



Memorandum

To: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

From: Michael Ogilvie

Subject: SEE BELOW

Date: February 26, 2020

Council District: Citywide

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE NORMAN Y. MINETA SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL FEATURE WALL COMMISSION BY ARTISTS HUMANS SINCE 1982

RECOMMENDATION

Review and take action on the design development proposal by artists Humans since 1982 “A million Times (San José)” for the Norman Y. Mineta Feature Wall.

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION: Thursday, May 23, 2019

DATE OF CONCEPT APPROVAL: June 2, 2019

ARTWORK BUDGET: \$290,000.

LOCATION: Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport Terminal B, pre-security Feature Wall.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

The Public Art Program for the San Jose Airport was conceived as a “unified program of Art + Technology” giving travelers an immediate sense that they had landed in Silicon Valley, a global center for innovation. The Airport Art + Technology Program took a landmark approach to public art implementing an “Art Activation Strategy” that operationalized the Master Plan’s vision. When Terminal B opened in 2010, three permanently-sited artworks were installed. Also included in the opening commissions were nine temporary technology-based artworks that worked with sites pre-established with data and power infrastructure (“Flexible Platforms”). Prompted by the 2010 financial downturn, commissioning additional artworks was put on hold until the passenger activity at the Airport reached a level of 12.2 million passengers per year. In 2018, the annual passenger count was reached and funds again made available to support public art at the airport. With the benefit of 8 years of operation, Gorbet Design, the designers of the Art Activation Strategy, worked with Public Art staff on a retrospective analysis of the program and initial Phase I commissions. The resulting Amended Art Activation Strategy called for the two prominent pre-security Showcases, to be commissioned as permanent artworks.

In March 2019 an invitational Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released seeking artists to submit Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) to develop a permanent installation for the Feature Wall. On May 23, 2019, Humans Since 1982 since 2008 were recommended for the commission. With a background in mechanical engineering and graphic design Humans since 1982 have a diverse practice that includes art, design, and technology. Their collaboration brings together conceptual exploration with design processes and meticulous problem solving to create works that are deceptively minimal, despite the complex methodology behind each piece.

Proposal

Humans Since 1982 proposal for the Feature Wall proposes a unique variation on their kinetic sculptural series “A Million Times.” The artists propose a composition of 160 clocks over 8 rows. The white hands set against a black stone-like surface is perhaps suggestive of airplanes traversing the tarmac. By programing the clock hands to spin individually in formation, the artwork reports time accurately while also playfully representing the concept of time passing. From one moment to the next the hands of 160 clocks move together to create a sweeping choreographed pattern unlike the last, joining in perfect synchronicity to tell the current time, creating an interplay between analogue and digital timekeeping.

Amplifying its presence within the busy airport, the artwork is framed within a recessed niche. A window of hinged glass panels will cover the entire recess protecting the artwork from the reach of the public. The frame of the glass will be hidden by a back painted frame around the glass of the same color of the wall. The inclusion of interior lighting, further enhances the overall impact of the artwork, and works to reduce reflection from the naturally bright terminal space. Anti-reflective glass will work to further reduce glare (although it will not eliminate it).

The choreography of the clock hands is enabled through state of the art software, hardware and sensors designed by Humans since 1982. Real-time is displayed once every minute, and the choreographies will run for approximately 20 minutes before looping. The length and variety of the choreographies developed for this piece ensure the installation remains compelling for visitors and airport staff to return to, time and time again. The artwork will be installed with an external UPS (backup battery) to ensure a reliable and consistent power supply to the artwork in the case of power blackout or fluctuations.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff extended invitations to qualified artists based on references from arts professionals across the country. The selection panel was composed of the following arts professionals and stakeholders:

Jaime Austin	Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Public Programming, California College of the Arts, Previously Curator and Director of Programs for ZERO1: The Art and Technology Network
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Lynne Baer	Independent Art Adviser and Public Art Consultant.
Jamie Barlow	Artist and Experience and Interactive Designer. Currently VP of Creative Technology with Sparks. Previously Project Manager for <i>eCloud</i> .
Vicki Day	Director, Marketing & Customer Service, Mineta San José International Airport
Lance Fung	Independent Curator
Matt Gorbet	Matt Gorbet is an interdisciplinary technologist, researcher and artist specializing in physically interactive technology experiences. Project lead on the Art + Technology Art Activation strategy and implementation.

Meetings for this commission include:

<u>Date</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Convener</u>
4/16/19	Artist Selection Panel Meeting: Short-list	Artist selection	City Hall	SJPA
5/23/19	Artist Selection Panel Meeting: Interviews	Artist selection	City Hall	SJPA
6/2/19	PAC Meeting	Artist Selection and Concept Review	City Hall	SJPA
6/27/19	Airport Senior Staff	Review	Airport	SJPA
1/27/20	Airport Form A	Airport Operational review	Airport	Airport

/s/

MICHAEL OGILVIE
Public Art Director