

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting: November 15, 2018**

Item Number: **009**

**Economic Development Department**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Fidencio Duran, in an amount not to exceed \$140,000, for artwork for the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Project.

**District(s) Affected:** District 3

<b>Lead Department</b>	Economic Development.
<b>Fiscal Note</b>	Funding is available in the Parks and Recreation Department’s Capital Budget
<b>For More Information</b>	Rebecca Giello, Interim Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3045; Susan Lambe, Art in Public Places Program, 512-974-7852.
<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action</b>	September 10, 2018 - Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved the Selection Process Recommendation for the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center AIPP Project, naming Fidencio Duran as the selected artist and Jonathan Muzacz as the alternate artist, (6-0-0); September 17, 2018 - Arts Commission approved the Selection Process Recommendation, (All Commissioners were present).

**Additional Backup Information:**

Art in Public Places (AIPP), of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) sought to commission a professional visual artist to design, fabricate, and install artwork to be located in an interior location working in collaboration with project stakeholders and City staff. In addition, the artist will provide visual arts services as a project advisor, curator, and public art coach for additional future artwork opportunities at the facility. The total budget available for this project is \$140,000.

The opportunity was open to Austin artists selected for the AIPP 2018-2020 Local Pre-Qualified Artist Pool to create artwork that incorporates colors, imagery, and themes that reflect the aesthetic qualities of the community; through community engagement, suggests the future aspirations of the people of the Montopolis neighborhood; and responds to the story of the facility from 1971 to present and the activism of the surrounding community.

On August 22, 2018, the Selection Team reviewed the nine letters of interest from artists in the 2018-2020 Local Pre-Qualified Artist Pool. The Selection Team recommended Fidencio Duran as the commissioned artist and Jonathan Muzacz as the alternate.

Local Pre-Qualified Artist Pool Selection Panel:

- § Fernando Andrade, San Antonio Artist
- § Leslie Moody Castro, Independent Curator
- § Julia Hendrickson, Associate Curator, The Contemporary Austin
- § Alex Rubio, San Antonio Artist
- § Phillip Townsend, co-founder Neon Queen Collective; Research Fellow in African American Art, Blanton Museum

The selection team using the 2018-2020 Local Pre-Qualified Artist Pool included:

- § Susana Almanza, Montopolis Neighborhood Association
- § Georgia Steen, Montopolis Neighborhood Association
- § Alberto Mejia, Senior Director of Community Programs, Creative Action
- § Anita Villalobos, Montopolis Recreation Center Advisory Board
- § David Smythe-Macaulay, Project Manager, City of Austin Public Works

About the artist: Fidencio Duran tells visual stories that honor the history of his family and community. Duran's artwork appears in public and private collections in the U.S. and abroad. In the artist's words "My work transforms personal and community memories into celebrations of culture, history, and the beauty of everyday life. Drawing with graphite on paper, I develop ideas using linear perspective for the narrative and then layer acrylics or oils onto canvas into fluid arrangements." One of his most prominent works, *The Visit*, is part of the Art in Public Places collection and graces the ticketing area at Austin Bergstrom International Airport.