

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	70271	Agenda Number	8.
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Meeting Date:	5/18/2017	Department:	Economic Development
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a commission agreement with Beili Liu, in an amount not to exceed \$202,500 for artwork for the Austin Energy District Cooling Plant # 3 Project (District 9).

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$202,500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Capital Budget of the Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

Fiscal note attached.

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Kevin Johns, Economic Development Department, 974-7802; Susan Lambe, Art In Public Places, 974-7852.
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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	On April 3, 2017 the Art in Public Places Panel approved the selection process recommendation for the Austin Energy District Cooling Plant # 3 project naming Beili Liu as the selected artist and Thoughtbarn as the alternate artist team (6-0-0). The Arts Commission approved the Selection Process Recommendation on April 17, 2017 (8-0-0). On April 17, 2017 recommend by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 6-1 with Commissioner Stout voting nay, and with two absences and two vacancies.
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MBE / WBE:	
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, sought to commission a professional visual artist/artist team to design, fabricate, and install artwork to be located in an exterior location to be proposed by the artist, working in collaboration with project stakeholders, and City staff. The total budget available for this project is \$202,500.

The opportunity was open to artists in the 2015-2017 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool to create artwork that reveals energy to the viewer through the observation of natural processes, reflects the vision of Austin Energy and is in alignment with sustainable principles defined by the Seaholm EcoDistrict.

On January 18, 2017, the selection team reviewed the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool and selected 19 semi-finalists. On February 1, 2017, the Project Team selected five finalists including Christopher Fennell, Integrated Visions, Beili Liu, Thoughtbarn, and Emily White. Each finalist was paid a stipend of \$750 to attend a finalist orientation meeting, a site visit, and prepare a presentation for interviews. On March 29, the selection team completed interviews of the finalists and unanimously voted to recommend artist Beili Liu for the District Cooling Plant # 3 project and Thoughtbarn as the recommended alternate.

On April 3, the AIPP Panel unanimously approved artist Beili Liu as the artist to be commissioned for the Austin Energy District Cooling Plant # 3 project and Thoughtbarn as the alternate artist team. Arts Commissioner Liaison Panel Member Barnes moved for the selection approval, Patel seconded (6-0-0). Panel Member Walker was absent. On April 17, 2017, the Austin Arts Commission approved artist Beili Liu as the artist to be commissioned for the District Cooling Plant # 3 and Thoughtbarn as the alternate. (8-0-0)

This project provides an opportunity for another local artist. An allied artist program (LaunchPAD) was recently established by the AIPP 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. Liu will partner with a local LaunchPAD 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 artist with valuable experience with an award-winning artist in the field of public art. This requirement will be incorporated into the agreement with the artist.

Pre-Qualified Artist Pool SELECTION PANEL

- John Yancey, Artist, Professor of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin
- Oscar Magallanes, Artist, Los Angeles, CA
- Chris Cowden, Arts professional, Director, Women & Their Work, Austin
- Jay Colombo, Project Architect, Michael Hsu Office of Architecture, Austin
- Rebecca Banyas, Public Art Professional, Portland, OR

The selection team using the 2015-2017 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool included:

- Carol Stewart, Project Manager, Austin Energy
- Jim Collins, Director of On-Site Energy Resources, Austin Energy
- Philip Reed, Principal and Architect, Cotera-Reed Architects, Project Design Team member
- Alan Holt, Architect, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning Dept. City of Austin
- Bart Whatley, Architect, Dilineate Studio; Vice Chair of the Design Commission
- Hollis Hammonds, Artist; Chair of the Art in Public Places Panel; Chair, Visual Studies Department, St. Edward's University
- LuLu Flores, Chair of the Arts Commission

Beili Liu was born in China and now lives and works in Austin, Texas. She has exhibited her art in Asia, Europe and across the United States. She is a 2016 Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Grant Award recipient and has received National Endowment for the Arts support for her residency and solo exhibition "Chine" at the Museum of Southeast Texas. Beili Liu was the lead visual artist for the temporary public art project "Thirst" in Lady Bird Lake in Austin Texas, funded by a Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Artistic Innovation and Collaboration Grant, and has been twice named Austin Artist of the Year in 3D media by Austin Visual Arts Association (2009) and Austin Critic's Table (2010). Her sculptures are material-and-process-driven and site-responsive installations.