

# AGENDA



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council

Item ID

62434

Agenda Number

7.

Meeting Date:

9/22/2016

Department:

Economic Development

### Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a design and commission agreement with New American Public Art for artwork at the Green Water Treatment Plant Redevelopment Project for a total contract amount not to exceed \$327,000. (District 9)

### Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$327,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Capital Budget of the Economic Development Department. TC Green Master Developer, LLC provided the funds for this project as part of a Master Development Agreement with the City.

### Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

**Purchasing  
Language:**

**Prior Council  
Action:**

May 24, 2012 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20120524-012 authorizing the City Manager to execute a Master Development Agreement with TC GREEN MASTER DEVELOPER, LLC. for redevelopment of the property formerly occupied by the Thomas C. Green Water Treatment Plant.

**For More  
Information:**

Kevin Johns, Director, Economic Development Department 512-974-7802; Susan Lambe, Art in Public Places Administrator, 512-974-7852

**Council  
Committee,  
Boards and  
Commission  
Action:**

August 8, 2016 - Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved the selection process on a vote of 5-0-0 with Panel members McCray and Little absent.  
August 15, 2016 - Arts Commission unanimously approved the Selection Process Recommendation on a vote of 9-0-0 with Commissioner Stillwell absent and one vacancy.

**MBE / WBE:**

**Related Items:**

### Additional Backup Information

This Art in Public Places (AIPP) project is funded through a negotiated budget for public art, as agreed under the Thomas C. Green Water Treatment Plant Master Development Agreement, Article VI, 6.2. The total budget for artwork is \$327,000. The artwork is to be located in an exterior location within the four block area covered by the Master Development Agreement, which is bordered by Cesar Chavez to the south, Shoal Creek to the west, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the north and San Antonio to the east. The site is part of the downtown community and will serve a mix of residents, visitors and workers. The exact location of the artwork within the four block site is to be determined through collaboration between the artist and the project design team, project stakeholders, and City staff.

The Art in Public Places artwork goals for this project were designed to support the needs of the project and the neighborhood, and to enhance the experience of being in the downtown area. The artwork goals include

commissioning an urban artwork that creates a sense of place through discovery or an unexpected experience for people of all ages, is physically interactive, includes light and/or sound, is vandal resistant, and is low maintenance through the use of appropriate materials. Project stakeholders and City staff reviewed and provided input on the public art project prospectus prior to its approval by the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission.

AIPP staff solicited locally and nationally for nominations from public art and curatorial professionals of artists in the U.S. who have successfully worked with light, sound and/or interactivity as an artistic medium. An Invitational Request for Qualifications was sent to 98 artists requiring them to submit qualifications with a submission deadline of February 5, 2016. A question and answer session with AIPP and the project team was taped by Channel 6 and made available to all the invited artists for the duration of the application period.

The selection panel and advisors met on April 25, 2016 to review the 40 eligible applications submitted by the advertised deadline including images of past work, resume, and letter of interest. The Selection Panel selected five artist teams as finalists to produce conceptual proposals, in no particular order: (1) PROJECTiONE, Muncie, IN; (2) Haddad-Drugan, Seattle, WA; (3) New American Public Art, Somerville, MA; (4) Living Lenses Artist Team, Berkeley, CA; and (5) Michelle Tarsney and Dan Cheetham, Austin, TX.

The Selection Panel reviewed conceptual proposals and conducted interviews on July 19, 2016 and unanimously recommended the team of New American Public Art as the finalist, and Living Lenses Artist Team as the alternate on a vote of 3-2.

At their meeting on August 8, 2016, the Art in Public Places Panel voted to approve the Selection Process Recommendation, on the condition that the selected artist will partner with a local artist, to be selected and contracted separately with the City, to provide the project with local resources and support and at the same time, provide the local artist with valuable experience with an award-winning artist in the field of public art. This "Allied Artist" provision was recently established by the Art in Public Places program as an ongoing effort to help support the professional development and economic prosperity of local artists seeking to grow in the field of public art (5-0-0). This requirement will be incorporated into the agreement with the artist. Panel members McCray and Little were absent. The Arts Commission approved the Selection Process Recommendation on August 15, 2016 (9-0-0). Commissioner Stillwell was absent. There is one vacancy on the Arts Commission.

#### SELECTION PANEL

- Lisa B. Woods, artist and designer, Austin, TX
- Jerry Garcia, PE; Principal of Structures LLC; artist team member for *Thirst* in 2011, Austin, TX
- Rick Lin, public artist; Principal of Urban Matter Inc., Brooklyn, NY
- Aja Martin, independent arts curator; jury member for Aurora Dallas 2015, Houston, TX
- Dharmesh Patel – AIPP Panel Liaison and Selection Panelist, Austin, TX

#### PROJECT ADVISORS

- Adam Nims –Development Group representative, Trammell Crow, Austin, TX
- Matt Green –Development Group representative, KOR Group, Austin, TX
- Greg Kiloh – Project Manager, Economic Development Department, City of Austin
- Mona Sanchez – Redevelopment Services staff, Economic Development Department, City of Austin
- Melissa Barry – Downtown Austin Alliance