

ANNUAL REPORT, ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMISSION, 2014

Commission members volunteered their time and talent to accomplish a number of activities related to the goals defined in the commissions' 2013 strategic plan

After successfully reinstalling the Boynton paintings of Annapolis to the City Council Chambers, at the request of the City Council, the Commission found homes for the other art works that had been removed from City Hall. The Chase LLOYD House accepted on loan, the three paintings of famous Maryland women: Anne Catherine Green, editor of the "Maryland Gazette," Harriet Tubman of Underground Railroad fame, and Anne St. Clair Wright, preservationist and leader of Historic Annapolis. Commission member Leonard Koscianski was instrumental in the transport and hanging of the paintings. A reception and unveiling in the historic house was sponsored by the Commission in March. Historic Annapolis accepted the Marion Warren photo reproductions of four paintings of Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence, all Annapolitans.

In November, Mayor Pantiledes agreed to continue local artists' exhibits in City Hall. Several meetings have been held with city staff regarding a plan to outfit the building for the hanging of art works and a coordinator retained to commission exhibits beginning in spring 2015.

Consonant with the City Dock Plan, which recommends utilizing the City Dock stage for the performing arts, the Commission launched the first performing art series with its "Thursday Evenings with the Stars" in July and August. In compliance with the City regulations, Commission member Cynthia Towle-Krewson represented the AIPPC at each performance, which are free and open to the public. Flyers announcing the series were distributed in coffee shops around town. A concert performed by students of local music teachers attracted the largest crowd numbering 250. Other performers included the Army Jazz band and local groups as Jazz Mosaic and Colonial Players; also appearing on the dock stage was vocalist Tony Spencer. Residents of Ginger Cove were among those who enjoyed the performances. The Commission has agreed to continue the series with professional local artists and to secure funds to pay professional artists. Efforts to secure a coordinator, solicit performers, and obtain sponsors are underway.

In the spring, the Commission met with representatives of the United States Naval Academy to discuss a partnership to develop a plan to treat the wall that encloses the Academy along King George Street as a site for art. On receiving support from the Superintendent, the Commission arranged a meeting with the USNA Alumni Association, which agreed to reach out to its membership requesting support. The new Superintendent is currently reviewing the proposal.

Considerable time was spent reviewing a proposal from the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis that called for a mosaic mural to be created for the Harbor House community pool and a mural for the Robinwood community. As the official responsible for the projected program is no longer with HACA, the proposal has been put on hold. Also on hold is the Carr's Beach photomural designed for the wall of the Giant Foods store in Ward 7 owing to the lack of agreement concerning liability issues between the City and the Giant Foods Corporation.

Other Commission activities included: (1) representation in the planning process for a redesign of the Whitmore Park being pursued by Friends of the Park with the assistance of a University of Maryland urban-planner intern; (2) working in cooperation with the Office of Public Works to place a sculpture gifted to the Commission by Annapolis resident Clarence Goldberg; (3) planning an art sale, "Art from the Attic", to raise funds to help support the Commission's work for which an account with the Annapolis Community Foundation has been secured; (4) soliciting artwork for 3 small public properties; and (5) Commission member Terry Peterson's working with city staff to upgrade the AIPPC web site. In June Commission members participated in a goal setting and financial strategy retreat.

The Commission's biggest challenge in 2014 was to fulfill its promise to create a record of the public art in Annapolis. St. Johns student Charles Zug was retained to inventory the City's publicly accessible artwork. The City Council acknowledged his work with a resolution of appreciation. Members of the Commission Moyer, Palumbo and Peterson cooperated in researching, photographing, and writing text for the catalog that became the City's first publication "Art in the City of Annapolis, an art gallery without Walls", published and launched on December 7, 2014 at a reception at St John's College. Concurrently, "What's Up Magazine" published a cover story detailing the City's major art offerings in its December issue. Additionally "Outlook by the Bay Magazine" included an article on the United States Naval Academy Chapel Art works authored by AIPPC Chair Ellen Moyer. These publications help promote the city as an art destination, attracting tourists and boosting the local economy. In furtherance of this initiative, the Commission has launched a new program for mapping an art-walking trail (similar to one initiated in Charleston, SC) that is scheduled to appear on the city's website in February 2015.

As the year ends, the City Art publication is already being reprinted to meet the demand from hospitality outreach centers as the USNA, city hotels, Bed and Breakfasts, and Historic Annapolis. The AIPPC recognizes Art as a City economic asset. It is our mission to enhance the public art environment of the City and to encourage national recognition of Annapolis as one of the nation's top cities for the Arts. Funding and a coordinated approach as defined in the City Law, (6:24 establishing AIPPC) are essential to this achievement.

Approved by the Art in Public Places Commission, December 16, 2014

Ellen Moyer, Chair