

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	13772	Agenda Number	12.
Meeting Date:	4/26/2012		Department:	Economic Growth and Redevelopment
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of a design and commission agreement with Sharon Engelstein for artwork for the 2nd Street Bridge and Extension (Shoal Creek to West Avenue) in an amount not to exceed \$166,000.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$116,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Budget of the Public Works 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 Austin Arts Commission.			
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Austin is constructing a new road and bridge in the Seaholm District, specifically a new portion of 2nd Street, which will extend from the east side of Shoal Creek to proposed West Avenue (at the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant). Construction will include approximately 550 linear feet of new road and sidewalks, including an approximately 250' bridge over Shoal Creek. The project will follow *wonderf* (or festival streets) design concept so that the area between the New Central Library and the Seaholm Substation Wall Art In Public Places project is experienced as a plaza, with pedestrians and vehicles kept separated by bollards lining the street.

This artwork opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artist that will be dynamic and engaging for children and families, in response to the 2008 Families and Children Task Force Report.

A key adjacent project, the New Central Library, will provide a high tech, cultural and information center for the area, offering engaging programs and services for all ages. It will be a state-of-the-art library that inspires discovery and major downtown destination. Other amenities will include a bike porch, reading porches, a café, retail outlet of Recycle Read bookstore, and opportunities to take classes and engage with the community.

The Seaholm District as a whole will be a focal area in west downtown Austin which will attract residents, visitors, library customers, bicyclists and pedestrians, families and children, shoppers, diners, and those seeking entertainment and culture.

A *Request for Qualifications* (RFQ) was released on December 22, 2011 to professional visual artists and artist teams, at least 18 years of age, who live in Texas. AIPP staff held an artist information meeting on 1/18/12 to share information about the project site and answer questions from the artists, and explain how to submit to the call using the online artist registry (*ASAPP!*).

After the meeting, the Artist Information Meeting was posted to the AIPP webpage for the RFQ for those artists unable to attend the event.

The Selection Panel met with Advisors on Friday, February 24, 2012 to review the 52 eligible responses submitted, including images of past work, resume, and a Letter of Interest. The Selection Panel voted unanimously for the artist Sharon Engelstein (Houston, TX) to recommend to the AIPP Panel, and voted unanimously to recommend the artist team of Frances Bagley and Tom Orr (Dallas, TX) as the alternate.

SELECTION PANEL

1. Lynn Osgood, Art in Public Places Panel Member + Urban Parks Workgroup
2. Nichole Wiedemann, UTSOA Assoc. Dean Undergrad Studies
3. Buster Graybill, Artist; M.F.A, Sculpture, The University of Texas at Austin, 2008; B.F.A., Sculpture, University of North Texas, 2001

PROJECT ADVISORS

1. Cynthia Jordan, Public Works Project Manager for the 2nd Street Bridge and Extension (Shoal Creek to West Avenue) and the New Central Library
2. David Cazares, MWM Design Group, Project landscape architect for the 2nd Street Bridge and Extension (Shoal Creek to West Avenue)
3. D'Anne Williams, City of Austin, Landscape Architect, Parks and Recreation Department
4. John Gillum, Library Department Facilities Planning Manager overseeing the New Central Library project.