

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/31/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0212

LOG NAME: 84 FIRE STATION 37 PUBLIC ART PROJECT

SUBJECT

(CD 4) Authorize Execution of Artwork Commission Contract with Kathleen Warwick in an Amount Up to \$133,602.00 for Fabrication, Delivery, Installation, and Contingencies for Artwork to be Located at the New Fire Station 37, 10600 Alta Vista Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76244 (2022 Bond Program)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize execution of artwork commission contract with Kathleen Warwick in an amount up to \$133,602.00 for fabrication, delivery, installation, and contingencies for artwork to be located at the new Fire Station 37, 10600 Alta Vista Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76244.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize execution of commission contract with Kathleen Warwick.

Inspired by the current Fire Station 37 patch, which features a black long-horned ram, the approved conceptual design by artist Kathleen Warwick is a contemporary stone sculpture honoring the resilience, strength, and heroism of Fire Station 37 firefighters and first responders. The centerpiece is a powerful black marble Bighorn Ram — Station 37's "black sheep" mascot — depicted charging forward through billowing smoke, symbolizing courage, tenacity, and the willingness to run toward danger. The ram emerges from sculpted smoke forms that subtly reference iconic firefighting imagery, reinforcing the profession's identity and mission.

The sculpture rises from a strong vertical pillar mounted on an architectural plinth clad in materials matching the new firehouse, creating visual continuity with the building. The front of the pillar displays the number "37" and Fort Worth's longhorn emblem, while the rear features engraved words describing the firefighters' core values — sourced directly from the Station 37 community — to serve as daily inspiration.

Carved from black marble, the sculpture combines permanence and historical gravitas with a contemporary aesthetic. Polished black surfaces contrast with textured grey tones in the ram's horns and smoke, emphasizing movement, depth, and visual drama. At approximately 8 feet tall including the plinth, the piece is designed for prominent placement near the entry of the fire station, ensuring visibility for both the public and station personnel.

Although the artist's final design has not yet been approved by the Fort Worth Art Commission, in order to streamline the timeline for commissioning of the sculpture, staff recommends Council authorize a commission contract with this M&C, subject to the Art Commission approving the final design at an Art Commission meeting. This will allow the artist to complete the final design and, upon Art Commission approval of the final design, proceed to a commission contract, expediting completion of the artwork in alignment with the completion of construction of Fire Station 37. However, no commission contract will be executed until a final design has been approved by the Art Commission.

Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) Action:

Kathleen Warwick was one of three finalist artists contracted to create conceptual design proposals during the artist selection process. On February 16, 2026, the Fort Worth Art Commission approved the selection of Artist Kathleen Warwick and the artist's proposed Conceptual Design and recommended Kathleen Warwick be placed under an artwork final design contract. The final design will be approved by the Fort Worth Art Commission before the artist can move into the commission phase.

Funding for the Fire Station 37 Public Art Project was approved as part of the *Public Art Plan for the 2022 Bond Program*, adopted by the Fort Worth City Council on November 29, 2022, as M&C 22-0935. The project was included in the *Fort Worth Public Art Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Work Plan*, adopted by the Fort Worth City Council December 9, 2025, as M&C 25-1127.

The artist shall require their subcontractors to obtain all permits required for this project, however, the City shall waive any fees for these permits as this project is funded by City funds.

PROJECT BUDGET	AMOUNT	CONTRACT
Public Art Project Management Allocation	\$29,925.00	City Secretary Contract (CSC) #63991
Conceptual Design Proposals	\$6,000.00	CSC #64306,64307,64309

Final Design	\$29,973.00	CSC Pending Execution
Commission and Contingencies	\$133,602.00	This M&C
TOTAL	\$199,500.00	

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
2022 Bond, Proposition D	\$199,500.00
TOTAL	\$199,500.00

This project is included in the 2022 Bond Program. The City's Extendable Commercial Paper (ECP) (M&C 22-0607; Ordinance 25675-08-2022) provides liquidity to support the appropriation. Available resources will be used to actually make any interim progress payments until debt is issued. Once debt associated with a project is sold, debt proceeds will reimburse the interim financing source in accordance with the statement expressing official Intent to Reimburse that was adopted as part of the ordinance canvassing the bond election (Ordinance 25515-05-2022).

Funding is budgeted in the 2022 Bond Program Fund for the Library Department for the purpose of funding the FWPA Fire Station 37 project, as appropriated.

Council Member Charles Lauersdorf concurs with the FWAC's recommendation for Kathleen Warwick to refine her proposal into a final design, and upon approval, fabricate, deliver, and install artwork at Fire Station 37.

This project is located in Council District 4.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the 2022 Bond Program Fund for the FWPA Fire Station 37 project to support the approval of the above recommendation and execution of the commission. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Library Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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