Currently, the Baltimore City Public School System does not pay into the 1% For Art fund. However, BCPSS uses a lot of the 1% For Art resources.

Commissioner Alma Roberts: Should the school system be a part of it?

BOPA's Chris Brown offered: Baltimore City Schools has a Beautification Program which allows the community to participate in maintaining the artworks on school property. Chris also spoke about INSPIRE. INSPIRE is a program to beautify projects in a 1-mile radius of a school. Since 2018 BOPA has been working with INSPIRE to beautify communities.

Commissioner Holmes: A better conservation plan for public schools would be on the front end of commissioning the artwork.

PAC Chair Bryant: The PAC is the steward of the city's art collection which includes Baltimore City Public Schools.

## **7. News from the PAC**

Commissioner Alma Roberts announced her group exhibition in McClean, Virginia.

## **8. Adjourn**

PAC Chair Bryant adjourned the meeting. 11:37AM.