



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #: 22-2426, Agenda Item #: 13.**

**7/28/2022**

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**Posting Language:**

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with Level Up Design Works LLC for artwork for the Corridor Construction Program Burnet Road Art in Public Places Project, in an amount not to exceed \$139,000.

**Lead Department:**

Economic Development.

**Fiscal Note:**

Funding in the amount of \$139,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of the Austin Transportation Department.

**For More Information:**

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131 and Marjorie Flanagan, Acting Manager, Art in Public Places Program, 512-974-8706.

**Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

On April 4, 2022, the Art in Public Places (AIPP) Panel unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the Corridor Construction Program Burnet Road AIPP Project, naming Level Up Design Works LLC as the selected artist team and Melissa Borrell as the alternate for the \$139,000 commission. (Motion by Vice Chair Villanueva, second by Lemmo; approved 7-0-0).

On April 18, 2022, the Austin Arts Commission unanimously approved the selection process recommendation for the Corridor Construction Program Burnet Road AIPP Project, naming Level Up Design Works LLC as the selected artist team and Melissa Borrell as the alternate for the \$139,000 commission. The item passed on consent. (Motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner Flores; approved 11-0-0).

**Additional Backup Information:**

AIPP, of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) sought to commission works of art of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality of public places through the selection of an artist or artist team who can innovatively and thoughtfully respond to the design within the context of the Burnet Road Corridor Construction project. Corridor Construction projects are funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond. The total artist budget for the project is \$139,000, inclusive of all costs to complete the project including design, engineering, insurance, fabrication, transportation, and installation of the completed artwork. The goal of the project is to commission a local artist or artist team who will, in collaboration with City staff and community stakeholders, design artwork that honors the many iconic businesses both present and past that have served the communities and created destinations along the corridor; honors the history of the complex network of neighborhoods that surround and support the corridor; and delights viewers across the generations. 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

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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.

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 March 11, 2022, the Jury reviewed 36 applications from the Corridor Pool and recommended two artists as project finalists. On March 24, 2022, the Jury interviewed the finalists and recommended Michael Mendoza, Jeff Grauzer, and Courtney B. Peterson of Level Up Design Works LLC as the selected artist team for the Corridor Construction Program Burnet Rd. Corridor Improvements Art in Public Places Project. Melissa Borrell was selected as the alternate artist.

Burnet Rd. Corridor Jury:

- Daniel Arredondo, Visual Artist, District 7, Burnet Community Member Juror
- Susan Burneson, Voices of the Violet Crown, District 7, Burnet Community Member Juror
- Anne-Charlotte Patterson, Crestview Neighborhood Association, District 7, Burnet Community Member Juror
- Diana Wheeler, Allendale Neighborhood Association, District 7, Burnet Community Member Juror
- Heidi Schmalbach, Arts Commissioner, District 7
- Tammie Rubin, AIPP Panel Chair, Project Liaison
- Stephanie Lemmo, AIPP Panel Member
- Sean Barry, Corridor Program Office, Burnet Rd. Project Manager

\*Prior to serving on the Burnet Rd. Corridor Improvements Jury, the Burnet Rd. Community Advisors participated in a six week-long engagement process sharing stories about the Burnet Rd. area to inform artwork goals and inspire selected artists for the Corridor Construction Program Burnet Rd. Corridor Improvements AIPP Project.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability & Culture and Lifelong Learning Strategy.