

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	13422	Agenda Number	18.
Meeting Date:	3/22/2012		Department:	Economic Growth and Redevelopment
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of a design and commission agreement with The Art Guys – John A. Massing and Michael Galbreth, Ken Dawson Little, Anthony Thompson Shumate and Gary Sweeney for artwork for the Lady Bird Lake Boardwalk Trail, in an amount not to exceed \$264,000.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$264,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>A fiscal note is attached.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	Kevin Johns, Director / EGRSO, 974-7802; Meghan Turner, Art in Public Places Administrator / EGRSO, 974-9314			
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

PROJECT SUMMARY

The 1.2 mile Boardwalk Trail is being built to complete pedestrian access around Lady Bird Lake. It will be comprised of linear segments over the water, over wetlands and over land, with several trailheads and nodes for gathering and resting. The goal for this public art project is to create a progression of small, conceptually lively artistic interventions that are sited along the length of the Boardwalk Trail with the opportunity of some larger works being installed at trailheads and planned gathering locations. It is desired that the artwork engage the public as sculptural “moments” of conceptual interest, rather than serving as functional items.

The selected Lead Artist will successfully lead a team of 3-5 artists to innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this environment. The Lead Artist is expected to create a curated, cohesive vision for artwork along the Boardwalk Trail incorporating a diversity of artists and voices that are sensitive to the site history, function and natural environment; create durable sculptural artwork “interventions” that will conceptually enliven, engage, and enrich the experience of multiple users throughout the east to west length of the Boardwalk Trail; and aesthetically integrate the works into the trail environment and support the safety and maintenance needs of the larger construction project.

A Request for Nominations was released nationally and locally on May 4, 2011 to public arts professionals and curators seeking nominations for qualified Texas artists to serve as Lead Artist to develop a team of 3-5 Texas artists to create artwork for the Lady Bird Lake Boardwalk Trail. Curators and arts professionals were reached via telephone and email, website, and the Americans for the Arts Public Art Network List serve. A total of 76 eligible artists were nominated by the deadline of May 16, 2011. On May 19, 2011, the 76 nominated artists were sent an *Invitational Request for Qualifications* via email and phone. A total of 24 artists submitted qualifications by the deadline of June 14, 2011.

The Selection Panelists and Advisors met on July 1, 2011 to review the letters of interest, statements of leadership/curatorial experience, resumes, and images of the 24 artists/ teams who submitted qualifications for this project. Three finalists were selected to present paid conceptual proposal, including team members and qualifications: Sharon Engelstein, Houston; The Art Guys, Houston; Margo Sawyer, Austin.

On May 17, 2011, a call was released for Texas Artists to be included on an artist Resource List for the Lead Artist finalists to consider while putting together their artist teams. Twelve artists responded by the deadline of June 20, 2011. These qualifications were provided as a resource to the Lead Artist finalists.

On July 21, 2011, the three Lead Artist finalists came to Austin for a project orientation. They were each put under a Conceptual Team Proposal Agreement to prepare their team proposals by September 2, 2011. The Selection Panel and Advisors met on September 6, 2011 to interview the finalists and review the team proposals. They recommended Lead Artists **The Art Guys** (comprised of John A Massing and Michael Galbraith) and their team of **Ken Little, Anthony T. Shumate, and Gary Sweeney** as the selected artist team, and Margo Sawyer (with Margarita Cabrera, Bonnie Gamill, and Liz Ward) as the alternate team.

On September 12, 2011, the Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved the Selection Panel’s recommendation. The Austin Arts Commission unanimously approved the artist selection on September 19, 2011.

SELECTION PANEL

Rene Barrilleaux – Chief Curator and Curator of Art after 1945, The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX

Matthew Geller - Public Artist, Recipient of fellowships from the American Academy in Rome, The National Endowment for the Arts; and Public Art Network Year in Review Awards, New York, NY

Kathy Kelley - Artist and Arts Writer, Houston, TX

ADVISORS

Al Godfrey, Project Architect, Limbacher-Godfrey Architects

Marty Stump, City of Austin, Park Development Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department, Park Planning, Design & Construction

Rey Hernandez, City of Austin, Landscape Architect, Parks and Recreation Department, Park Planning, Design &

Construction

Todd Runkle, Board Member, Trail Foundation

David Taylor, Project Manager, City of Austin, Public Works Department

Nadia Barrera, City of Austin, Neighborhood Connectivity Division, Public Works Department

Lynn Osgood, Art in Public Places Panel member and Landscape Designer/Planner