



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: MICHAEL OGILVIE

SUBJECT: See below

DATE: March 27, 2024

Council District: 7 and 10

SUBJECT:

Artist Lacey Bryant's Concept & Design Proposal for the mural project at Fair Swim Center, District 7;
Artist Nigel Sussman's Concept & Design Proposal for the mural project at Almaden Community Center, District 10.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action on staff recommendation to approve:

1. Artist Lacey Bryant's Concept & Design Proposal for the mural project at Fair Swim Center, (District 7) and
2. Artist Nigel Sussman's Concept & Design Proposal for the mural project at Almaden Community Center (District 10).

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION:

District 7: Lacey Bryant, August 31, 2023

District 10: Nigel Sussman, July 18, 2023

ARTWORK BUDGET:

District 7 mural projects: \$30,000 total

District 10 mural projects: \$42,500 total

LOCATION:

Fair Swim Center – exterior and interior wall, 1350 Bacchus Dr., San José, CA 95122

Almaden Community Center, interior stairwell, 6445 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The projects are two murals to be painted in two districts in San José. The location in District 7 is being funded through Budget Document #68 from fiscal year 2021-2022. The locations are the exterior and interior wall inside Fair Swim Center. The location in District 10 is being funded through Budget Document #79 from fiscal year 2021-2022. The location is the interior stairwell at Almaden Community Center. The murals are intended to reflect the communities that these centers serve in a fun, imaginative style, and to enhance visitor experience.

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

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online platform that is widely used for artist calls and staff actively promoted and recruited Bay Area artists. From this roster fourteen (14) artists were identified as possible candidates for the District 7 mural projects and artist Lacey Bryant was selected for the Fair Swim Center commission by the Public Art Core Team. Twenty (20) artists were identified as possible candidates for the District 10 mural projects, and artist Nigel Sussman was selected for the Almaden Community Center commission by the Public Art Core Team. Both artists were chosen for their ability to paint vibrant and complex compositions, and their experience with large-scale murals.

Fair Swim Center

Lacey Bryant 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 mural design concept for Fair Swim Center includes a composition that spans the exterior wall of the center and the interior lobby area. Both designs are connected by a water element, and are intended as bold, impactful statement pieces that draw visitors into the swim center. The exterior mural titled *Make a Splash* welcomes visitors with a young child doing a cannonball into the water where koi fish are swimming. This simple design serves two functions: a photo opportunity for visitors to the center, and ease of maintenance. By contrast, the interior mural titled *Island of Serenity*, takes up the entire reception wall. Inspired by community members’ input, the composition features a female figure floating in the water. She is having a peaceful moment, connecting to the water and the natural world, while there is activity and motion happening around her, as depicted through reflections in the water. Bryant’s conceptual ideas are centered around the swim center as a place for contemplation, relaxation, and mental health.

Almaden Community Center

Nigel Sussman creates complex murals in isometric perspective and illustrations. The detail is all done by hand and with a lighthearted sense of humor that keeps one looking and smiling. His mural design concept is inspired by the past, present, and future of Almaden community. Sussman cleverly addresses the challenging architectural space of the stairwell by creating a free-flowing composition that spirals outward from a visual center. The design depicts people engaged in multiple activities in addition also features San José landmarks, flora, and fauna found in the area. Sussman seamlessly combines people from past and present together, such as: the historic Almaden wine press, farmers working in the apricot orchards, musicians playing along with California poppies, native plants, the SAP Center, Bank of Italy building, quicksilver mining, and other activities mentioned during community input meetings.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

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

District 7 – Fair Swim Center

Alie Victorine	District 7 Leadership Group
Brandon Lo	Art/Photography Teacher, Yerba Buena High School
Hang Huynh	Artist and D7 Resident
Samantha McCluskey	(former) Fair Swim Center Manager
Paul Wilson	Tully Branch Library Manager
Ray Hidalgo	Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Supervisor

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.

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District 10 – Almaden Community Center

Joan Bowlby	(former) Branch Manager, Santa Teresa Branch Library
Tiffany Garcia	Acting Branch Manager, Santa Teresa Branch Library
Emilio Banuelos	Studio Arts Educator, San Jose Museum of Art
Eric DeBold	Library Clerk, Vineland Branch Library
Ruben Magos	D10 resident
Ruth Perez	Parks, Rec, Facilities Supervisor, Almaden Community Center
Suhita Shirodkar	Artist
Donna Smith	Almaden Senior Association; D10 resident

Staff from the District 10 Council Office have been engaged in the project development since its inception. These include Michele Dexter, Chief of Staff, and Tiffany Dang, (former) Communications Director.

Meetings held in conjunction with these projects:

Date	What	Purpose	Location	Convener
08/31/23	Public Art Core Team meeting	Selection of artists for the projects	Online via Zoom	SJPA
12/2/23	Key stakeholder meeting	"Meet the Artist" visioning meeting with Lacey Bryant	On site at Tully Branch Library	SJPA
12/6/23	Key stakeholder meeting	"Meet the Artist" visioning meeting with Nigel Sussman	On site at Almaden Community Center	SJPA
02/12/24	Public Art Core Team meeting	Input on District 7 mural design concepts	Online via Zoom	SJPA
03/11/24	Public Art Core Team meeting	Input on District 10 mural design concepts	Online via Zoom	SJPA
03/19/24	Key stakeholder meeting	Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) input on mural designs	Online via Zoom	SJPA

/s/

MICHAEL OGILVIE
 Public Art Director