

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 12/17/19

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 19-0391

LOG NAME: 06REBY CARY YOUTH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT

SUBJECT

Authorize Execution of an Artwork Commission Contract with Joe O’Connell Creative Machines, Inc. in an Amount Up to \$300,662.36 for Fabrication, Delivery, Installation and Contingencies for Artwork at the Reby Cary Youth Library, Located at 3851 East Lancaster Avenue, 76103, and Find that the Use of Funds for Public Art for this Project Complies with the Voted Purpose of the Bond Funds (COUNCIL DISTRICT 8)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the execution of an Artwork Commission Contract with Joe O’Connell Creative Machines, Inc. in an amount up to \$300,662.36 for fabrication, delivery, installation and contingencies for artwork at the Reby Cary Youth Library; and
2. Find that the use of the funds for public art for this project complies with the voted purpose of the bond funds.

DISCUSSION:

Only Connect is an interactive, multi-faceted artwork designed by Joe O’Connell Creative Machines, Inc. specifically to engage youth ages 0 – 18 years old at the Reby Cary Youth Library (formerly referred to as the Eastside Family Library). Echoing connections between neurons as the brain learns, individuals within a community, and subjects within the library from art history to comics, O’Connell’s immersive artwork makes the process of learning through connections an ever-evolving visual experience.

A network of several thousand colored glass spheres, connected by laser-cut stainless-steel lacework wrapped around stainless-steel rods, will dance overhead throughout the collection space in the library while interspersed integrated LED lighting is driven by optical sensors. Beyond simply viewing the work, patrons will have opportunities to create their own “light show” in the space: a zoomed-lens camera kiosk will be available for visitors to directly project colors with the overhead lights. Additionally, a series of six [movable] hidden buttons will be placed within various stacks at the library which, as discovered, will play unique pre-programmed light routines. After a special animation is finished or the camera timeout period elapses, the system will enter a looped “idle animation” consisting of slow-moving sequences of colored light, which will continue to play overnight.

The colorful interior sculpture is expected to be highly visible from East Lancaster Avenue, spanning 120’ in length with its highest point 18’9” above the floor and its lowest point 10’9” from floor. Furthering its presence, the organic design meanders from the library’s interior space to the exterior retaining wall along East Lancaster Avenue. Two low-relief sculptural components to the east and west of the library mimic the interior concept with flattened organic stainless-steel shapes and glass spheres. Each piece is 18’ in length by 1’8” in height and 2.5” in depth.

On June 27, 2019, Joe O’Connell Creative Machines, Inc. was placed under a Final Design Agreement (City Secretary Contract No. 52519) in the amount of up to \$39,212.00.

Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) Action: On September 9, 2019, the FWAC approved the Final Design by Joe O’Connell Creative Machines, Inc. and recommended that they be placed under an Artwork Commission Contract.

Funding for the project has been allocated from the from the 2014 Bond Program, Proposition 3, adopted by the Fort Worth City Council on October 21, 2014 (M&C G-18339). Additional funding for the project was included in the *Fund Reprogramming Plans from the 2007 Critical Capital Needs Program and the 2008 Bond Program*, adopted by the Fort Worth City Council on June 26, 2018 (M&C G-19323). The project was included in the *Fort Worth Public Art Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Work Plan*, adopted by the Fort Worth City Council on November 6, 2018 (M&C G-19412).

PROJECT BUDGET	AMOUNT	CONTRACT
Project Management Allocation	\$38,392.00	
First Finalist Interview Agreements (Selection Process 1)	\$1,239.50	CSC #50322, 50323, 50324 Completed 04/23/2018

First Preliminary Design (Manferdini – did not result in a Design)	\$24,826.14	CSC #50781 Contract Terminated for Cause 08/17/2018
Second Finalist Proposal Agreements (Selection Process 2)	\$6,300.00	CSC #51524, 51509, 51489, 51490 Completed 2/6/2019
Preliminary Design (O'Connell)	\$15,095.00	CSC #52131 Completed 6/27/2019
Final Design (O'Connell)	\$39,212.00	CSC #52519 Completed 10/1/2019
Commission and Contingency	\$300,662.36	This M&C
TOTAL	\$425,727.00	

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
2014 Bond Program, Proposition 3	\$65,000.00
Reprogrammed Funding from 2008 Bond Program	\$264,230.00
Reprogrammed Funding from 2007 CCN	96,497.00
TOTAL	\$425,727.00

M/WBE OFFICE - The City's overall M/WBE goal for the Fort Worth Public Art Program is 25 percent of total capital project dollars expended on public art annually.

Council Member Kelly Allen Gray concurs with the Art Commission's recommendation to commission Joe O'Connell Creative Machines, Inc. to fabricate, deliver, and install artwork at the Reby Cary Youth Library.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendation and award of the contract, funds are available in the current capital budget, as appropriated, in the 2007 Critical Capital Projects, Street Improvements 2008, and 2014 Bond Program Funds FWPA - Eastside Library project . Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Planning & Development Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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