

AGENDA



Thursday, March 25, 2010

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

Item No. 22

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting Downtown Austin Alliance grant funds in the amount of \$30,000; amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office (EGRSO) Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance 20090914-002 to appropriate \$30,000 in grant funds; and amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 EGRSO Capital Budget of Ordinance 20090914-003 to appropriate \$30,000 from the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 EGRSO Special Revenue Fund for bicycle racks.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$30,000 is available from the Downtown Austin Alliance.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

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

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Art in Public Places, the Austin Arts Commission, the Urban Transportation Commission, the Historic Landmark Commission, the Downtown Commission, the Design Commission.

In August 2008, the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to any artists/artist teams living within a 100 mile radius of downtown Austin interested in creating unique durable artwork to serve as bike racks at three specific right-of-way locations along Congress Avenue.

On September 4, 2008 an Artist Information Meeting was held at the Arthouse at 700 Congress Avenue and was attended by 39 artists.

On October 1, 2008, the Selection Panel and Advisors reviewed the proposals and past works of the 37 artists and artist groups who submitted to preliminary proposals for this project. The Panel included:

- Dana Friis Hansen: Executive Director, Austin Museum of Art
- Sylvia Orozco: Executive Director, Mexic-Arte Museum
- Margo Sawyer: Artist and Professor, University of Texas

The selection panel considered a wide range of ideas, but focused on the following fundamentals:

- High aesthetic merit of the proposal
- Functionality as a bike rack, able to support and secure at least two bikes
- Overall safety of the design
- Low degree of maintenance required

One of the primary goals of the organization is to support the arts in downtown Austin. This project provides the DAA an opportunity to realize that goal, in cooperation with downtown business owners and the city of Austin, while also providing amenities for an eco-friendly mode of transportation and encouraging residents and visitors to spend more time downtown.

The following three artists and groups were recommended: Ann Armstrong, Ben Harman and Kezia and Tom Simister. The alternates are Miro Rivera Architects, Colin McIntyre and Haley Woodward. Each group of artists will be given a budget of \$10,000 for their artist fee, design, fabrication, installation, structural drawings, engineering, insurance requirements and documentation. The remaining funds will be placed in the Public Art Fund to care for future maintenance, repair and replacement of the artist-designed bike racks.

DAA requests that the funds be donated to the City of Austin and the artist contracts be managed by the Art in Public Places program. The proposals have been approved by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Arts Commission. Presentations were also made to Downtown Commission, Downtown Commission and the Historic Landmark Commission. Comments and letters of recommendation are available upon request.

PLANNING ADVISORS AND PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS:

- Eileen Shaubert, Mellow Johnny's Bike Shop
- Annick Bodet and Nadia Barrera, City of Austin's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
- Ross Crowe, Grubb and Ellis
- Jinny Saad, Thomas Properties Group
- Marshall Jones, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association

COMMITTEE:

- Melissa Berry, Arthouse
- Robert Brown, Long Center for the Performing Arts
- Nancy Burns, LBJ Holdings
- Lacy LaBorde, Downtown Austin Alliance
- Sharon Lyle, Russell-Shaw
- Dennis McDaniel, Fairchild Organization
- Meredith Powell, Art Alliance Austin
- Allison Specter, Art Alliance Austin