

AGENDA



Thursday, June 5, 2008

**Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 16

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Rosario Marquardt and Roberto Behar, collectively known as R&R Studios for artwork, in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available for public art from Gables Realty pursuant to the Park Plaza Master Agreement and \$35,000 is available for Bowie Street Underpass Art in Public Places Project.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Megan Crigger, Art in Public Places Administrator / EGRSO / 974-9312; Greg Kiloh, Project Manager / EGRSO / 974-7836; Vincent Kitch, Cultural Arts Program Manager / EGRSO / 974-9310

Boards and Commission Action: The Austin Arts Commission recommended the artist's final design and the Art in Public Places Panel approved the artist's final design.

A Request for Qualifications was announced to local, state and national professional visual artists. The call was announced by postcard to artists in the Art in Public Places Slide Registry and mailing list, to media contacts such as newspapers, arts organizations and national publications and on the City of Austin media outlets. A total of 164 artists submitted qualifications by the deadline of September 1, 2006. The selection panel and advisors made up of three art and design professionals met September 14, 2006 to review written materials and images of past work. On October 19, 2006, the selection panel and advisors interviewed four finalist: Ms. Leni Schwendinger (New York, NY), Mr. Christian Moeller (Los Angeles, CA), artist team Legge, Lewis, Legge (Austin, TX and New York, NY), and artist team Rosario Marquardt and Roberto Behar of R&R Studios (Miami, FL). The Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission approved the selection panel's recommendation of R&R Studios for the project and Christian Moeller as the alternate at their regular meeting on November 6th and 20th, 2007 respectively.

R&R Studios was placed under a design contract to determine a site for the artwork and work closely with the project design team to successfully integrate the artwork within the selected site. On April 4, 2008, the Art in Public Places Panel approved the final design (4-0-0). The proposed artwork, entitled "The Austin Outdoor Room", functions like an outdoor dining room for the community and consists of a long table with a delicate lace tablecloth made from perforated, water-jet cut aluminum, six permanent aluminum seats and four oversized lamps. The work will be permanently located on top of the oval mound within Sand Beach Park.

SELECTION PANEL

Connie Arismendi (Austin) Artist

Anne Beamish (Austin) Art in Public Places Panel Member, Landscape Architect

Brad Goldberg (Dallas) Public Artist

Kate Green (San Antonio) Curator of Exhibitions, Artpace

Kevin Sloan (Dallas) Landscape Architect, Gables Representative

ADVISORS

Eric Anderson (Lance Armstrong Bikeway/CAG)

Joan Hyde (Design Commission Representative)

Greg Kiloh (Project Manager)

Girard Kinney (Project Advisor)

Jana McCann (ROMA, Pfluger Bridge Extension architect)