



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: MICHAEL OGILVIE

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 30, 2019

Council District: 3

SUBJECT: Schematic and Design Development Proposal by Vicki Scuri for illuminated public art on Bassett Avenue, beneath the Coleman Avenue Underpass.

RECOMMENDATION

Review and take action on the recommendation to approve the Schematic and Design Development Proposal by artist Vicki Scuri for an illuminated public art project along Bassett Avenue beneath the Coleman Avenue overpass, adjacent to the new Bassett Park.

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION: Wednesday, April 11, 2018

ARTWORK BUDGET: The total project budget is \$290,000; \$200,000 of which is coming from the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Grant (AHSC). The artist has a design-only contract for \$60,000; the \$230,000 balance of the project funding will be provided to the department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services to be used for construction and installation of this project in conjunction with PRNS construction of adjacent Bassett Park. Public art project must be delivered within the total \$290,000 project budget.

LOCATION: The project site is on Bassett Avenue beneath the Coleman Ave underpass in San José, California, adjacent to the new Bassett Park development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

In conjunction with an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant received by the Departments of Housing, Transportation, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, and Public Works, the San José Public Art Program was awarded \$200,000 of the grant funding for an illuminated public art project along the Bassett Avenue pedestrian corridor that is being developed with a substantial number of new high-density housing projects; the public art grant is partially matched by additional public art funding. The larger area development plan includes Bassett Park to which the artwork will be adjacent. The illuminated public art is intended to increase safety, visibility and to encourage various forms of active transportation (pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle) to and from this district at all hours. This creative placemaking project is intended to enliven the streetscape beneath the Coleman overpass while also strengthening neighborhood identity.

SJPA released an RFQ on January 11, 2018 seeking an experienced artist, or artist-led team, to develop an artwork that uses energy-efficient LED lighting to be installed along Bassett Avenue beneath the Coleman underpass. The RFQ closed on February 27, 2018 and 84 applications were received. In conjunction with the Office of Councilmember Peralez a six-member neighborhood review panel, which included an artist who lives in Council District 3, was convened on April 11, 2018. They unanimously recommended artist Vicki Scuri for this project.

Analysis

Artist Vicki Scuri actively collaborated with the Bassett Park design team which includes City staff from PRNS and SWA architectural group. The collaboration included shared research about key historic characteristics of the development site in order to inform design. They agreed on the range of design options, and co-presented at community meetings. The outcome of this work was Scuri's concept proposal for two large ground-based "lantern" elements, placed in the spaces between the three support columns of the Coleman Avenue overpass which are designed to glow softly from within; the design of the lanterns draws on imagery rooted in orange groves that used to be near the site; painted graphics on the adjacent columns compliment this imagery.

Scuri's Design Development proposal provides detailed information on the actual scale of these pieces, affirms the proposed materials, and provides an updated use of the color. The plan is for the artworks to be fabricated from 3/8" thick lasercut steel that will be painted with Tnemec (or similar) paint that can be touched up or repainted on site as needed; the patterned spaces in the metal will be filled with KodaXT, a durable, thick, translucent product that comes in a range of rich colors; the illumination will be provided by multiple LED light fixtures that are intended to be an "off the shelf" variety that can be easily replaced as needed. Other elements that will be addressed include anti-graffiti measures and related maintenance measures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The initial online review conducted by project's Public Art Core Team happened before the April 11, 2018 meeting. The panelists that reviewed the applicants online were:

Name	Affiliation	Online submittal review (pre- 4/11/2018)	Panel meeting (4/11/2018)
Judith Hurley	San José Downtown Residents Assn.	X	X
Kymerli Brady	San José Downtown Residents Assn.	X	
Gino De Bernardo	Business owner, SJ Downtown Association Boardmember, Little Italy Board Member, neighborhood resident	X	
Regina Williams	First Community Housing Representative	X	X
Corinne Okada Takara	Artist, San José Resident	X	X

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Tamiko Rast	Business Owner, Artist, (former) San José Arts Commissioner; Public Art Committee liaison to project		X
Robin Spear	Senior Landscape Architect, PRNS and Bassett Park Project Manager		X

In addition to the Artist Selection process, public meetings held in conjunction with this project include:

<u>Date</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Convener</u>
6/5/18	PAC Meeting	Update on artist selection	City Hall	SJPA
11/15/18	Community Meeting	Introductory project and design team for community engagement, input and visioning.	City Hall	PRNS/SJPA
1/29/19	Community Meeting	Design team concept presentations for community discussion and input	City Hall	PRNS/SJPA
1/30/19	Public Art Core Team Meeting	Review and provide input on artist public art concept.	City Hall	SJPA
2/5/19	PAC Meeting	Approval of artist's Concept Proposal	City Hall	SJPA
3/26/19	Community Meeting	Review final designs for community input	City Hall	PRNS/SJPA

/s/

MICHAEL OGILVIE
Public Art Director