



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: URBAN CONFLUENCE
SILICON VALLEY

FROM: Michael Ogilvie
DATE: September 29, 2020

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 3

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the status report of the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley Project regarding Phase I of the Design Competition and schedule for Phase II.

OUTCOME

This action will acknowledge that the Public Art Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission were updated on the current status of the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley Project and provided a schedule for next phases of the project.

BACKGROUND

The intent of the Urban Confluence Silicon Valley Project is to provide a gift to San José that will build civic pride, drawing residents and visitors to an active destination that will enhance economic development in the downtown core.

On May 1, 2018, City Council endorsed the general concept¹ of Urban Confluence Silicon Valley (a project of the San José Light Tower Corporation) giving a gift to the City, and authorized PRNS and OED to coordinate with the Urban Confluence team in performing a site selection study. Sites evaluated include Arena Green at Guadalupe River Park, Discovery Meadow, Guadalupe Gardens Park, Plaza de Cesar Chavez, St James Park, Park Avenue, and the Diridon Station Area.

On March 12, 2019, the results of the Site Selection Study were accepted by City Council², and Arena Green at Guadalupe River Park was identified as the preferred site for the project. During this council action, a process and schedule for executing an international ideas competition was established and the Urban Confluence Team has continued to work on executing the plan as outlined in that council item.

¹ <https://sanjose.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3477925&GUID=064E445A-81CF-4617-BF22-21A6B7025D4F>

² <https://sanjose.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3871636&GUID=6E11BF0F-5D33-4866-80BE-0811F12A3BEC>

The Parks and Recreation Commission heard the results of the Site Selection Study in December 2018 and voted to acknowledge the report and recommended that City Council make the final site selection recommendation.

ANALYSIS

The Urban Confluence Silicon Valley project team posted a Competition Brief soliciting ideas for their international ideas competition on July 15, 2019. The team conducted numerous outreach events and meetings both in person and via electronic methods throughout the time of the Phase I competition. The Phase 1 submission deadline was July 1, 2020.

The competition received 963 qualified submissions from 72 countries on six continents. All entries were posted for public viewing on [Urban Confluence Silicon Valley website](#).

A Community Competition Panel (CCP) of 33 local leaders convened (via Zoom) on July 18 and 19, 2020. The group included members of the arts, business, and environmental community from Silicon Valley. The panel reviewed all 963 submissions before convening and recommended 47 submissions to the competition jury for consideration.

The Competition Jury consists of 14 experts from around the world including environmentalists and experts in the fields of urban design, art, architecture, landscape design, public space planning, and construction. The group convened (via Zoom) on August 3 and 4 2020 and held a follow up session to finalize their selections on August 8, 2020. The jury considered all 963 submissions paying particular attention to the 47 submissions recommended by the CCP. The Competition Jury selected three finalists that will be announced at a public broadcast on September 18, 2020 and each of these will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at its October 7, 2020 meeting.

Phase 2 of the competition is now underway. In this phase the three finalists are each awarded a stipend and enter into a Phase 2 agreement with the Urban Confluence team. Phase 2 will be a collaborative process with the designer, their consultants, the Urban Confluence team and city staff where each design is further developed and refined. Once this phase is complete, the Competition Jury will reconvene to evaluate the Phase 2 results and recommend a preferred design for construction.

Up to date information about the competition is available on the [Urban Confluence Silicon Valley website](#).

CONCLUSION

This memorandum outlines the progress of the Urban Confluence project. Following selection of the competition's winning design in early 2021, the organization will move into pre-construction simultaneous with a capital campaign to raise funds to cover all costs related to the project. Upon the completion of a successful capital campaign and final approvals by the City, they plan to begin construction based on the winning design.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The memorandum will be presented at the City of San Jose's Parks and Recreation Commission, which is a public meeting on October 7, 2020. A similar presentation will be made the Public Art Committee on October 6, 2020.

Ongoing outreach includes monthly meetings with the most critical stakeholders of Arena Green including PRNS, Little Italy, SPUR, the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, the Office of City Councilmember Raul Peralez, and the SAP Center/San Jose Sharks. Other outreach to community groups and the public continues as appropriate.

COORDINATION

The memorandum was developed by the City of San Jose's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department, and coordinated with the Office of Cultural Affairs.

/s/

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For questions, please contact Michael Ogilvie at (408) 793-4338.