



Austin Arts Commission RECOMMENDATION 20130625-E.1.A.

Date: July 8, 2013

Subject: Request City Council and City Manager to Affirm Arts Commission Action to Approve Artwork Design by Sharon Engelstein for the Second Street Bridge and Extension Art in Public Places Project

Motioned By: Commissioner Auerbach Seconded By: Commissioner Tinnon

Recommendation

The Austin Arts Commission recommends that City Council and City Manager affirm its unanimous vote on April 15, 2013 to approve artist Sharon Engelstein's artwork design for the Second Street Bridge and Extension Art in Public Places Project, and that the artist be allowed to move forward on fabrication and installation of the work for the site approved as part of the final design.

Description of Recommendation to Council

Artist Sharon Engelstein was selected through a competitive process and commissioned by the Art in Public Places program to create artwork to be sited within the parkland area east of the new Central Library and west of Shoal Creek in the Seaholm District. She worked extensively with the project team and stakeholders to propose a grouping of three sculptures to be sited in coordination with the project's landscape architect and representatives from the Austin Public Library, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation Departments. This proposed design was approved by the Austin Public Library's department representative on behalf of the Department Director. The proposed design was then unanimously approved by the Art in Public Places Panel on April 1, 2013, and unanimously approved by the Arts Commission on April 15, 2013.

After those approvals, executive staff from Austin Public Library, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation expressed objections to the work. Cultural Arts Division and EGRSO staff met with several department directors as well as the City Manager's Office to discuss their concerns. Based on those meetings, staff approached the artist for possible redesign of the project to address the concerns, to which the artist agreed, as additional scope of work to the current contract. However, Austin Public Library has now refused to participate in the redesign with the artist and is disallowing the work to move forward as approved.

Due to this administrative impasse, the Austin Arts Commission and Art in Public Places Panel request that our approvals be affirmed and that the process outlined by the Art in Public Places Ordinance move forward with fabrication and installation of the artwork as approved.

Rationale:

Council adopted the Art in Public Places Ordinance (7-2) in 1985, amended in 2002, which gives authority to the Austin Arts Commission to define and approve the Art in Public Places Guidelines. The Austin Public Library Department has inappropriately inserted itself into the process set forth in the Guidelines and has incorrectly assumed

authority to reject or change a final design after it has been approved by the Arts Commission.

Austin Arts Commission: 6/25/2013

Vote 5-0

Motioned By: Commissioner Auerbach Seconded By: Commissioner Tinnon

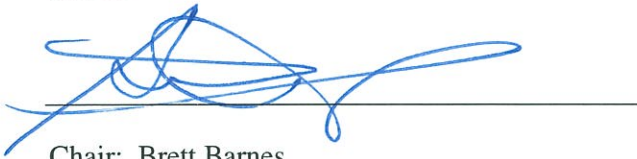
For: Chair Brett Barnes, Vice Chair Scott Daigle, Commissioner Samuel Tinnon, Commissioner Lulu Flores, Commissioner Ernest Auerbach

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Bruce Willenzik, Commissioner Amy Wong Mok

Attest:



Chair: Brett Barnes

Art in Public Places Panel: 7/1/2013

Vote 5-0

Motioned by: Panelist Castillo Seconded by: Panelist Frank


For: Chair Ryan Thompson, Vice Chair Jaime Castillo, Panelist Hollis Hammonds, Panelist Ilse Frank, Panelist Emily Little

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Panelist Jade Walker, Panelist/Arts Commission Liaison Scott Daigle

Attest:



Chair: Ryan Thompson