

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	43167	Agenda Number	8.
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Meeting Date:	4/23/2015	Department:	Economic Development
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a design and commission agreement with Virginia Fleck in an amount not to exceed \$68,000 for artwork for the Women and Children's Shelter Renovations and Expansion Project at 4523 Tannehill Road, Austin, TX (District 1).

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$68,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget of the Health and Human Services Department.

Fiscal Note

Fiscal note is required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Kevin Johns, Director / Economic Development Department, 512-974-7802; Meghan Wells, Art In Public Places Administrator / Economic Development Department/Cultural Arts Division, 512-974-9314
Boards and Commission Action:	March 16, 2015 - Approved by the Arts Commission on a vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Auerbach opposed and Commissioners Barnes and Tinnon absent.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

PROJECT SUMMARY

This Art in Public Places (AIPP) project is funded by the expansion of the Austin Shelter for Women and Children, located in District 1, to address the most urgent repairs, safety upgrades, and provide increased housing for family groups, as part of the 2012 Bond construction package. The shelter is operated by the Salvation Army and strives to provide wrap-around services (case management, child/family therapy, employment assistance, life skills, training and child care) in an effort to help clients move from crisis to stability. The Art in Public Places project funding comes from 2% of the construction budget for the expansion, in accordance with the Art in Public Places Ordinance.

The Art in Public Places artwork goals for this project were designed to support the mission of the facility and to enhance the services provided to clients. The artwork goals include commissioning a contemporary work of art that complements the healing aspects of the shelter, provides or contributes to an exterior children's discovery area that

encourages sensory interaction, and integrates the artwork into a natural setting that fosters awareness, healing, and growth. The artist will work in collaboration with project team/stakeholders, City staff and the landscape architect to design and create artwork that adds additional value to the play elements planned for the outside daycare area. Salvation Army staff (Jan Gunter, Communications and Community Relations Director and Stacy Schwarz, Assistant Social Services Director) reviewed and provided input on the public art project prospectus prior to its approval by the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released on November 19, 2014 to professional visual artists and artist teams, at least 18 years of age, who live and work in Texas. Artist outreach included an artist information meeting held at the Cultural Arts Division Offices on December 17, 2014, information posted on the AIPP website, multiple notices in AIPP newsletters and social media, an appearance on television, and assistance from the Salvation Army.

The selection panel and project advisors met on January 21, 2015 to review the 52 eligible responses submitted by the advertised deadline including images of past work, resume, and letter of interest. The selection panel selected four artists/teams as finalists: the team of Legge, Lewis, Legge, Austin, Texas; Andrew Danziger, Austin, TX; Taeg Nishimoto, San Antonio, TX; and Virginia Fleck, Austin, TX.

The finalists were interviewed in Austin on February 4, 2015. The selection panelists and project advisors recommended Virginia Fleck as the selected artist and the team of Legge, Lewis, Legge as the artist alternate. At their meeting on March 2, 2015, the Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved this selection process recommendation. The Arts Commission approved the selection process recommendation on March 16, 2015 (4-1) with Commissioner Auerbach voting in opposition and Commissioners Barnes and Tinnon absent.

SELECTION PANEL

- Sharon Engelstein, Public Artist, Houston, TX
- Robert Mezquiti, Architect and Designer, San Antonio
- Emily Cayton, Associate Educator for Teachers and Docents, The Contemporary Austin

PROJECT ADVISORS

- Robin Camp, Project Manager, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- Filip Gecic, Manager, Health and Human Services Department, City of Austin
- Catherine O'Connor, Principal, Co'Design Landscape Architecture
- Heather McKinney, President, McKinney York Architecture
- Arron Taylor, Project Manager, McKinney York Architecture
- Stacy Schwarz, Assistant Social Services Director, The Salvation Army
- Jamie Castillo, Art in Public Places Panel Chair/Liaison