

BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS  
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

**Date: June 15,2016**

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**GENERAL BUSINESS, NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**Approval of Minutes:**

Commission voted to approve the May 2016 minutes.

**Welcoming New Commission Members**

Ryan Patterson introduced Brian Oster and Kuo Pao Lian, as the most recent appointments to the Public Art Commission. Both work are architecture and design professionals. The two new appointees were sworn in by Mayor Rawlings Blake on June 13.

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**PROJECT REPORTS**

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**Project:** Waverly Branch – Enoch Pratt Free Library

**Artist:** Ebon Heath

**Stage:** Concept Approvals

**Project Manager:** Ryan Patterson

Ebon Heath presented (by phone) his concepts for the artwork he is developing for the Waverly Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. His presentation (Attachment I) detailed

1. How the artist would work with the local community to develop literary content for the artwork
2. How concepts of past, present, and future would be visually organized within the artwork.
3. Draft representations of what the final artwork may look like in shape and scale
4. Three options of where the artwork may be located within the library.

The PAC conversed with Mr. Heath, asking questions related to his presentation:

Kuo Pao Lian: How are the distances from the artwork to the viewer? Do you think it's important for a viewer to be able to walk right up to the artwork, rather than be separated by the circulation desk?

Ebon Heath: The artwork is not intended to be read like a book, but it is nice when the viewer can spend time with it and catch small glimpses and phrases within it. The full text used in the artwork can be included elsewhere (i.e. on a plaque) so it is not necessary to read it within the artwork.

Brian Oster: We want to make sure the location is accessible to all visitors to the library, are the locations you described in the adult section of the library limiting to the youth patrons?

Ebon Heath: The circulation desk is in between the youth and adult sections of the library. We could look at locations on the youth side of the library but here we were only exploring the adult side.

Ryan Patterson: As I understand youth would not be restricted from entering the adult side of the library, but the library is definitely split in half this way. we could ask about locations on the youth side but it seems like more investment has been made in visually decorating this side of the building.

Jeremy Rountree: Of the options you presented, which spaces do you like best?

Ebon Heath: I am concerned about what happens with the ceiling in terms of looking up into the lights, in order to see the artwork. We could go over and under the level of the lighting but I do worry about the existing lighting distracting from being able to view the art. The Circulation desk may have it's own "problems" in terms of impact or the time the viewer gets to spend with the piece, but this area may work as a better "compartment" to contain the work.

Jeremy Rountree: Maybe there is a way to combine the ideas, by finding a way to include a diffuser behind the artwork at the ceiling level

Brian Oster: Behind the circulation desk does seem pretty obvious for this reason.

Frank Dittenhaffer: I agree. We keep describing the circulation desk as an obvious choice but that does not take anything away from this option. It truly seems like it would have maximum impact here.

Elford Jackson: What happened to the color? In the beginning of your presentation you divide up the artwork concept into three categories defined by color, but in the later slides it is just black and white. Where did the color go?

Ebon Heath: The intent is to make the final artwork monochromatic. This will give it more depth and allow more volume as light reacts off of it. The colors are used in the beginning to show where the content comes from, or refers to. But the final artwork will likely be a brushed aluminum or silver/grey.

Elissa Blount Moorehead: Your work often integrates light. Do you think you'll need to employ custom lighting here and will that affect location?

## **Attending**

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### **PAC Commissioners:**

Elford Jackson  
Sandra Abbott  
Jeremy Rountree  
Mary Demory  
Elissa Blount Moorhead

**BOPA Staff:** Ryan Patterson,