



# Memorandum

**TO:** PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

**FROM:** MICHAEL OGILVIE

**SUBJECT:** See below

**DATE:** June 1 2023

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**Council District: 3**

**SUBJECT:** Selection of artist Robin Gibson for design and creation of a gateway mural at the 4th street entrance of the 4<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Parking Garage.

**DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION:** April 21, 2023

**ARTWORK BUDGET:** \$30,000

**LOCATION:** 4<sup>th</sup> street entrance of the 4<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Parking Garage, San José, CA

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project is a gateway mural that is to be painted at the 4<sup>th</sup> street entrance of the 4<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Parking Garage in Downtown San José. The mural is intended to enhance the concrete structure to greet the downtown visitors, City Hall employees, MLK library patrons, SJSU students, and Rotary Club members. 4<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Parking Garage is centrally located in Downtown San José with 4<sup>th</sup> street being a main corridor leading to Northbound 280 Freeway.

Artists considered for this project are in the Public Art Program's Mural Artists Roster which features Bay Area artists. The Public Art Program released a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) on September 19, 2022 on CaFE, the online platform that is widely used for artist calls and staff actively promoted and recruited Bay Area artists. The CaFE platform is free for artists to use, is user-friendly and supports the review process for panelists to review and rate artist submittals. Artists living and working in the Bay Area were eligible to submit entries. The call was open through October 24, 2022. At the time it closed, 150 eligible submittals were received. A four-member panel of artists and arts professionals was formed to review and rate all 107 applications. Staff reviewed the panel's ratings and 89 artists were selected for inclusion in the 2023-2028 Mural Artists Roster. These artists represent a wide range of artistic styles. Artists already in the 2017 Mural Artists Roster were allowed to submit updated work samples and resumes and be included in this updated 2023-2028 Mural Artists Roster as they have already been vetted in a comparable jury process for the current mural roster; 43 of the artists previously juried in the 2017 roster fulfilled the submittal requirement and are also included in the updated 2023-2028 Mural Artists Roster. From this roster fourteen artists were identified as possible candidates for this commission and one (1) was selected for the commission by the Public Art Core Team, artist Robin Gibson.

Artist Robin Gibson was the Public Art Core Team's recommendation for this project. Gibson was chosen for her traditional style of painting and her skills in portraiture and realism. The panel felt her large-scale botanicals in a fun and vibrant style would add a pop of color and brighten up the entrance of the parking garage entrance.

Gibson is a muralist, designer, and educator based in Oakland, CA. She completed her undergraduate studies at Mills College, mentored by renowned artist Hung Liu. Previous creative work experiences include both private

and public mural commissions for Laurel District Association and Dimond Business and Professional Association—both based in Oakland; cultural center Alafia Capoeira, Santa Cruz; The People’s Conservatory, Oakland; Culture Yard UCA Capoeira and Dance, Santa Cruz; McClymonds High School, Oakland; Boxing for Health, Oakland. In addition, Gibson also provides design and hand-painted signage for a variety of businesses. She currently teaches at Stanford University.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

A Public Art Core Team comprised of community members, artists, and arts professionals. The Team includes:

Sarah Billings	Street Life Manager, San José Downtown Association
Sarah Clish	Rotary Club Member
Steven Martinez	Artist and D-3 Resident
Kathleen McDonald	Artist & Arts Professional, San José State University
Jai Tanju	Artist & Arts Professional, San Jose Museum of Art

Staff from the District 3 Council Office have been engaged in the project development since its inception. These include Kiara Kassandra, Chief of Staff, and Diego Martinez, Community Relations Coordinator.

Meetings held in conjunction with this project:

<b>Date</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Convener</b>
04/21/23	Public Art Core Team meeting	Selection of an artist for the project.	Online via Zoom	SJPA

/s/  
MICHAEL OGILVIE  
Public Art Director