



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: MICHAEL OGILVIE

SUBJECT: See below

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Council District: 3

SUBJECT: Review and Action on artist Robin Gibson Concept & Design Proposal for mural project at 4th and San Fernando Parking Garage.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and take action on artist Robin Gibson's Concept & Design Proposal for the mural project at 4th and San Fernando Parking Garage.

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION: April 21, 2023

ARTWORK BUDGET: \$30,000

LOCATION: 4th street entrance of the 4th and San Fernando Parking Garage, San José, CA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is a gateway mural that is to be painted at the 4th street entrance of the 4th and San Fernando Parking Garage in Downtown San José. The mural is intended to enhance the concrete structure to greet downtown visitors, City Hall employees, MLK library patrons, SJSU students, Rotary Club members and any other users of the garage. 4th and San Fernando Parking Garage is centrally located in Downtown San José with 4th street being a main corridor leading to Northbound 280 Freeway.

Artist Robin Gibson was the Public Art Core Team's recommendation for this project. Gibson was chosen for her traditional style of painting and her skills in portraiture and realism. The panel felt her large-scale botanicals in a fun and vibrant style would add a pop of color and brighten up the entrance of the parking garage entrance.

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PROPOSAL

Robin Gibson's vibrant and bold mural design features large-scale apricot blossoms and lion's tail flowers overlaid on images of cables and wires, representing Silicon Valley and the tech industry's presence as the underlying pulse. The apricot blossoms are a nod to San José's agricultural past, and lion's tail is a flower native to Africa that can be found along the Guadalupe River. Both of these plants are not native to San José, however, they have both flourished in this environment, much like the communities that can be found in San José.

Conceptually, the artist is thinking about the relationships that humans have with nature, and mural design puts the viewer among the plants, looking up toward the sky in a state of wonder. Inspired by community input at the visioning meeting, the artist expanded the mural design to extend to the exterior columns of the parking garage entrance. Formally, the artist will paint the mural using forced perspective, where the elements will appear skewed and abstract, but when viewed straight-on from the entrance, the elements come together to create a magical, joyful portal into downtown San José.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

A Public Art Core Team comprised of community members, artists, and arts professionals. The Team includes:

Sarah Billings	Street Life Manager, San José Downtown Association
Sarah Clish	Rotary Club Member
Steven Martinez	Artist and D-3 Arts Commissioner
Kathleen McDonald	Artist & Arts Professional, San José State University
Jai Tanju	Artist & Arts Professional, San Jose Museum of Art

Staff from the District 3 Council Office have been engaged in the project development since its inception. These include Kiara Cassandra, Chief of Staff, and Diego Martinez, Community Relations Coordinator.

Meetings held in conjunction with this project:

Date	What	Purpose	Location	Convener
04/21/23	Public Art Core Team meeting	Selection of an artist for the project.	Online via Zoom	SJPA
08/24/23	Key stakeholder meeting	“Meet the Artist” meeting visioning and ideas	On site at City Hall	SJPA
09/26/23	Key stakeholder meeting	Artist’s presentation to PACT of concept design proposal	Online via Zoom	SJPA
09/26/23	Key stakeholder meeting	Artist’s presentation to Department of Transportation of concept design proposal	Online via Zoom	SJPA

/s/

MICHAEL OGILVIE
Public Art Director