



# Memorandum

**TO:** PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

**FROM:** MICHAEL OGILVIE

**SUBJECT:** See below

**DATE:** September 27, 2023

**Council District: 7**

**SUBJECT:** Selection of artists Lacey Bryant and Elba Martinez for design and creation of two (2) murals: one at Fair Swim Center and one Tully Branch Library, District 7

**DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION:** August 31, 2023

**ARTWORK BUDGET:** \$30,000

**LOCATION:** Fair Swim Center – interior wall  
1350 Bacchus Dr., San José, CA 95122

Tully Branch Library – exterior wall  
880 Tully Rd, San José, CA 95111

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project is two murals to be painted at two locations in District 7 and is being funded through Budget Document #68 from fiscal year 2021-2022. Those locations are: the interior wall inside Fair Swim Center and the exterior wall at Tully Branch Library. The murals are intended to reflect the communities that these centers serve in a fun, imaginative style.

Artists considered for this project are in the Public Art Program's Mural Artists Roster which features Bay Area artists. The Public Art Program released a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) on September 19, 2022 on café, the online platform that is widely used for artist calls and staff actively promoted and recruited Bay Area artists. The café platform is free for artists to use, is user-friendly and supports the review process for panelists to review and rate artist submittals. Artists living and working in the Bay Area were eligible to submit entries. The call was open through October 24, 2022. At the time it closed, 150 eligible submittals were received. A four-member panel of artists and arts professionals was formed to review and rate all 107 applications. Staff reviewed the panel's ratings and 89 artists were selected for inclusion in the 2023-2028 Mural Artists Roster. These artists represent a wide range of artistic styles. Artists already in the 2017 Mural Artists Roster were allowed to submit updated work samples and resumes and be included in this updated 2023-2028 Mural Artists Roster as they have already been vetted in a comparable jury process for the current mural roster; 43 of the artists previously juried in the 2017 roster fulfilled the submittal requirement and are also included in the updated 2023-2028 Mural Artists Roster. From this roster fourteen artists were identified as possible candidates for this commission and two (2) were selected for the commission by the Public Art Core Team – artists Lacey Bryant and Elba Raquel Martinez. These artists were chosen for their skillful representations of a broad range of subjects.

Both artists are effective storytellers creating compositions that are imaginative, colorful, and layered with symbolism. Lacey Bryant (b. Louisville, KY, raised SF Bay Area) is a scenic artist that paints haunted houses and

stage sets for theme parks and theaters in addition to carving sculptures for the annual SF Chinese New Year and SF Pride Parade. Her paintings range from large atmospheric pieces to intimate portraits on cigar boxes, and her art practice includes dioramas, murals, and installations that draw from her background in theater. Her compositions are woven together by repeated symbolic motifs and what she calls “a tension between nostalgia and strangeness.” Bryant has completed several private mural commissions in San José: *When the Mountain Fell in Love with the Sea* (2022) in downtown San José; *Rise* (2021) at 1<sup>st</sup> Community Housing; *Believe* (2019) at Muwekma Ohlone Middle School Park; and *Cheering the Chinook* (2018) at Guadalupe River Park; among many others throughout the Bay Area.

Elba Raquel Martinez is a San José native with fourteen years of experience as an illustrator, and five years as a muralist. She is part of a live painting performance group called Together We Create (2023 City of San José Creative Ambassadors), and they have painted at 26 events (and counting) since 2018. Martinez describes her use of bright colors and rhythmic compositions as “fantastic realism.” Recent commissions include *Unexpected Heights* (2023) and *Healing* (2023) at Quetzal Garden Apartments; *Lake Cunningham* (2023) at Santa Clara Fairgrounds; and *Light Within* (2021) at Sacred Heart Community Center. Martinez earned a BFA in Illustration from Academy of Art University and an MA in Education from Santa Clara University. She works full time as an Art Teacher at Latino College Preparatory in addition to her freelance illustration and mural work.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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

Alie Victorine	District 7 Leadership Group
Brandon Lo	Art/Photography Teacher, Yerba Buena High School
Hang Huynh	Artist and D7 Resident
Samantha McCluskey	Fair Swim Center Manager
Paul Wilson	Tully Branch Library Manager

Staff from the District 7 Council Office have been engaged in the project development since its inception. These include Jonathan Fleming, Chief of Staff, and Misael Lugo, Communications Relations and Outreach.

Meetings held in conjunction with this project:

<u>Date</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Convener</u>
08/31/23	Public Art Core Team meeting	Selection of artists for the projects	Online via Zoom	SJPA

/s/  
 MICHAEL OGILVIE  
 Public Art Director