



**LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
March 11, 2021
11:30 am
Zoom Video Conference**

Commissioners will be sent individual Zoom links to this meeting. If you are a member of the public and are interested in speaking at the virtual meeting, please send a written request by Noon on March 10, 2021 to PublicComment@libertymo.gov. Please direct questions Jeanine Thill at jthill@libertymo.gov or call 816-439-4537

Attendance: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Heather Jones, Anna Knackstedt, Aaron Money, Katie McDonald, Amy Steinbeck, Bill Stilfield, Nathan Wyman, Phil Young

- I. **Approval of Meeting Summary:** February 11, 2021

- II. **Current Business**
 - a. **Art Grant Applications-** Katie McDonald
 - i. **Mini Grant - Liberty Symphony**
 - ii. **Annual Grant – Clay County African American Legacy**
 - b. **Make Music Day 2021** Bill Stilfield & Shane Immelt
 - c. **TGT Budget Update** Anna Knackstedt
 - d. **Sculptures Update** Staff
 - i. **“People’s Choice” voting results on Otocast**
 - ii. **Purchase Piece**

- III. **Art Partner Reports:**
 - a. **Liberty Arts Foundation** Greg/Heather/Shane
 - b. **Library** Katie McDonald
 - c. **William Jewell** Nathan Wyman
 - d. **Corbin Theatre** Bill Stilfield
 - e. **Norterre** Amy Steinbeck
 - f. **Liberty Public Schools** Garrette Brown

- IV. **Other Business:**

- V. **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting Date April 8, 2021
11:30 via Zoom**



LIBERTY
ARTS COMMISSION
LIBERTY ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
February 11, 2021
11:30 am

Zoom Video Conference or at City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Attendance via Zoom: Garrette Brown, Greg Duncan, Shane Immelt, Katie McDonald, Anna Knackstedt, Heather Jones, Amy Steinbeck, Nathan Wyman, Phil Young
Absent: Aaron Money, Bill Stilfield

Staff Present: Jeanine Thill and Mike Peterman as moderator.

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 am by Chairman Immelt.

Commissioner Wyman said there is a page missing from the meeting summary in the packet. Ms. Thill sent out the meeting summary to the Commission.

Commissioner Wyman made a motion to approve the January 2021 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young. The motion passed 9-1-0. Councilman Duncan abstained because he was absent.

Transient Guest Tax Budget- Commissioner Knackstedt said they have not had a meeting.

Sculpture Program- Ms. Thill reported that she has not received an update from Christopher Knight on the status of replacing his damaged sculpture, Rusted Spire. She will follow up. Ms. Thill said that typically the Commission typically decides which sculpture to purchase in the Spring time of each year. In anticipation of that discussion in the coming months, staff asked Otocast to create a link for "People's Choice" voting.

Commissioner Jones asked if the purchase price for NeitherNorEitherOr could be under \$10,000 the budgeted amount for a purchase piece. Ms. Thill will reach out to the artist to ask. Chairman Immelt also asked that we clarify if the pedestal is included.

Councilman Duncan said he would like us to be very clear in our messaging to the public when asking for them to vote for the People's Choice sculpture suggesting that we state "Help the arts commission make their decision" and make it clear that many factors are considered by the Arts Commission. Make it clear that the LAC has the final decision on the piece to purchase. Also include in the messaging that sculptures are available to be purchased by the public.

Chairman Immelt sent everyone the Otocast people's choice link. The commission asked that all the photos show each sculpture at their locations in Liberty and to also include a description of where people can see the sculpture.

Commissioner Wyman asked about the budget and if we didn't spend all of the funds could we use it for other things. Ms. Thill said it is her understanding that the Commission has the flexibility to move funds among the arts line items, within reason. Councilman Duncan added that in the past that we may have used some remaining funds on lighting.

Commissioner Jones asked if we purchased a sculpture for less than \$10,000 then could we use those remaining funds for an additional temporary piece. Councilman Duncan said he doesn't think that would be a problem.

Vice Chair McDonald said we have talked about signage and maybe some remaining funds could be used for that. Commissioner Jones reminded the Commission that we negotiated down the fee from Otocast due to budget cuts, we could pay them the amount they originally quoted to preserve that relationship. Commissioner Knackstedt said that maintenance and cleaning of the sculptures might be a good way to spend any remaining the funds. Commissioner Jones said the China Slaughter needs some maintenance. Chairman Immelt said that he is working on coordinating repairs (representing the Arts Foundation) and that the work that needs to be done on the base cannot be done until it is 75 degrees out or warmer. This is something that Parks is responsible for.

Councilmember Duncan said that there have been the questions about maintenance in three areas

1. Artwork that the Arts Commission bought
2. Artwork that the City purchased
3. Artwork on City property that the City didn't purchase

The larger conversation is who is responsible for maintaining and that answer is unclear. China Slaughter has not had involvement from the Arts Commission.

The Commission discussed which sculptures are most desirable as a purchase piece.

Councilman Duncan said the two that he thinks would add the most to our Permanent Collection are Growing Wings and Tangerine Daydream. The latter is his first choice, which is a great piece for the asking price of \$8,000.

Chairman Immelt said his first choice is Oak Leaf Arch and second choice is Growing Wings.

Commissioner Jones said Tangerine Daydream is her first choice, second is Rusted Spire then Growing Wings

Commissioner Wyman said Oak Leaf Arch would be great as an entrance to a park. Tangerine Daydream would be his second choice then Rusted Spire.

Commissioner Steinbeck likes Tangerine Daydream, Out of the Woods and then Growing Wings.

Commissioner Brown's first choice is Rusted Spire, Growing Winds then Oak Leaf Arch.

Vice Chair McDonald's choices were Rusted Spire, Growing Wings and then Out of the Woods.

Commissioner Young said he doesn't have a ranking.

Commissioner Knackstedt said her favorite is Tangerine Daydream, she also likes Rusted Spire and then NeitherNorEitherOr.

Among the Commission Tangerine Daydream received five first choice votes. This will be on the agenda next month for further discussion and staff will have the results of the People Choice voting as that time.

Commissioner Wyman thought that we should put them all out on OtoCast for people to vote on for the "People's Choice" The Commission agreed. They would like all photos to be of the sculptures in their current locations with a description. Staff will make sure that is done.

Councilman Duncan asked if the Library is still considering purchasing Out of the Woods. Vice Chair McDonald said the last she heard they were not fundraising for art. She added that at one time they had the desire to purchase the sculpture but that changed since the pandemic. She thinks that letting it go may be more responsible for them.

2021 Art Grants- Vice Chair McDonald volunteered to chair a sub-committee to review the art grants that are submitted. Chairman Immelt and Commissioner Stilfield also volunteered. Commissioner Wyman said he will help if no one else can.

Vice Chair McDonald said that an application for a mini grant was received but the activity was deemed ineligible because the activity proposed was outside of Liberty's city limits. It was in unincorporated Liberty. The applicant (The Friends of Pharis Farm) wanted to hire an actor and hold an activity east of Liberty on Pharis Farm. Heather asked if they could do it inside Liberty if it is something that we are likely to fund it. After discussion it was determined that it likely would not drive tourism to Liberty, a requirement of the mini-grant which is funded by the Transient Guest Tax. Commissioner Garrette said they have not had an unveiling event for the new performing arts center at the high school. Commissioner Steinbeck asked about the viability of such an event with the Covid numbers increasing. Garrett said if people cycle through with masks then on things could be done.

Other Business

Art Partner Reports: No Report

Liberty Arts Foundation- No Report

Library- Vice Chair McDonald said they do not have a report.

William Jewell – Commissioner Wyman said Jewell theatre just recoded their Masquerade and they are editing it. No one from off campus can attend but there will be a live streaming or something that can be broadcast later. It is still very difficult to do these things with the pandemic. They are using Stockdale Gallery a dance studio. There will be a new dance studio that will be opening soon.

Corbin Theatre – No Report

Norterre- Commissioner Steinbeck said they hope to open their gallery soon.

Liberty Public Schools- Commissioner Brown said there is a lot of pandemic fatigue at the schools.

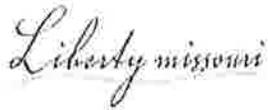
New Business-

Shane asked if the Gallery Exhibits are coming along Thill said she is getting more of a response from artists expressing an interest in showing their work in our galleries.

Old Business-

Commissioner Steinbeck said she reached out to those that expressed interest in the Heart Project but she didn't receive a reply from them. She said she can't do it herself. Commissioner Wyman said it's okay to wait to do this project. Councilman Duncan said he would recommend that she reached out and follow up and give them a final opportunity.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Steinbeck to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Young. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.



Jeanine Thill <jthill@libertymo.gov>

Online Form Submittal: 2021 Mini-Grant Program

2 messages

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
 To: jthill@libertymo.gov, crodgers@libertymo.gov

Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 8:15 AM

2021 Mini-Grant Program

2021 Mini Art Grant - Application

Art Grant Mission: Through a competitive grant evaluation process, support will be awarded to arts events and projects designed to increase tourism, and encourage participation in the arts by residents and visitors to our city.

Funding: The amount of the grants awarded could range from \$500 - \$1000, depending on the scope of the project, the number of grant proposals received and the funding available. Reimbursement will be provided for approved applicants. There is no cash match required. Applications must be submitted a minimum of 60 days before the proposed project or event takes place. Applications are accepted year round. Applications received before the first Thursday of each month will be reviewed during the following week's Liberty Arts Commission meeting. Award decisions will be communicated within two weeks of each review session. Eligibility requirements are available at www.libertymissouri.gov/artgrants

Applicant's Name	Cory Unrein
Organization's Name (If Applicable)	Liberty Symphony Orchestra
Email Address	cory@libertysymphony.org
Phone Number	8168660576
Address	PO Box 1261 Liberty MO 64069
Project Name	50th Anniversary Season Finale Concert
Total Grant Funds Requested	1000
Total Project Budget	4500
Expected Project Start Date	04/17/2021
Expected Project Completion Date	04/17/2021
Describe the proposed project and how this project will drive tourism in Liberty.	Liberty Symphony Orchestra will present its 50th Anniversary Season Finale concert on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the Liberty Performing Arts Theatre, featuring the winners of the Collegiate Artist Competition. The concert will feature a reduced strings orchestra due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Jeanine Thill <jthill@libertymo.gov>

Online Form Submittal: 2021 Annual Art Grant

7 messages

noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
To: jthill@libertymo.gov, crodgers@libertymo.gov

Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 12:31 AM

2021 Annual Art Grant

Applicant Information

Organization Name (if applicable)	Clay County African American Legacy, Inc (CCAAL)
Address	502 N Water Street
Contact Name	Dr. Cecelia Robinson
Title	CCAAL Historian
Email	robinsonc@william.jewell.edu
Phone	816.591.6199
Project Name	Sankofa Bird Statue within the Liberty African American Legacy Memorial
Has this project been held before?	No
If yes, please list the years and locations	<i>Field not completed.</i>
List any additional co-sponsors of the project:	CCAAL and Freedom's Frontier are primary now. We are seeking co-sponsorship from the City of Liberty and Clay County. In addition we have a growing list of partners: groups that are encouraging a successful memorial project.
List any other organizations, government entities and/or grants that have offered financial support of the project:	Missouri Humanities Council and Freedom's Frontier have provided grants in conjunction with Missouri's bicentennial. We have a plan to present and solicit encouragement and financial support from civic clubs, churches, school groups in the months ahead,
Do you intend to request support from businesses in the form of sponsorships, donations, materials or other means that will assist you in executing the project?	Yes
Is this a ticketed event?	No

If yes, please list price of ticket, admission, entry fee: *Field not completed.*

Total Liberty Arts Commission grant funds requested (not to exceed \$5,000): \$5000

(Section Break)

Related Documents

Budget	Budget for Sankofa Sculpture.pdf
Work Sample 1	BLM Mural by Lucky.jpg
Work Sample 2	Garrison School mural.jpg
Work Sample 3	Sankofa mock up.jpg
Work Sample 4	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Non-profit 501(c)3 Documents (If Applicable)	IRS for CCAAL Nov 04 2004.pdf

(Section Break)

Narrative Questions

Please describe the proposed project, including activities, location and the number of people to be served.

This grant will help provide and install a Sankofa Bird sculpture as the defining feature within the Liberty African American Legacy memorial in Fairview Cemetery. The Bird will be powder-coat painted steel 4' tall and 5' in width. The colors will be black, green and red -- widely used in African art. It will be placed on a 4' pedestal.

"Sankofa" is a metaphorical symbol used by the Akan people of Ghana, where many of those who were captured and sold into slavery bound for the "New World" originated. It is generally depicted as a bird facing forward with its head turned backward. The egg in its mouth represents the 'gems' or knowledge of the past upon which wisdom is based; it also signifies the generation to come that would benefit from that wisdom or knowledge.

Sankofa expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress. It is this wisdom in learning the past which ensures a strong future.

We chose this symbol to represent the 700+ African American pioneers buried in this hallowed ground who surround us with an indomitable spirit.

The Memorial will be in the center of the formerly segregated burial area of Fairview Cemetery or another suitable location. It is to be a place of reflection for descendants of the 700+ persons buried in this area of Fairview; a place of learning for school students; and a stimulus for conversations among adults about Liberty and our history.

Briefly describe the value of the project as a way to attract outside visitors to the City of Liberty. Include descriptions of the intended audience and estimated numbers. Why will this project be particularly attractive to tourists?

We are working to bring together a wide range of guests to the memorial dedication in August 2021 (when the sculpture will be unveiled) as CCAAL celebrates Missouri's bicentennial. We are hopeful the City and Clay County will include this Memorial project as one of their Missouri (2021) and Clay County (2022) bicentennial projects. We are already an official Missouri 2021 project sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri.

We are developing a curriculum piece with Liberty Public Schools that will invite classes (and other groups) to learn, visit the Garrison School/Cultural Center and culminate with a visit to Fairview and the Memorial. This curriculum will be available to all students and on our website.

In addition, we hope the Memorial Project and specifically the art component will bring descendants to Fairview Cemetery to honor and learn more about their ancestors and heritage.

There is an annual cemetery walking tour for Franklin Elementary 5th graders. The tour ends in this part of the cemetery. After its installation, it will end at the Memorial with an explanation of the Sankofa Bird statue.

The City and Historic Liberty, Inc. offer monthly walking tours in the downtown area. We plan to offer a new walking tour specifically focused on the formerly segregated areas of Fairview/New Hope (in a post-Covid era). Obviously, the Statue will be a feature of that walking tour. Another walking tour focuses on the African American impact in Liberty -- this tour includes Garrison Cultural Center, First Baptist Church, various homes, the Courthouse Water Fountain and murals on the third floor of the Courthouse.

Provide a brief timeline for the project (planning, implementation and evaluation).

The memorial project conversation started in April 2018. As ideas gelled, one of the primary goals became an art component as a unique and culturally sensitive attraction. Another goal is to strengthen the City's continuing effort for public art throughout Liberty.

The primary event for the Statue and Memorial will be its dedication in August 2021 (and likely something supplemental on Juneteenth, 2022).

Success will be made known with a stream of visits by descendants of those interred, visit the Garrison Cultural Center, those who utilize the African American walking tour (provided in a Liberty Tourism Board funded brochure), and students and others utilizing the curriculum product.

Describe the credentials and experience of the project leadership. Who are the artists and others to be involved in the project;

The Clay County African American Legacy Inc., a 501(c)3 community-based organization, was founded in 2000 during the Kansas City, Missouri, Sesquicentennial 150th "Celebration of the Heart." For its community project, the CCAAL Consortium chose to erect a legacy freedom monument that would include

including how and why they were chosen. (If you have not yet selected the artists, describe the kinds of artists you intend to involve and how you will select them.)

a drinking fountain to honor and celebrate African American pioneers and their contributions to Clay County. Subsequently, CCAAL has purchased the Garrison School and transformed it into a cultural center and event space; commissioned a mural on the 3rd floor of the administrative Courthouse, sponsor the annual MLK Celebration at William Jewell College, Juneteenth celebrations, and most recently dedicated a historical marker at Garrison school (co-sponsored by the City of Liberty and the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City).

The chosen artist for this project is Lucky Easterwood. Lucky is active in the Kansas City art scene and lives in Kansas City. He has previously completed the outdoor murals on the south side of the Garrison School/Cultural Center. Lucky has completed several mural projects in Kansas City. The group's goal was to find an African American artist for this project. We are fortunate to have secured not only Lucky's talent but also an artist from the Kansas City area.

How will you know if this project has been successful? State the goals you will have achieved by its conclusion.

The sculpture will be a showcase attraction as part of the the Memorial -- in addition to inscribed granite panels with names of those interred along with informative story panels telling the stories of African Americans in Liberty/Clay County for 200 years.

The sculpture will be a worthy addition to whatever resources the City uses to promote the expanding public art throughout Liberty.

It will offer an enduring Liberty/ Clay County contribution to Missouri's bicentennial celebrations.

As you work toward the project date, what benchmarks will you use to assure progress toward your goals? Afterward, what tools will you use to evaluate whether or not the goals were achieved?

CCAAL commissioned the artist to develop a concept for the Memorial. A mock-up of the Sankofa Bird sculpture has been completed and approved by the planning group. The sculpture itself will be completed and installed in time for the Memorial dedication in August, 2021.

Briefly describe how the project will be publicized and promoted to reach potential tourists, as well as the general public. All marketing materials must include the LAC logo and language stating the project was made possible in part by the LAC.

The project is gaining attention through our website (LibertyLegacyMemorial.org) and a Facebook event page and Instagram.

It has already attracted attention from local media (Channel 41, and working with Kansas City Star and other media).

We are counting on partners to promote the entire memorial area and its dedication through their own channels.

The curriculum piece will be an undated resource available for youth and adult groups.

A brochure outlining local African American sites and history

funded by the Liberty Tourism Board a couple of years ago alluded to this project.

Describe the extent of community support for this project, including collaboration/partnerships, financial and in-kind contributions, volunteers, etc.

The LAC logo will be included in all print or online presentations.

We already have 11 local partners committed to support and encourage this project. Partners so far are primarily school and church groups.

Our next focus is on various civic groups.

Design leadership for the larger Memorial and how best to include the Sankofa Bird component has been provided by Liberty resident Steve Rhoades, a principal with Vireo landscape architects.

One local business has agreed to provide deep discounts on steel products.

Liberty Public School personnel are helping with the curriculum development.

Our research has been successful because of the Clay County Archives and Church-Archer-Pasley funeral home.

We are approaching one local civic club to provide financial and volunteer leadership for the larger Memorial project.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Budget for Sankofa Sculpture

The Sankofa Bird Sculpture will cost \$25,000 plus its placement on the 4' pedestal which has an undetermined cost. Thus far we have provided \$1550 to our commissioned artist for the conceptual work and for a scale size mockup of the sculpture. The remainder will come as the Sculpture is completed in late July/ early August

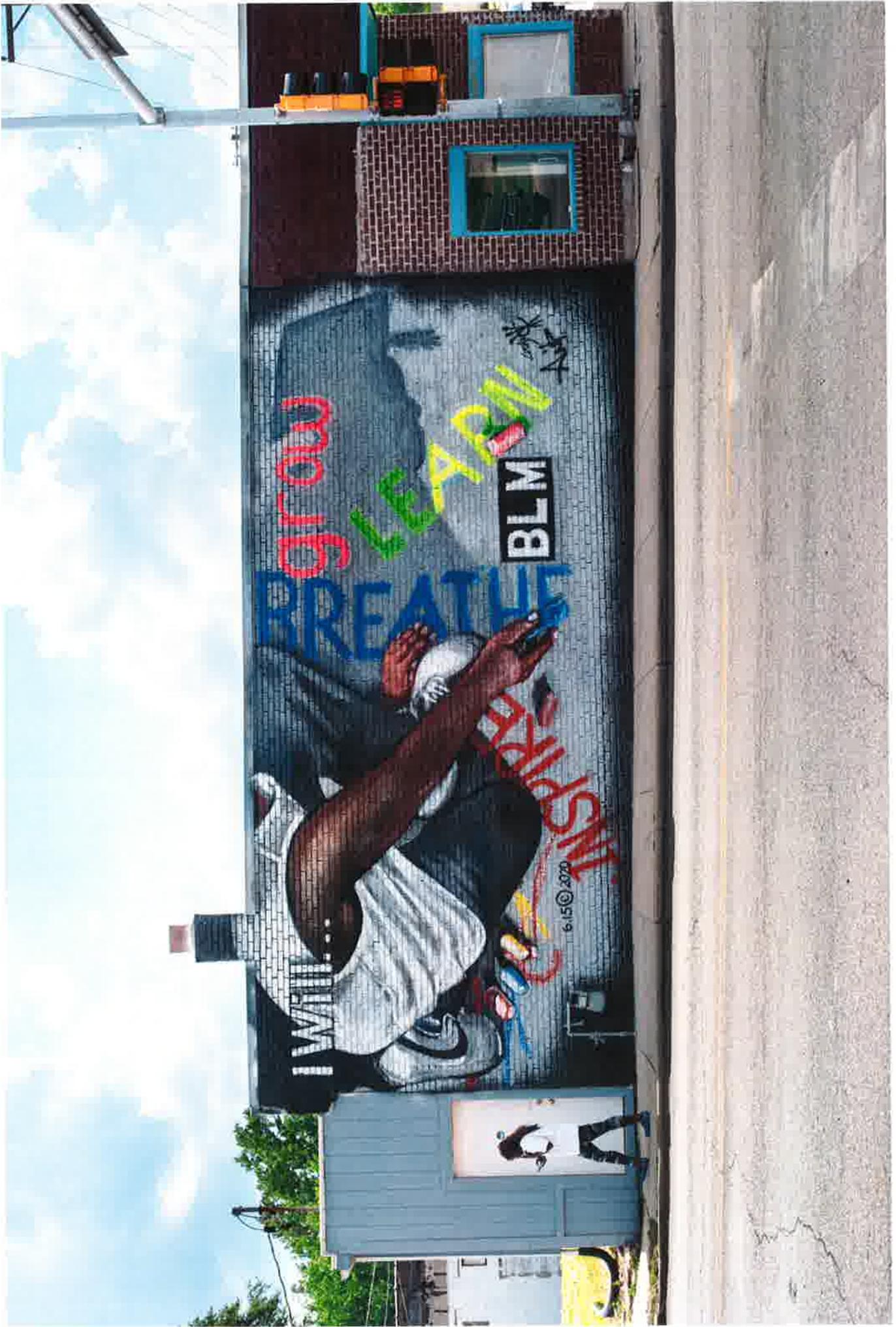
The larger Liberty African-American Memorial Project will be an additional \$110,000 budget. The main elements for the Fairview Cemetery project are bollards outlining the formerly segregated area, a walkway and center plaza, story panels with information, story stones with history and inspiration, benches, and granite panels with inscriptions of 700+ names of Liberty African Americans buried in this area of the Cemetery.



Sankofa Mockup



Harrison School Mural



BLM Mural by Lucky

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: NOV 04 2004

CLAY COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY
INC
C/O A J BYRD
431 E FRANKLIN
LIBERTY, MO 64068

Employer Identification Number:
56-2421397

DLN:
17053365038014

Contact Person: ID# 31175
DALE T SCHABER

Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:
DECEMBER 31

Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990 Required:
YES

Effective Date of Exemption:
DECEMBER 12, 2003

Contribution Deductibility:
YES

Advance Ruling Ending Date:
DECEMBER 31, 2008

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. During your advance ruling period, you will be treated as a public charity. Your advance ruling period begins with the effective date of your exemption and ends with advance ruling ending date shown in the heading of the letter.

Shortly before the end of your advance ruling period, we will send you Form 8734, Support Schedule for Advance Ruling Period. You will have 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period to return the completed form. We will then notify you, in writing, about your public charity status.

Please see enclosed Information for Exempt Organizations Under Section 501(c)(3) for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)



CONNECTING ARTS & AUDIENCES

THE CITY OF
LIBERTY
ARTS COMMISSION

Sculpture	Artist	Total Votes	Percent of Votes
Growing Wings	Hilde DeBruyne	64	23%
Tangerine Daydreams	Jaci Willis	58	21%
Out of The Woods	Leslie Tharp	50	18%
Oak Leaf Arch V	Jim Gallucci	40	14%
The Stellas	Joe Sackett	35	13%
The Rusted Spire	Christopher Knight	21	8%
Neithernoreitheror	Steven Maeck	9	3%
	Total Votes	277	

As of 3/3/2021



Title: Neither Nor
Artist: Steven Maeck
Hometown: Decorah, IA
Material: Welded Steel

\$13,750 Negotiable



Title: Prairie Ship
Artist: Greg Mueller
Hometown: Lutsen, MN
Material: Reclaimed Agricultural Steel

Purchased in 2020



Title: Oak Leaf Arch
Artist: Jim Gallucci
Hometown: Greensboro, NC
Material: Steel and Concrete

\$10,000



Title: Growing Wings
Artist: Hilde DeBruyne
Hometown: Des Moines, IA
Material: Steel

\$10,000



Title: Rusted Spire
Artist: Christopher Knight
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Materials: 18 Pound Closed Cell Sign Foam

\$6,500 in Steel



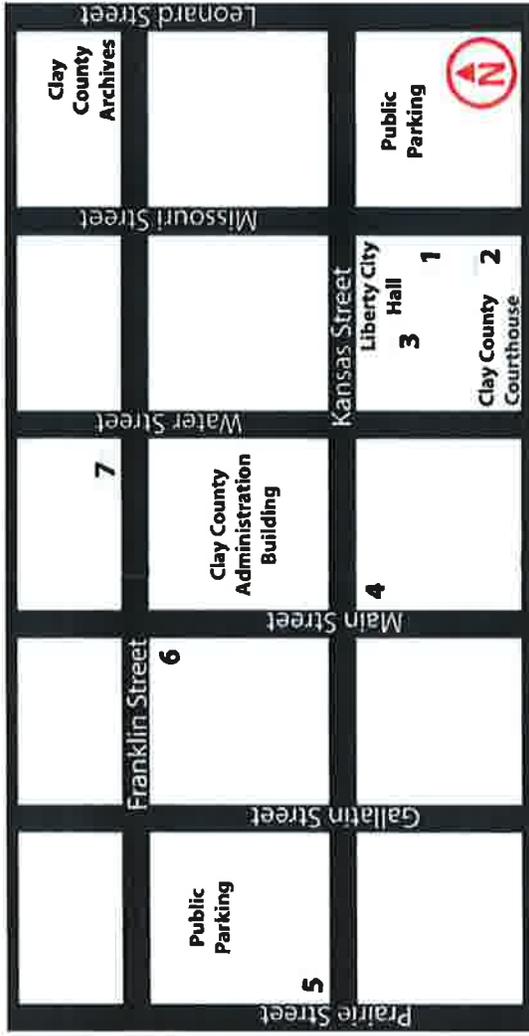
Title: The Stellas
Artist: Joe Sackett
Hometown: Albuquerque, NM
Material: Painted Steel

\$8,000



Title: Tangerine Daydream
Artist: Jaci Willis
Hometown: Peoria, IL
Material: Steel and Stained Glass

\$8,000





Out of the Woods by Leslie Tharpe \$6,500 Negotiable