

AGENDA



Thursday, June 18, 2009

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

Item No. 19

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a commission agreement with Joseph Phillips, Jana B. Swec and Shea Little (dba Sodalitas Art Group, Austin, TX), for artwork, in an amount not to exceed \$99,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Rodney Gonzales, Acting Director / EGRSO, 974-2313; Megan Crigger, AIPP Administrator / EGRSO, 974-9312

Boards and Commission Action: The Art in Public Place Panel unanimously approved the artist's final design on May 4, 2009; The Austin Arts Commission unanimously approved the artist's final design on May 18, 2009.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Construction of a Great Streets streetscape project is planned for the Brazos Street corridor, from Cesar Chavez to 11th Street. After discussions with the project team, it was decided that artists would address the experiential aspect that artwork could provide in the streetscape. The proposed use of digital media, light and/or sound, among other approaches, was encouraged. A Request for Statement of Intent with Qualifications was issued to artists living within the State of Texas, with a submission deadline of February 22, 2008.

The Selection Panel and Advisors met on February 29, 2008 and reviewed the qualifications of 34 artists/artist teams. The Selection Panel and Advisors selected three finalists: Steven Spears, Sodalitas Art Group (Joseph Phillips, Jana B. Swec and Shea Little), and Hunter Cross. These finalists were interviewed on March 10, 2008. The selection panel recommended Sodalitas Art Group for commission and Steven Spears as the alternate. The Art in Public Places Panel approved the selection panels recommendation on March 10, 2008 (4-0-0). The Arts Commission unanimously approved the Art in Public Places Panel recommendation on March 21, 2008.

The artwork, consisting of a series of microphones housed within sculptural tubes and a corresponding listening station, transmitting the received sound, will be located within the environment of the streetscape, from Third Street to Seventh Street. The Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved the artists final design on May 4, 2009. The Arts Commission unanimously approved the artists final design on May 18, 2009.

Selection Panel:

Elizabeth Dunbar, Curator, Arthouse
Murray Legge, AIPP Panelist and Architect/Artist
Peter Hall, Design Faculty, UT College of Fine Arts

Advisors:

Robert Hengst, Public Works Project Manager
Kevin Sweat, Public Works Engineer
Humberto Rey, NPZD, Great Streets Coordinator
Dennis McDaniel, Downtown Austin Alliance
Marshall Jones, DANA President
Shelley Meyer, Sixth Street Austin Rep. and Wild About Music
Calvin Chen and Eleanor McKinney, Design Commission representatives