



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 3, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Jordan Klein, Economic Development Manager

Subject: Contract: Michael Arcega for San Pablo Park Measure T1 Public Art Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for an amount not to exceed \$210,000, and any amendments thereto, with Michael Arcega for a public art commission for San Pablo Park.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The \$210,000 contract will be funded with Measure T1 bond funds. Funding for public art was set aside in the Measure T1 budget in accordance with Council Resolution 60,048-N.S. Phase one of Measure T1 generated \$350,000 for public art, of which the Civic Arts Commission allocated \$210,000 for implementation of a project to be integrated into the improvements at San Pablo Park.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The San Pablo Park Public Art Project is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities. San Pablo Park, located at 2800 Park Street between Russell Street and Ward Street, offers a wide range of recreational facilities, including baseball and basketball, open space, play areas for younger children, and more. This park is an important amenity for the community and the City, where people of all ages find opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of the outdoors. San Pablo Park is undergoing renovations, funded by the Measure T1 Bond, to address numerous upgrades to the southern end of the park including improvements to the two play areas and the tennis courts.

As part of these improvements, the City of Berkeley is commissioning a functional artwork for the park. The artwork will help beautify the space and will contribute to the unique identity of the park.

BACKGROUND

A Request for Qualifications was released on September 11, 2018 and was open through October 23, 2018. A selection panel comprised of arts professionals reviewed the qualifications of the 42 applicants and recommended 21 applications to be

presented to the San Pablo Park Public Art Project selection panel, which was comprised of arts professionals, a representative from the Civic Arts Commission, a Public Works Measure T1 project team member, and community representatives. This panel reviewed the qualifications of the 21 artists on the short list and selected four finalists who were invited to develop site specific public art project proposals. The proposals were displayed to gather public comment for two weeks on the City's website and at the Frances Albrier Community Center located in the park. The San Pablo Park Public Art Project selection panel reconvened to evaluate the four proposals and they selected the proposal by Michael Arcega for recommendation to the Civic Arts Commission.

Michael Arcega's proposal to create a series of unique colorful metal benches and decorative elements based upon local flowering plants to be interspersed throughout the southern end of San Pablo Park was approved by the Civic Arts Commission at its meeting on October 23, 2019 (Motion/Second: Anno/Passmore; Ayes: Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Ozol, Passmore, Ross, Slattery; Nays: None; Abstain: None; Absent: Covarrubias, Tamano). The contract with Michael Arcega will be for design development, structural engineering, fabrication, and installation of the artwork at San Pablo Park.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the content of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal by Michael Arcega was selected based upon the following criteria: aesthetic quality; appropriateness of the proposed artwork for the site and project goals; demonstrated feasibility of the preliminary proposal and the proposal budget; and demonstrated maintainability and durability of the artworks design, materials, fabrication, and installation methods.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The selection panel considered two other proposals.

CONTACT PERSON

Jordan Klein, Economic Development Manager, (510) 981-7534
Jennifer Lovvorn, Chief Cultural Affairs Officer, (510) 981-7533

Attachments:

1: Artwork Proposal for San Pablo Park by Michael Arcega

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT WITH MICHAEL ARCEGA TO CREATE A PUBLIC ARTWORK FOR SAN PABLO PARK

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley seeks to engage an artist to create a work of public art at San Pablo Park in conjunction with the Measure T1 infrastructure improvements in order to enhance the facility and expand the community's public art resources; and

WHEREAS, Funding for public art was set aside in the Measure T1 budget in accordance with Council Resolution 60,048-N.S.; and

WHEREAS, A Request for Qualifications from professional practicing artists was released on September 11, 2018 and subsequently 42 submissions were received; and

WHEREAS, A selection panel comprised of arts professionals reviewed the qualifications of the 42 applicants and recommended 21 applications to be presented to the San Pablo Park Public Art Project selection panel, which was comprised of arts professionals, a representative from the Civic Arts Commission, a Public Works Measure T1 project team member, and community representatives; and

WHEREAS, The San Pablo Park Public Art Project selection panel reviewed the qualifications of the 21 artists on the short list and selected four finalists who were invited to develop site specific public art project proposals; and

WHEREAS, The San Pablo Park Public Art Project selection panel reconvened to evaluate the four proposals and they selected the proposal by Michael Arcega for recommendation to the Civic Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, Michael Arcega's proposal to create a series of unique colorful metal benches and decorative elements based upon local flowering plants to be interspersed throughout the southern end of San Pablo Park was approved by the Civic Arts Commission at its meeting on October 23, 2019.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments thereto with Michael Arcega for a public artwork for San Pablo Park for an amount not to exceed \$210,000. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments are to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

Michael Arcega
Public Art Proposal for San Pablo Park

Wildflowers, Bloom!

Berkeley has long established itself as a leader in Civil Rights and counter-culture movements. Local activists have often used plants as a central component for healing, nurturing, and fostering strength across marginalized groups. ***Wildflowers, Bloom!*** is a simple and elegant theme that celebrates beauty, resistance and community. This artwork highlights endangered and useful flowering plants indigenous to Berkeley giving them a larger than life presence.

We use plant-based metaphors like *Grass-roots, rhizomatic, cultivating, fruitful, blossom, diasporic* and so many more to describe collective efforts and political scenarios. Slogans of resistance like “*They tried to bury us, they didn’t know we were seeds*” are poignant and compelling. We equate plants to empowerment and the potency of community. Wildflowers evoke an unruly beauty that is diverse and stubborn. Like activists, wildflowers embellish humble cracks on sidewalks and enshroud great rolling fields that awe and amaze. They can transform a dreary scene into a heartwarming one. As a metaphor, wildflowers are markers of resistance to homogeneity and colonization.

Rather than a centralized monument, this artwork intersperses San Pablo Park with vibrant color and functional sculptures that invite engagement and dialogue. ***Wildflowers, Bloom!*** is intended to uplift and create a space that honors indigenous land and creates common ground for collective growth. The title is a call to action to be bold, diverse, and wonderful.

The scope of this proposal includes a suite of three elements:

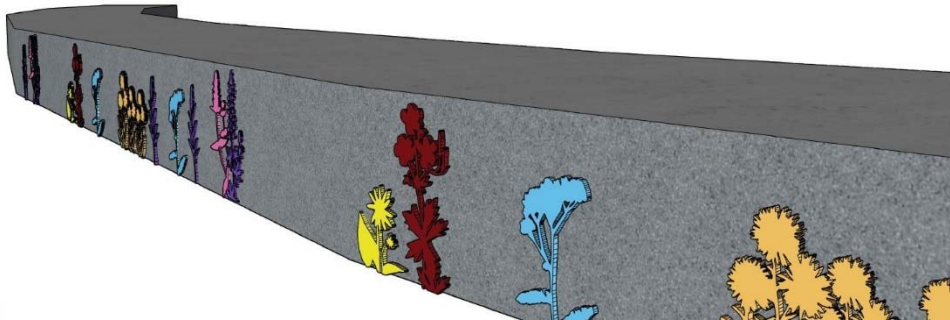
- A) **6 Unique Benches** of notable flowering plants from the area. This is a series of sculptural seating elements to replace the existing benches. Each functional artwork will be double-sided, approximately 8’ wide, 4’ tall, and varying seat depth with a maximum of 2 feet on each side (¾” waterjet cut steel, painted with durable exterior enamel paint).



B) **25 Wildflower Silhouettes** will be installed throughout the park. These will be mounted on fences, posts, gates, directional signage, water fountains, bleachers, and other existing features to carry the native wildflower theme throughout, suggesting a rhizomatic spreading of wildness. With a variety of colors, the silhouettes range from 20" to 30" tall (1/4" waterjet cut steel, painted with durable exterior enamel paint).



C) **1 Seating Wall** with approximately 30 wildflowers. The 14" concrete seating wall will have smaller but more dense arrangements of wildflower silhouettes. They will be attached directly to the concrete. The larger of these silhouettes will be 13" tall (1/4" waterjet cut steel, painted with durable exterior enamel paint).



I will work closely with Gizmo Art Productions to further develop the details of my designs to generate a construction document used for fabrication. With an in-house waterjet and spray booth, I will have direct access to any quality oversight and shifts in fabrication. As a General Contractor, Gizmo has liability Insurance coverage, engineering, and support staff to deliver and install the various components of the project.

Gizmo Art Productions will be co-managing, fabrication and installing the work.

