



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: MICHAEL OGILVIE

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: January 25, 2022

Council District: 7 and Citywide

SUBJECT: Design development proposal by artist Johanna Poethig for public art for the exterior of the City's new joint Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department Training Center facility.

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION: June 23, 2021

ARTWORK BUDGET: \$300,000

LOCATION: 1591 Senter Road, across the street from Kelly Park.

RECOMMENDATION: Review and take action on the recommendation to approve the schematic and design development proposal by Johanna Poethig for a public art project on the exterior of the City's new joint facility for the Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department Training Center.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The project is for artwork that will be on the exterior façade of the new joint facility for the City's Fire Department Training Center and Office of Emergency Management. The artwork design must fit the scale of the four-story façade and be of durable materials. As the facility is already under construction, the artwork design will need to align well with the facility architecture.

The passage of the Measure T Public Safety Bond in the November 2018 election provided funding for the relocation of the City's Fire Department Training Center and of the Office of Emergency Management, which houses the regional Emergency Operations Center; sale of property by the City provided additional funding.

The PAC approved artist Johanna Poethig's Concept/Schematic design proposal at its public meeting on December 7, 2021. This project for exterior public art on the façade of the new OEM/FDTC facility is Phase 1 of a two-phase project. Phase 2 will focus on artwork for the facility's interior and will have its own artist selection process.

ARTWORK SCHEMATIC DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Poethig's public art project, with the working title "Resilient City," will be an installation of cut metal that extends more than two stories on the front façade wall of the three story "tower" building in the complex. The artwork installation will be fabricated of cut aluminum. The imagery suggests a vertical

“narrative,” with the suggestion of the chaotic sense inherent in many emergencies that resolves upwards into a radiant city at the top, suggesting resilience. The final design proposal evolved in response to considerable input from the core stakeholder group.

The artwork will be constructed of 1/4” thick sheets of 4’ x 8’ aluminum. The design of the cut metal artwork is layered in relief on the building, adding greater dimension to the largely 2-dimensional work; it will feature natural aluminum surfaces, some polished, some brushed, with painted elements. The artwork will be placed on the upper area of the façade wall. The artwork will be approximately 25’ high at its tallest point and will be up to (approximately) 23’ wide at its widest point; the bottom of the artwork will be approximately 10’ above the ground.

Developments subsequent to the PAC’s approval of the concept include:

- Modification of the design of the “rays” at the top of the artwork to suggest a more organic form;
- Refinement of the figurative forms and the patterns of the “chaos” section at the lower section of the artwork;
- Refinement of the “resilient city” forms and imagery at the upper section of the piece, and
- Determination of the size of the artwork and the material to be used

Key goals that were instrumental in the artwork design include: it will be appropriate scale for the building façade; highly viewable to vehicular traffic as well as pedestrians and cyclists; along the Senter Road corridor; and it will convey a sense of the services provided by the OEM and SJFD and their role in the community’s well-being. A very key goal for the project is for the artwork to serve as a visual connection between the two departments and the public.

This design must still undergo structural engineering which may necessitate some modifications of the design, and or materials.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The City’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has begun construction of the OEM/FDTC facility with anticipated completion at the end of 2022. The facility was already completely designed when the Public Art Program was able to join the process. The facility is located in a light industrial neighborhood and neither of the two occupant departments are open to the public due to the type of work they do. There is no residential neighborhood in this area and no community meetings were held in conjunction with the design process for the facility. Public Art staff and the artist have worked closely with the project’s key stakeholders to develop approaches to the vision, design and content of the project.

A Public Art Core Team comprised of core stakeholders, community members and public art professionals was formed to help shape the vision for the project, function as the Artist Selection panel, help inform the artist about the community context for the project, and review the artist’s concept and design proposal for the artwork. The team includes:

Asst. Chief Aaron Freyler	Assistant Chief of the San Jose Fire Department and its lead staff person for the development of this and other SJFD capital projects.
Ray Riordan	Director of the City’s Office of Emergency Management and its important Emergency Operations Center.

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

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Subject: Public Art Schematic and Design Development Proposal for the OEM/FDTC Public Art Project

Page 3

Jay McAmis Assistant Director of the City’s Office of Emergency Management and its important Emergency Operations Center.

Candace Wong Lead project architect, with Ten Over Studio, Inc.

Tamiko Rast Artist/community leader, Japantown Business Association Executive Director, Japantown legacy business owner, 3rd generation Japantown resident.

Elise deMarzo Public Art Director, City of Palo Alto

Trami Cron District 7 resident, Public Art Committee liaison.

Meetings held in conjunction with this project:

<u>Date</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Convener</u>
6/11/21	Public Art Core Team meeting	Project visioning and selection of finalist artists to be interviewed.	Online via Zoom	SJPA
6/23/21	Public Art Core Team meeting	Interviews and selection of an artist for the project.	Online via Zoom	SJPA
10/5/21	PAC meeting	PAC review of recommended artist selection for the project	Online via Zoom	SJPA
12/7/21	PAC meeting	PAC review of artist’s concept and partial schematic design proposal	Online via Zoom	SJPA
2/1/22	PAC meeting	PAC review of artist’s schematic and design development proposal	Online via Zoom	SJPA

/s/
MICHAEL OGILVIE
Public Art Director