HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS MAY 1,2024

HR-2024-040233

OLD BAKERY AND EMPORIUM 1006 CONGRESS AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Paint a mural on the building's southern wall.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The proposed mural, to be painted directly onto the stucco on the building's southern wall, is a temporary installment slated for 3 to 5 years of display. The application outlines the artist's preparation and process as follows:

- 1) Wall Preparation: To preserve the existing wall surface and structure, the artist will focus on water diversion and surface preparation. Surface cracks and penetrations will be reviewed, scrapped, and sealed prior to work. The surface will be washed with MuralColors' Mural Wash, a plant-based detergent, to remove any oils, pollutants, and efflorescence. Once dry, the artist will install a coat of MuralColors' ColorShield, a consolidant, on the wall. The artist will leave a 3-inch unprimed air gap at the bottom of the wall to promote moisture breathability and to prevent paint delamination. Once the ColorShield is dried, the artist will apply two coats of MuralColors' Mural Primer, a high-density waterborne acrylic.
- 2) Mural Installation: The artist will produce the mural using fine art aerosol paints and MuralColors' Mural Acrylics. These acrylics chemically fuse to each paint layer and contain no VOCs. They are developed to outperform commercial paints in outdoor environments, reduce maintenance costs, and resists fading, efflorescence and paint peeling.
- 3) Mural Overcoats: MuralColor's ColorShield will be applied to the finished mural first. This protective coating protects and expands the lifespan of the paint by binding and fusing paint layers together while maintaining breathability and enhancing the paint's flexibility. A Graffiti Protective Coat will be applied.

DESIGN STANDARDS

The City of Austin's <u>Historic Design Standards</u> (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate projects at historic landmarks. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repair and alterations

1. General standards

The proposed project does not remove historic fabric from the building's exterior. The existing stucco coating is non-historic, as the southern wall was originally constructed as a party wall between two buildings.

4. Exterior walls and trim

The proposed project does not alter the visible wall's materials or create openings. The applicant has requested approval for paint only, which is set back 5' from the front of the building.

Summary

The project meets the applicable standards.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

The building is a State Antiquities Landmark and Recorded Texas Historical landmark. The proposed project has received THC approval under Permit #HS 1282. The Downtown Austin Alliance Mural Maintenance Plan, included in backup, requires regular inspections of the Old Bakery mural wall and necessary upkeep to preserve the mural's condition and aesthetic appeal.

COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

Consider mineral paint rather than acrylic paint for the mural.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Concur with Committee feedback and request that additional monitoring of the substrate be performed regularly over the course of the mural's installment to ensure that damage does not occur, and to provide a case study for future mural projects on historic properties. Approve the application.

