



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1800, Agenda Item #: 6.

6/9/2022

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with Oculi Studio LLC for artwork for the Corridor Construction Program William Cannon Drive Improvements Art in Public Places Project, in an amount not to exceed \$104,000.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$104,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of the Austin Transportation Department. Subproject ID 11889.011.

For More Information:

Sylvia Holt-Rabb, Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131 and Marjorie Flanagan, Acting Manager, Art in Public Places Program, 512-974-8706.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

On October 4th, 2021, the Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the Corridor Construction Program William Cannon Art in Public Places Project, naming Oculi Studio LLC (owned by artist Brent Baggett) as the selected artist and Melissa Borrell as the alternate artist for the \$104,000 commission. (Motion by Panel Member Villanueva, seconded by Nolan; approved 7-0-0).

On October 18th, 2021, the Austin Arts Commission unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the Corridor Construction Program William Cannon Art in Public Places Project, naming Brent Baggett as the selected artist and Melissa Borrell as the alternate artist for the \$104,000 commission. The item passed on consent. (Motion by Commissioner Gray, seconded by Flores; approved 10-0-0).

Additional Backup Information:

Art in Public Places (AIPP), of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) sought to commission a local professional visual artist or artist team to design, fabricate and install artwork for the Corridor Construction Program William Cannon Drive Improvement Project. The budget for this artwork is \$104,000 all-inclusive of artist time, design, insurance, and all fabrication and installation related costs.

The goal of the project is to commission an Austin-based artist and/or artist team who, in collaboration with community stakeholders and City staff, will design artwork that integrates with the William Cannon Drive Improvement Project. The AIPP Program seeks to commission works of art of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality.

This public art opportunity was open to local Austin artists previously selected for AIPP's Corridor Construction Program Artist Pool. Artists selected for AIPP's Corridor Artist Pool are at least 18 years of age; and live and

work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties. The Corridor Artist Pool is a tool for artist selection, streamlining artists' application time/effort by allowing Corridor Pool artists to apply once in order to be considered for multiple public art commissions. The Pool also allows community members to vote in the selection of the artist who will create art for their community. Artists in AIPP's Corridor Artist Pool remain eligible for Corridor Construction Program AIPP Project opportunities until Corridor construction projects are complete (scheduled for 2024).

Corridor Construction Program Artist Pool Jury:

- Marsha Dorsey-Outlaw, Artist in Education, Texas Commission on the Arts, First Artist in Residence, Education Department, Museum of Fine Arts Houston
- Tres Hernandez, Design Associate, TBG Partners
- Karmimadeeborah McMillan, Visual Artist; Educator at Tufts University
- Kelly Porter, Urban Planner; Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Coka Trevino, Artist; Author; Curator/Director of Community Programing, Big Medium Austin

On August 10, 2021, the William Cannon Drive Jury reviewed the 50 eligible artist applications from the Corridor Pool and recommended 4 artists/artist teams as project finalists. On October 1, 2021, the William Cannon Drive Jury interviewed the finalists and recommended Oculi Studio LLC as the commissioned artist and Melissa Borrell as the alternate for the Corridor Construction Program William Cannon Drive Art in Public Places Project.

William Cannon Drive Jury

- Christina Miller, Neighborhood resident, Community Advisor*
- Natalie Hester, Neighborhood resident, Community Advisor, Development Director at St. Edward's University*
- Joelynn Barclay, Neighborhood resident, Community Advisor, Construction Project Manager, Texas General Land Office*
- Ricardo Zavala, MPA, Certified Community Leader, NeighborWorks America Dove Springs Proud Founder/President*
- Javier Guerrero-Cervantes, Project coordinator, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- Stephanie Lemmo, AIPP Panel Member, Principal at LA-N-D, Lemmo Architecture and Design
- Kelly Buehe, Public Information Officer, City of Austin

*Prior to serving on the William Cannon Drive Jury, the Community Advisors participated in a six week-long engagement process sharing stories about William Cannon Drive to inform artwork goals and inspire selected artists for the Corridor Construction Program William Cannon Drive Improvement AIPP Projects.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability & Culture and Lifelong Learning Strategy.