Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1218, **Agenda Item #:** 19. 3/25/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Angel Axioma Alcala for artwork for the Austin Fire Department/Austin-Travis County Emergency Services Embedded Artist Project with stations located in Districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in an amount not to exceed $100,000.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of $100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget of the Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Services Department. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131
Susan Lambe, Manager, Art in Public Places Program, 512-974-7852.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

On December 7, 2020, the Art in Public Places Panel unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the Austin Fire Department/Austin-Travis County Emergency Services Embedded Artist Project, recommending Angel Axioma Alcala as the selected artist and Will Hatch Crosby as the alternate artist for one of the six $100,000 commissions, respectively. (Motion by Carr, second by Nolan, approved 7-0-0).

On December 14, 2020, the Arts Commission unanimously approved the selection process recommendation, recommending Angel Axioma Alcala as the selected artist and Will Hatch Crosby as the alternate artist for one of the six $100,000 commissions. (Motion by Polgar, second by Flores; approved 9-0-0; Keeton absent).

Additional Backup Information:

Art in Public Places (AIPP), of the Economic Development Department's Cultural Arts Division, sought to commission local professional visual artists to design, fabricate and install artwork for the Austin Fire Department (AFD)/Austin-Travis County Emergency Services (EMS) Embedded Artist Project.

The goal of the project is to commission Austin-based artists and/or artist teams who, in collaboration with City staff and community stakeholders, design artwork that integrates with the AFD and EMS sites and architecture. The artwork should be relevant to AFD/EMS's role in how the station serves the community and be conceptually accessible to staff and visitors. The artist will work in collaboration with a project team, stakeholders and City staff to design and create artwork that adds additional value to the site. AFD/EMS staff, including EMS Division Chief Wesley Hopkins and AFD Division Chief Davis Tony Haden, reviewed and provided input on the public art project outline prior to its approval by the AIPP Panel and the Arts Commission.

On August 12, 2020, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released to local Austin artists at least 18 years of age who live and work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties. Artist outreach included an artist information meeting held via an online Zoom forum on August 19, 2020, information

posted on the AIPP website, multiple notices in AIPP and Cultural Arts Division newsletters and social media, Imagine Austin, Nextdoor, and assistance from the AFD and EMS departments. The total budget available for the project is $100,000, inclusive of embedded artist time, design, insurance, and all fabrication and installation related costs.

On November 5, 2020, the jury reviewed 53 applications and recommended six artists and six alternates for the project. Shawn Smith, Angel Axioma Alcala, Luis Angulo, Xavier Shipani, Emily Weiskopf and Mary Godigna Collet were named as the selected artists and Will Hatch Crosby, Roni Ziemba, Bill Tavis, Emily Eisenhart, Allyson Lipkin and Steve Parker as alternate artists for the six $100,000 commissions, respectively. The AIPP Panel and the Arts Commission approved the selection process recommendation at their December 2020 meetings.

AFD/EMS Embedded Artist Jury

- Beili Liu, International and Local Artist
- Wenji Zhao, Landscape Designer, Asakura Robinson
- Adrian Armstrong, Austin Artist, Musician, Co-founder Brown State of Mind
- Philip Townsend, Doctoral candidate at The University of Texas at Austin, Modern and Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora
- Laura Hajar, Austin Artist, previous EMS AIPP Artist-in-Residence

Project Advisors

- Davis Tony Haden, Division Chief, Austin Fire Department
- Wesley Hopkins, Division Chief, Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services
- William Massingill, Project Manager, Public Works
- Alison Von Stein, Project Manager, Public Works
- Sarah Carr, Art in Public Places Panel Member; Principal, Word + Carr Design Group

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability; Culture and Lifelong Learning.

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