



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2384, **Agenda Item #:** 33.

7/29/2021

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with Ernesto Hernandez for artwork for the Corridor Construction Program North Lamar Boulevard Improvements Art in Public Places Projects (NoLa C2), for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$85,000.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$85,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget of the Austin Transportation Department.

For More Information:

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

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 3, 2021 - Art in Public Places (AIPP) Panel unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the North Lamar Boulevard Corridor Construction Program (NoLa C2), AIPP Project naming Ernesto Hernandez as the selected artist and Michael Mendoza (with Jeff Grauzer and Courtney Bee Peterson) as the alternate artist team for the \$85,000 commission. (Motion by Panel Member Carr, second by Panel Member Lemmo; approved 6-0-0, Panel Member Villanueva absent).

May 17, 2021 - Arts Commission unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the NoLa C2, AIPP Project, naming Ernesto Hernandez as the selected artist and Michael Mendoza (with Jeff Grauzer and Courtney Bee Peterson) as the alternate artist team for the \$85,000 commission. The item passed on consent. (Motion by Commissioner Flores, second by Commissioner Zisman; approved 9-0-0, Commissioner Barnes absent).

Additional Backup Information:

AIPP sought to commission a local professional visual artist to design, fabricate and install artwork for two Corridor Construction Program North Lamar Boulevard Improvements AIPP Projects. Corridor Construction projects are funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond. The total artist budget for each project is \$85,000, inclusive of all costs to complete the project including design, engineering, insurance, fabrication, transportation, and installation of the completed artwork. The goal of the two projects is to commission an Austin-based artist or artist team per project who will, in collaboration with City staff and community stakeholders, design artwork that highlights and celebrates the culture of the communities that now call North Lamar Boulevard home. The artist is also asked to design artwork that encourages the participation of families and youth and supports the vitality of the small business community and cultural venues. The artwork should integrate seamlessly into the construction of the corridor and be made from durable and low maintenance materials while adding to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

This public art opportunity was open to local Austin artists previously selected for AIPP's Corridor Construction Program Artist Pool. Artists selected for AIPP's Corridor Artist Pool are at least 18 years of age and live and work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties. The Corridor Artist Pool is a tool for artist selection, streamlining artists' application time/effort by allowing Corridor Artist Pool artists to apply once in order to be considered for multiple public art commissions. The Pool also allows community members to vote in the selection of the artist who will create art for their community. Artists in AIPP's Corridor Artist Pool remain eligible for Corridor Construction Program AIPP Project opportunities until Corridor construction projects are complete (scheduled for 2024).

Corridor Construction Program Artist Pool Jury:

- Marsha Dorsey-Outlaw, Artist in Education, Texas Commission on the Arts, First Artist in Residence, Education Department, Museum of Fine Arts Houston
- Tres Hernandez, Design Associate, TBG Partners
- Karmimadeeborah McMillan, Visual Artist; Educator at Tufts University
- Kelly Porter, Urban Planner; Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Coka Trevino, Artist; Author; Curator/Director of Community Programing, Big Medium Austin

On April 16, 2021, the North Lamar Boulevard Jury reviewed 43 applications from the Corridor Pool and recommended four artists as project finalists. On April 22, 2021, the North Lamar Boulevard Jury interviewed the finalists and recommended Ernesto Hernandez and Nick Schnitzer & Vy Ngo as the two selected artist/artist teams for the two Corridor Construction Program North Lamar Boulevard Improvement AIPP Projects. Jamie Spinello and Michael Mendoza (with Jeff Grauzer and Courtney Bee Peterson) were selected as the alternate artist/artist teams.

North Lamar Boulevard Jury:

- Jose Carrasco, Austin Voice for Education and Youth, Community Advisor*
- Hanna Huang, Austin Asian American Film Festival, Community Advisor *
- Heidi Lowell, Rundberg Rising
- Jacob Villanueva, AIPP Panel Vice Chair
- Daryl Ruybal, Project Manager, Corridor Program Office, City of Austin

**Prior to serving on the North Lamar Boulevard Jury, the North Lamar Boulevard Community Advisors participated in a six week-long engagement process sharing stories about North Lamar Boulevard to inform artwork goals and inspire selected artists for the Corridor Construction Program North Lamar Boulevard Improvement AIPP Projects.*

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability; Culture and Lifelong Learning.