

Brownfields Institute  
March 2, 2009  
Bridges of Hope Mabel Wiggins Family Investment Center

## **PUBLIC ART IN THE CORRIDOR**

### **AGENDA**

- 5:30 – 5:50 Dinner and Networking
- 5:50 – 5:55 Introduction/Purpose – Lauren Heberle
- 5:55 – 6:15 Announcements
  - 5:55 – 6:05 Drug Free Community Grant Application – Jack Trawick
  - 6:05 – 6:10 Update on Economic Development Department’s Master Plan – Kristi Ivey
  - 6:10 – 6:15 Update of Mayor’s Public Art Master Plan – Jesse Bishop
- 6:15 – 6:30 Discussion/Presentation of Environmental Questions – Lauren Heberle
- 6:30 – 7:00 Discussion of Potential Sites & Resources – Hallie Jones, Ashley Cecil, Lauren Heberle
- 7:00 – 7:30 Development of Conceptual Framework & Criteria for Public Art RFPs – Hallie Jones  
Ashley Cecil, Lauren Heberle
- 7:30 – 7:45 Next Steps – Develop Timeline – Lauren Heberle & Hallie Jones

### **INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE OF MEETING**

- to address stakeholder and artist concerns with regards to creating art in contaminated areas
- to explore the contribution of public art to the revitalization of the PHC
- generate ideas about public art projects, including potential sites and project ideas; financial, material and creative resources; and specific criteria for the Request for Proposals (RFP) process

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Drug Free Community Grant Application by Center for Neighborhood – *Jack Trawick*
2. Update on Metro Economic Development Department’s Master Plan – *Kristi Ivey*
  - job creation is a priority
  - will include ‘industrial art’ and will try to incorporate materials from local businesses
3. Update on Mayor’s Public Art Master Plan – *Jesse Bishop*
  - Mayor’s Committee on Public Art has hired a consultancy, Creative Time, to develop a strategic public art plan; similar to MP, but for art
  - have been to Louisville 2x – toured the city, interviewed key citizens and member so government, assessed the artistic climate of the area
  - CT developing standards for public art and will be back in March; emphasis on obtaining and incorporating citizen input
  - CT has shown an interest in PHC

### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS/CONCERNS – Lauren Heberle**

- most questions have been broad
- most future questions will be site-specific as details of the particular project emerge

- important that stakeholders know/find out the former use of a property – should begin by contacting City officials and BFI environmental experts (AMEC reps)
- the process of answering site-specific questions will be complicated – need to look into:
  - physical aspects of the buildings
  - surrounding environment
  - potential materials, i.e. soil, industrial scraps
- important for stakeholders to ask facilitators questions as they come up and to try to develop a relationship with City and other information resources
  - property owners of potential sites may be reluctant to have property tested as it will force them to assume financial liability and obligate them to clean up property
  - this can be an opportunity to educate property owners and the public about the local and federal cleanup subsidies – it doesn't have to be too expensive
  - can help residents, business owners and potential developers get over the stigma, fear of contamination, liability, etc.
- due to City's good marketing strategy, the public is aware of and interested in the PHC – BFI stakeholders can take advantage of this awareness and build on it

#### **FRIENDLY ADVICE FROM MARY Lou NORTHERN, SENIOR AID TO THE MAYOR**

- advised the stakeholders, and artists in particular, to learn from CT's experience and expertise and to heed their recommendations with regards to environmental concerns and the strategic public art plan
- used the Metro Parks Loop Trail development as an example of planning that 'elevated' the conventional way of thinking and suggested lessons to learn from her experience:
  - art should be intrinsic to an area
  - should look for both temporary and permanent art opportunities; shouldn't limit possibilities with rigid expectations
  - art should enhance existing culture and history; should help define an area and emphasize its assets; should be applied to existing infrastructure; should provide an interpretation of an area's history
  - art isn't about the artist or a single piece of art, it should enhance the community's sense of self and history

#### **GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SITES, RESOURCES, CONCEPTS & CRITERIA**

- Are we looking for specific or general project ideas?
- How is lead remediated?
- depends on proposed use – may need concrete cap, may only need additional topsoil, could build above ground gardens
- relatively safe, not as dangerous as people often think
- Will collection of potential sites be put on the web?
- Will there be a rolling protocol to submit ideas?
- Is there an overall strategy for the coordination of aesthetic and function?
- How can funding opportunities be accessed, i.e. grant money, federal stimulus package funds, etc.?

Below ---- \* Stakeholders were asked to indicate which resources, concepts and criteria they felt were most important

- - represents one stakeholder dot vote

## **LARGE PAPER/GROUP NOTES**

### **POTENTIAL SITES**

- Viaduct at 18<sup>th</sup> and Standard
- Under bridges (art tours)
- Railroad tracks
- Bruce Cohen's Land
  - 8<sup>th</sup> and Oldham – 3 acres of grass
  - 1200 block of 7<sup>th</sup> – grass lot
  - Oak St. btw 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – grass behind chain link fence
- TARC stops (at or near) – could be seen from a distance, trash cans
- Corridors/entrances
- Streams
- Structural beautification of buildings
- Whole area!
- Parkway Place
- Sud Chemie
- Vacant storefronts
- 18<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> – benches for walkers
- Great Northern - 15<sup>th</sup> and Breckinridge
- Community Center – 13<sup>th</sup> and Breckinridge
- American Standard (new U of L dormitory site)
- 15<sup>th</sup> and Wilson – Bruce Blue

### **RESOURCES**

- Noe Middle School ●●
- Brightside ●●
- Louisville Visual Arts Association (LVAA) ●
- Bruce Blue – Freedom Metals (materials) ●
- Google Earth/Maps ●
- Federal Grants – EPA
- Red Cross
- Bruce Cohen's land (298-0652)
- VG Reed
- TARC
- Porter Paint
- City of Louisville
- Sud Chemie – Richard Power
- Using existing materials
- State \$ from federal stimulus package
- School \$ from federal stimulus package
- Brown Foreman
- CSX
- Norfolk Southern

- Dismas Charities
- California Collaborative
- Wired Network
- HUD & Housing Authority
- Speed Museum
- EPA Guidelines
- Wheatley Elementary (Deborah Stratford)
- McFerran Elementary
- Thornton's
- PHC Residents
- Louisville Stoneware
- JCPS
- Metro Vacant Property Department
- Breaking New Grounds
- Studio space in empty buildings

### CONCEPTS

- Benches and stools for walkers ●●●●●●
- Bus shelters ●●●●●
- Environmental or green standards ●●●●●
- Art as cleaning agent – Mel Chin planted lead-eating plants ●●●●●
- Color and texture to enhance existing structures and space ●●●●●
- Historical narratives ●●●●●
- Using nature as art ●●●●
- Art comes out of the process of cleaning the site ●●●
- Restoration of buildings ●●
- Disaster/Healing/How to change/Murals ●●
- Restoration of local streams ●
- Contemplation
- Connecting physical infrastructures
- Visual mantra – ‘the mind is a shelter for the diamond’
- Lead?
- Monuments and statues

### CRITERIA

- Education connecting environment and art ●●●●●●●●●●●●
- Overall coordination of aesthetics and function ●●●●●●●●●●
- Community and resident participation in idea creation ●●●●●●●●●●
- Incorporate public art in new development ●●●●●●●
- Ensure professionalism – work samples, portfolio, etc. ●●●●●●●
- Ideas coming directly from residents’ wants and needs ●●●●●●●
- ‘Green’ perspective – no waste/no toxics ●●●●
- Have town meetings AFTER artists have been selected by RFP ●●
- Collaborative model/process ●
- Guidelines for ownership/maintenance ●
- Town meeting with residents ●
- Community and resident inclusion in the site selection ●

- Minimum requirements for art, by type •
- Land development code and other site regulations/stipulations
- Environmental constraints by site

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RAISED DURING DISCUSSIONS**

- need to clarify TARC's criteria for funding
- concern that the residents' voice will be lost in the process – need to acknowledge that residents are the greatest resource
- can we access money from the state and school stimulus packages
- concern that the proliferation separate initiatives could be detrimental to the ultimate success of this effort; need to align the strategic vision and the group's mission