



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: MICHAEL OGILVIE

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: February 1, 2018

Council District: City-wide

SUBJECT: Selection of artist Nori Sato for the Pellier Park artist/architect collaboration.

UPDATE

This is an update on the selection of artist Nori Sato for the Pellier Park artist/architect collaboration.

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION: December 19, 2018

ARTWORK BUDGET: \$50,000.

LOCATION: Pellier Park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Pellier Park was dedicated in May 1977 as part of San Jose 200th birthday year. The park, a pie shape piece of land, was planted with an orchard, as a tribute to Louis Pellier, founder of California's prune industry. In October 1850 he established a nursery called City Gardens. Here, aided by his brothers Pierre and Jean, who came over from France later, he introduced the French prune-la petite prune d'Agen-into California during the winter of 1856-57.

In 1998 the Redevelopment Agency worked with Parks and Recreation Commission, the Historic Landmarks Commission and community members on concepts for re-design of the existing park site within the boundaries of Pellier's nursery. The park had been neglected for many years, and required significant rehabilitation.

On August 16, 2005, the City Council adopted resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a Turnkey Parkland Agreement with City Heights LLC, in conjunction with Barry Swenson Builder, to complete the renovation of Pellier Park. With the construction of City Heights and the subsequent realignment of Julian Street, renovation of the park was put on hold. Now, with the completion of the Julian Street alignment, PRNS is advancing the renovation of the park. Selection of landscape architect consultants is in progress.

The opportunity for public art is primarily a design collaboration between landscape architects and a public artist. In response to the specialized nature of this collaborative opportunity, and its similarity to the recent St. James Park opportunity, staff believes it is in the best interest of the City to consider artists from the St. James Park selection pool for this commission.

St. James Park was an invitational RFQ released in October 2017. Nominations were solicited from arts professionals nationally and Public Art staff reached out directly to over 50 individual artists regarding the opportunity.

When the RFQ closed on November 28, 2017, a total of 16 eligible submissions had been received. A review panel consisting of artists, community members, and arts professionals met on December 8, 2017 to review the qualifications submitted. Based on past work the panel recommended 3 artists for interviews that were held via Skype on December 19, 2017. In panel deliberations, artist Norie Sato was highly regarded by the panel and thus staff recommends a direct selection of this artist based on the St. James Park selection process.

Sato is known for her site and context-driven artworks and experience working in a variety of different contexts, from planning parks, trails and light rail systems to the design fabrication, and installation of large sculptures. Her collaborations with design professionals resulting in highly integrated aesthetic installations. Other public art experience includes city halls, libraries, parks, art centers in cities such as Scottsdale, Cary (NC), and Seattle and on infrastructure such as roadways in Fort Worth. In her practice she strives to add meaning and human touch to the built environment and considers edges, transitions, and connections as important as the center.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Artist Selection Panel was a diverse group of stakeholders representing the local community, Friends of the Levitt Pavilion, local and regional artists and arts professionals as follows:

Richard Deutsch	Artist
Dianna Pompelly-Bates	Artist and Community Stakeholder
Rick Holden	Friends of Levitt Pavilion, Chair and Community Stakeholder
Trena Noval	Artist
Haley Waterson	CMG Landscape Architecture, Project Manager

Also in attendance in an advisory role was Willett Moss, Partner at CMG Landscape Architecture.

Public and community engagement meetings held in conjunction with this project will be scheduled once the artist has been contracted.



MICHAEL OGILVIE
Public Art Director