

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/13/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0439

LOG NAME: 03NORTH BEACH / I-820 UNDERPASS PUBLIC ART PROJECT

SUBJECT

(CD 4) Authorize Execution of an Artwork Commission Contract with Merge Conceptual Design LLC in an Amount Up to \$248,404.16 for Fabrication, Delivery, Installation, and Contingencies for Artwork at the Underpass Located at the Intersection of North Beach Street and Interstate 820, Fort Worth, Texas 76177

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council authorize the execution of an Artwork Commission Contract with Merge Conceptual Design LLC in an amount up to \$248,404.16 for fabrication, delivery, installation, and contingencies for artwork at the underpass located at the intersection of North Beach Street and Interstate 820, Fort Worth, Texas 76177.

DISCUSSION:

Merge Conceptual Design's whimsical 'Wind(mills)', developed for the North Beach / Interstate 820 underpass, will serve as an identifying gateway for the area. Inspired by the openness of surrounding fields and prevailing North Texas winds, the design is a playful reference to Texas' ubiquitous windmills and transforms the underpass into an animated, colorful visual experience. Comprised of fifty-eight (58) bicycle wheels suspended from the colonnades, the design responds to the environmental elements of the site, specifically wind and light. Wind that passes through the site on a given day will push the wheels to spin at various speeds, while light will illuminate the wheels' reflective surface, allowing tonal color shifts throughout the day.

Employing simple bicycle components, the artist has developed eight (8) 'sail' patterns to transform each wheel into a dynamic 'windmill'. The design includes wheels at varying diameters: twenty inches (20"), twenty-nine inches (29"), forty-eight inches (48"), and fifty-two inches (52"). The aluminum sheet 'sails', installed between the spokes, will be covered front and back with bright custom-colored reflective traffic film similar to material used on roadway signs. The underpass colonnades will be painted a light gray to create an overall artwork zone within the underpass.

The artist anticipates that the wheels will start moving with light winds of 3 miles per hour (mph). Smaller wheels will tend to react more quickly, but will also slow down more immediately. Different 'sail' designs will produce different rotation speeds according to the sail surface area catching the wind. Though the artist expects winds will not generally exceed 60 mph, the design is engineered to withstand winds up to 150 mph.

Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) Action:

On March 20, 2023, the Fort Worth Art Commission approved the Final Design and recommended Merge Conceptual Design LLC be placed under an Artwork Commission Contract. The artwork attachment method and related structural drawings have been reviewed and approved by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Funding for the North Beach / Interstate 820 Underpass Public Art Project was approved as part of the *Public Art Plan for the 2014 Bond Program*, Proposition 1, adopted by the Fort Worth City Council on October 21, 2014 as Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) G-18339. The project was included in the *Fort Worth Public Art Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Work Plan*, adopted by the Fort Worth City Council November 29, 2022 as M&C 22-0935.

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

Regular maintenance for the artwork, anticipated to occur every 12 - 16 months, is estimated at \$3,700.00.

PROJECT BUDGET	AMOUNT	CONTRACT
Preliminary Design	\$19,400.00	CSC #56306
Final Design	\$32,195.84	CSC #57354
Commission and Contingencies	\$248,404.16	This M&C

TOTAL	\$300,000.00	
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FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
2014 Bond Program, Proposition 1	\$300,000.00
TOTAL	\$300,000.00

Funding is budgeted in the Dev Svcs Other General Gov Department's 2014 Bond Program Fund for the purpose of funding the FWPA North Beach/Interstate 820 Underpass project, as appropriated.

BUSINESS DIVERSITY 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. The Business Equity Division waived the Business Equity Goal requirement because most artists are individuals and not businesses. The Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Inc., D/B/A Arts Fort Worth, has agreed that 25% of all artists commissioned will be a minority individual(s) or a minority business owner(s). Arts Fort Worth and the Planning and Data Analytics Department will report its utilization to the Business Equity Division on a semi-annual basis at the end of March and September.

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 2014 Bond Program Fund for the FWPA North Beach/Interstate 820 Underpass project to support the approval of the above recommendation and execution of the commission contract. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Planning & Data Analytics Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Fernando Costa 6122

Originating Business Unit Head: Richard Zavala 5724

Additional Information Contact: Martha Peters 817-298-3025