



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3250, **Agenda Item #:** 6.

11/18/2021

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with Margo Sawyer for artwork for the Austin Fire Department/Austin-Travis County Emergency Services Travis County Station Art in Public Places project, District 8, in an amount not to exceed \$118,000.

Lead Department

Economic Development

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$118,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget of the Austin Fire Department. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

Sylvia 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:

On July 12, 2021, the Art in Public Places (AIPP) panel unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the Austin Fire Department / Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services Travis County Station, AIPP Project, naming Margo Sawyer as the selected artist and Ryah Christensen and Sun McColgin as the alternate artist team for the \$118,000 commission. (Motion by Lemmo, second by Nolan; approved 6-0-0, Vice Chair Villanueva absent).

On July 21, 2021, the Austin Arts Commission unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the Travis County AFD/EMS Station AIPP project, naming Margo Sawyer as the selected artist and Ryah Christensen and Sun McColgin as the alternate artist team for the \$118,000 commission. The item passed on consent. (Motion by Commissioner Flores, second by Commissioner Castillo; approved 9-0-0, Commissioner Keeton and Commissioner Barnes absent).

Additional Backup Information:

AIPP sought to commission local professional visual artists to design, fabricate and install artwork for the four Austin Fire Department (AFD)/Austin-Travis County Emergency Services (EMS) Art in Public Places projects.

The goal of the projects is to commission Austin-based artists 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 reflect the mission "to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response" and be relevant to AFD/EMS's role in how the station serves the community. The artist will work with AFD/EMS staff to understand the important work they do with the community. In addition, the artist will collaborate with project team, stakeholders and City staff to design and create artwork that brings additional value to the site. AFD/EMS and Public Works staff reviewed and provided input on the

public art project outline prior to its approval by the AIPP panel and Arts Commission.

On February 6, 2021, a Request for Qualifications for 4 artist opportunities at AFD/EMS Stations 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. The AFD/EMS Stations included Del Valle (Budget: \$135,000), Travis Country (Budget: \$118,000), AFD22/EMS12 (East Riverside) (\$70,000), and AFD1/EMS6 (Downtown) (Budget: \$42,000). Artist outreach included artist information meeting held via online Zoom forum on February 25, 2021; information posted on the AIPP website; multiple notices in AIPP and Cultural Arts Division newsletters and social media; posts to regional artist opportunity pages (such as Texas Commission on the Arts); and direct emails to past AIPP applicants, City of Austin Cultural Center liaisons, City of Austin Quality of Life Commission liaisons, Austin Public Library staff, and several local arts and cultural organizations. The total budget available for the Travis Country AFD/EMS Station project is \$118,000 inclusive of artist time, design, insurance, and all fabrication and installation related costs.

On May 28, 2021, the jury reviewed 63 applications and recommended four artists and four alternates for the projects. The jury recommended Margo Sawyer as the selected artist and Ryah Christensen and Sun McColgin as the alternate artist team for the \$118,000 Travis Country AFD/EMS Station commission.

4 AFD/EMS Stations Jury

- Kipp Kobayashi - Artist, Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Council Vice Chair (Los Angeles, CA)
- Oscar Alvarado - Artist, Public Art Commission with Fort Worth Fire Department (San Antonio, TX)
- Jimmy Castillo - Artist and Houston Arts Alliance Director of Civic Art + Design (Houston, TX)
- Suzy González - Artist, Curator, Educator, and Community Organizer (San Antonio, TX)
- Samara Barks - Artist and Illustrator (Austin, TX)

Project Advisors

- Tony Haden - Logistics Division Chief, Austin Fire Department, City of Austin
- Wesley Hopkins - Division Chief, Emergency Medical Services, City of Austin
- Alejandro Wolniewitz - Facilities Planning Manager, Austin Fire Department, City of Austin
- Gadiel Arellano - Project Coordinator, Emergency Medical Services, City of Austin
- Michelle Noriega - Project Manager, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- Burton Jones - Project Manager Supervisor, Architectural Project Management Division, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- Stephanie Lemmo - AIPP Panel Member and AIPP Project Liaison
- Joel Nolan - AIPP Panel Member and AIPP Project Liaison

- Jaime Castillo - Austin Arts Commissioner, District 2.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability & Culture and Lifelong Learning Strategy.