

Northern Illinois University
Stevens Building
DeKalb, Illinois
CDB Project Number 822-010-120
Friday, March 24, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Fine Arts Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Fine Arts Review Committee Members

Robert Sill, Illinois State Museum
Brian Kerner, Dewberry Architects
Lisa Dent, Illinois Art Council
Jeremy Floyd, Northern Illinois University

Other Attendees

Linda Norbut Suits, Capital Development Board
Ben Ritter, Northern Illinois University
Alexander Gelway, Northern Illinois University
Kendall Thu, Northern Illinois University

- Ms. Suits called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She started the meeting with introductions and by passing around a sign-in sheet. She then explained the legislative requirements for the selection of the winner of the competition.
- Ms. Suits then passed out a score sheet for the Fine Arts Review Committee (FARC) member's use. The score sheets are for the convenience of the FARC and are not collected at the end of the process. The selection of the winning design should be based upon aesthetic quality, suitability and relevance, skill, and past performance. She also read the Artistic Objectives created by Northern Illinois University for the project. "The artwork for this project will be both the anchor and catalyst for a potential sculpture garden near the newly renovated Stevens Building. The building is home to two unique and seemingly distinct academic areas, the Department of Anthropology and the School of Theatre and Dance. While they seem dissimilar on the face, both programs explore humanity in all of its diversity. The Department of Anthropology studies the cultural and biological evolution of the human condition across the expanse of time as well as in all of its contemporary global diversity. Theatre and Dance provides a supportive and collaborative environment to examine the diversity of humanity through play. The Committee is seeking an exterior installation, with preference given to a multi-piece installation. They are seeking a whimsical work that speaks to both academic areas, their differences and their similarities. The artist will work closely with the project architect on placement of the artwork(s) so that the piece not only interacts visually with the building but that the campus community is invited to interact with it physically. The piece must be durable, safe, and be able to withstand long-term exposure to the extremes of the Illinois climate."
- Ms. Suits explained that at the end of the process the FARC members must sign a Final Selection memo documenting the selection and ranking of the artists. The selection will not be official until the Chair of the Illinois Arts Council concurs with the selection. Ms. Suits will forward the selection and concurrence memo to the Arts Council as soon as possible. Until the selection is official, Ms. Suits asked that the FARC members keep the information confidential.
- The first presenter, Ms. Victoria Fuller, set up her maquette and the FARC members introduced themselves to her. She began her presentation.
- "Every culture creates simplistic human figurative icons. My own androgynous, abstract design of a human figure called Curlyman (or Curlywoman), isn't sourced from any one culture, but is inspired by many cultures. The bent and woven overlapping loop lines forming the head, arms and legs are inspired by lines, drawings and diagrams of dance movement, and from abstracted human forms from different cultures. I have combined three Curly people together, to form a triad. My submission - an abstract design of three bent metal figures, leaning back in a dance, forming a

triangle—is inspired by vine baskets, African and South American ceremonial and dance carvings, and the Greco Roman Three Graces.”

- The Three Graces sculpture will be 12' high, with three identical abstract figures that form a triangle, made from bent and overlapping looped 4" diameter steel tubes, welded together and painted with a blue catalyzed paint, and anchored to a triangular shaped concrete pad.
- After her presentation the FARC members asked questions about the fabrication of the piece and the artist's proposed timeline. After Ms. Fuller left the room the committee discussed the proposal.
- The committee adjourned at 11:30 to visit the project site.
- After a site visit and lunch the committee reconvened at 12:45.
- The second presenter, Mr. Darrin Hollowell, set up his maquette and the FARC members introduced themselves to him. He began his presentation.
- “My artwork is concerned with elemental themes and truths in the human experience and with the expression of recurring patterns through time. The School of Theater & Dance and the Department of Anthropology, housed in the new Stevens Building, are both engaged in the study of these same human patterns, with anthropology focusing on the study of human patterns throughout history and theater & dance interpreting these same patterns in a fleeting and temporal medium. The transformation of these human patterns into physical form is the basis of the proposal.”
- The installation titled *Connect, Transform, Repeat* will consist of two separate abstract elements; Cor-ten steel pathway-like elements which at points resemble waves or rolling land formations, and aluminum and steel column-like shapes that resemble the human figure in gestures suggesting subtle movement. Each element will have multiple unique pieces throughout the installation area. All the installation elements will have an orientation towards an implied vanishing point near the south lobby entrance of the Stevens Building.
- Mr. Hollowell described the materials, fabrication process, and installation in detail. The committee asked questions about the fabrication and installation process. After Mr. Hollowell left the room the committee discussed the proposal in detail.
- The final presenter, Mr. Boyan Marinov, set up his maquette and the FARC members introduced themselves to him. He began his presentation.
- *The Tribesman, The Hero, & The Light* is a series that is like a performance. It is a study in the changing form and our own evolution. It shows three human figures fabricated from steel each balancing on a ten foot steel ring. Each ring will be constructed so that it will move.
- The first figure represents humanity through our tribes. It illustrates our endless stories through the traces we leave behind. It demands that we treasure our differences as much as our similarities. That we see ourselves in ourselves — in our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers. From those who made cave art tens of thousands of years ago to those who will leave footprints on the next new world. The second figure represents our life today. We embody other lives, other stories, real and unreal, in places known and unknown. Conveying stories not just in verse but in the entire universe we create. The final figure represents the breaking of boundaries. We communicate viscerally and universally through rhythm and emotion as we have since the whole human story began.
- Mr. Marinov described the materials, fabrication process, and installation in detail. The committee asked questions about the fabrication and installation process. After Mr. Marinov left the room the committee discussed the proposal in detail.

- After discussing Mr. Marinov's artwork the committee had an in depth discussion that compared and contrasted each piece.
- After the discussion the committee voted and selected Mr. Marinov as the winner of the competition.
- The selection memo was completed and then signed by each member.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.