

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	58805	Agenda Number	14.
---------------------	---------	-------	---------------	-----

Meeting Date:	06/15/2017	Department:	Economic Development
---------------	------------	-------------	----------------------

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a design and commission agreement with Thoughtbarn LLC for artwork at Austin Fire Department/Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services Station # 47 Onion Creek project at 11112 Old San Antonio Road for a total contract amount not to exceed \$90,000. (District 5)

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$90,000 is available in the FY 2016-17 Capital Budget of the Austin Fire Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
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:	On May 1, 2017, the Art in Public Places Panel approved the selection process recommendation naming Thoughtbarn as the selected artist team and Melissa Borrell as the alternate. (7-0-0) On May 15, 2017, the Arts Commission approved the Selection Process Recommendation (8-0-0).
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

Art in Public Places (AIPP), of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, proposes to enter into an agreement with Thoughtbarn to design, fabricate and install artwork for the Austin Fire Department/Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (AFD/EMS) Station # 47 Onion Creek project.

The City of Austin AIPP program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department sought to commission a professional visual artist/artist team to design, fabricate, and install a permanent exterior artwork for the parking lot enclosure of a new combined AFD/EMS station that will serve the Onion Creek area, working in collaboration with project stakeholders and City staff. The total budget available for this project is \$90,000. The artwork opportunity was open to professional visual artists/artist teams, at least 18 years of age, who live or work in the Austin metropolitan area, to create artwork that reflects the dignity and importance of the AFD/EMS work, addresses the City's first responders' commitment to the community, and is physically and conceptually accessible to first responders, passers-by and station visitors—especially children.

A Request for Qualification (RFQ) was released on November 29, 2016, and closed on February 16, 2017. Two Artist Information Meetings were held: December 14, 2016, at the Cultural Arts Division Office, and January 17, 2017, at the Austin Public Library University Hills Branch. Approximately 55 artists (total) attended with Public Works, AFD/EMS and AIPP staff on hand to help answer questions.

On April 4, 2017, the Selection Panel and Project Advisors met at the Cultural Arts Division Office to review the 24 eligible applications and selected four finalists (in alphabetical order): Melissa Borrell, Brian Frisbie, Deborah Mersky and Thoughtbarn. On April 18, 2017, the Selection Panel and Project Advisors met at the African American Cultural & Heritage Facility to interview the four finalists. The Selection Panel unanimously voted to recommend artist team Thoughtbarn for the Onion Creek project and Melissa Borrell as the recommended alternate.

On May 1, 2017, the AIPP Panel unanimously approved Thoughtbarn as the artist team to be commissioned for the AFD/EMS Station #47 Onion Creek project and Melissa Borrell as the alternate. Panel Member Walker moved for the selection approval, McCray seconded. (7-0-0) On May 15, 2017, the Arts Commission approved Thoughtbarn as the artist team to be commissioned for the AFD/EMS Station #47 Onion Creek project and Melissa Borrell as the alternate on a vote of 8-0 (with Commissioners Willenzik, Reeves and Mok absent).

SELECTION PANEL

- Jamie Chioco, Designer/Principal, Chioco Design, Austin TX
- Charlton Lewis, Project Manager, Architecture; Lecturer, UT School of Architecture, Austin TX
- Teruko Nimura, Visual Artist, Austin TX

PROJECT ADVISORS

- Craig Russell, Project Manager, Public Works, City of Austin
- Alejandro Wolniewitz, Facilities Planning Manager, Austin Fire Department
- Gadiel Arellano, EMS Facilities Coordinator, Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services
- Emily Little, AIPP Panel Liaison

Thoughtbarn is a hybrid art/architecture studio. Though their projects are diverse, they share a commitment to a strong sense of place, an economy of means and a spirit of inventiveness. Thoughtbarn is the award-winning artist team commissioned for the highly successful YMCA North Austin Community Recreation Center Garden, an AIPP project. Individually and collectively, Robert Gay and Lucy Begg have a multitude of national permanent and temporary installations and architectural works, exhibitions and lectures, teaching and research positions, and published works.