

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	12304	<b>Agenda Number</b>	7.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	2/9/2012	<b>Department:</b>	Economic Growth and Redevelopment
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**Subject**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a design and commission agreement with Thoughtbarn LLC (Austin, TX), in an amount not to exceed \$120,000, for artwork for the City of Austin/YMCA North Austin Community Recreation Center at 1000 W. Rundberg Lane.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$120,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note is attached.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
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<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	
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<b>For More Information:</b>	Kevin Johns, Director / EGRSO, 974-7802; Meghan Turner, Acting Art in Public Places (AIPP) Administrator / EGRSO, 974-9314
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<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	Recommended by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission.
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<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
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<b>Related Items:</b>	
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**Additional Backup Information**

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office sought to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team, to design and implement a community garden at the new COA/YMCA North Austin Community Recreation Center which is being constructed at 1000 W. Rundberg Lane in north Austin.

The goal of this project is to integrate the perspective of an artist in the design and cultivation of a community garden; create a gathering space maintained and enjoyed by diverse neighbors, which engenders stewardship and a shared sense of pride in community; produce a functioning and sustainable garden that yields fresh produce for the community; open the artistic process to the community through workshops and public events; and reflect on the concept of health for “mind, spirit, and body” through innovative expressions of visual art in a garden setting.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued on September 26, 2011 to professional visual artists and artist teams, at least 18 years of age, who live in the state of Texas. The Selection Panel met with Project Advisors on November 17, 2011 to review the 27 eligible responses submitted by the advertised deadline including images of past work, resume, and letter of interest. The Selection Panel selected four artists as Finalists to be interviewed: Lucy Begg and Robert Gay, Austin, TX; Cassie Bergstrom, Emily Fitzgerald and David Meeker, Austin, TX; Linnea Glatt, Dallas, TX; and Lars and Laura Stanely, Austin, TX. The Selection Panel met with Project Advisors on December 15, 2011 to interview the Finalists. The Selection Panel unanimously voted for Lucy Begg and Robert Gay as the artist and for Lars and Laura Stanley as the alternate.

The AIPP Panel and the Arts Commission met on January 9 and January 25, 2012 respectively, and approved the Selection Panel’s recommendation.

## **SELECTION PANEL**

- Milton Hime, AIA, Studio 8 Architects
- Ilse Frank, ASLA, Studio Balconies
- Chris Levack, visual artist, and AIPP commissioned artist

## **PROJECT ADVISORS**

- Sari Albornoz, Grow Local Co-Director, Sustainable Food Center
- Robert Byrnes, AIA, Studio 8 Architects
- James Fink, President and CEO of Austin YMCA
- Lynn Osgood, Art in Public Places Panel member and urban planner
- Mark Schruben, Project Manager, Public Works, City of Austin
- Jake Stewart, Sustainable Urban Agriculture Coordinator, Parks & Recreation, City of Austin
- Jessie Temple, Project Manager, Benz Resource Group