



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 16, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
 Submitted by: Eleanor Hollander, Economic Development Manager
 Subject: Contract: Sorell Raino-Tsui for Public Artwork Commission for Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Clubhouse (MLK/YAP)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any necessary amendments with Sorell Raino-Tsui for an amount not to exceed \$442,000 for a public art commission of an 885 square foot mosaic on the exterior East wall, exterior North wall, and interior North wall of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Clubhouse located at 1730 Oregon St.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The \$442,000 contract will be funded through Measure T1 bond funds (Fund Code 511-21-208-252-0000-000-446-612990) in Fiscal Year 2026.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Artist Sorell Raino-Tsui was selected through a competitive process to create a permanent artwork on the exterior East wall, exterior North wall, and interior North wall of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Clubhouse (MLK/YAP). The goals of the project are the following:

- 1) Provide an enriching welcome to teens, young adults, visitors, staff, and community members.
- 2) Promote neighborhood connections, a sense of belonging, inclusivity, and play.
- 3) Relate in a meaningful way to the project site, such as complementing the youth center programming; responding to the building's architecture; celebrating or reflecting the youth center and surrounding community, culture, or lifestyle; referencing the park's history; and/or harmonizing with the natural environment.

Sorell Raino-Tsui's proposal *South Berkeley Shines 2* draws inspiration from his own multi-cultural, multi-generational relationship he and his family share with the immediate neighborhood including the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project building itself. Raino-Tsui's proposed artwork celebrates the cultures, diversity, history and people of South Berkeley. Portraits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ruth Acty, Maggie Gee, William B. Rumford, Charles Lee Austin, Joseph Charles, and Mabel

Howard, as well as imagery of the Ashby Flea Market and drum circles stand as symbols of pride and history from Berkeley. Cultural patterns found in textiles, ceramics, and symbols from around the world are found throughout the design. The patterns celebrate diversity and the artist's own lived experience in Berkeley. Proposed imagery in the artwork represents Africa, Latin America, China, Japan, the Middle East, America, and the Berkeley Rose Garden (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Artwork proposal by Sorell Raino-Tsui, *South Berkeley Shines 2*, mosaic artwork for Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project (MLK/YAP) building in Grove Park at 1730 Oregon Street (2025).



Next Steps

After the artwork commission contract is approved, design and fabrication work on *South Berkeley Shines 2* will commence. Installation at the site is anticipated in 2027, after construction at the MLK/YAP Center is completed. The Measure T1 funded construction project, which includes seismic retrofit work and interior and exterior upgrades to create a more modern and flexible recreation center, began in July 2025.

BACKGROUND

On October 30, 2024, the Civic Arts Commission approved the *Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Public Art Project Plan*, which called for the commission of an 885 square foot mosaic artwork on the exterior East wall, exterior North wall, and interior North wall of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project building in Grove Park. The commission's (10/30/24) vote was as follows: M/S/C (Ibarra/Anno) to approve *Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Public Art Project Plan* Vote: Ayes — Anno, Bachrach,

Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Ibarra, Pineda, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Crandall.

A *Request for Qualifications* for this public art commission was released on November 25, 2024, and was open through January 31, 2025. A selection panel comprised of arts professionals reviewed the qualifications of the 139 applicants and recommended 26 applications to be presented to the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project selection panel. The selection panel was comprised of three Bay Area arts professionals, a Civic Arts Commissioner, a Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commissioner, a member of the building's architecture team, and a community representative. This selection panel reviewed the qualifications of the 26 recommended artists and advanced five finalists to develop detailed conceptual site-specific proposals. Once the proposals were received, staff conducted extensive community outreach to collect public input on the proposals. A "Berkeley Considers" survey was hosted on the City's website from July 21 to August 1, 2025, inviting the public to provide input on each proposal. At the close of the survey, 669 responses were collected. On August 6, 2025, the selection panel was reconvened to consider finalists' presentations in an interview format. At the end of three rounds of competitive scoring, the selection panel recommended Sorell Raino-Tsui's proposal *South Berkeley Shines 2* to the Civic Arts Commission's Public Art Subcommittee for approval. On August 11, 2025, the Public Art Subcommittee unanimously recommended Sorell Raino-Tsui's proposal entitled, *South Berkeley Shines 2*, to the full Civic Arts Commission for approval.

On August 13, 2025, the Civic Arts Commission met and unanimously approved Sorell Raino-Tsui's proposal *South Berkeley Shines 2* with the following vote: M/S/C (Blecher/Pineda) to approve the panel's selection of artist Sorell Raino-Tsui and his artwork proposal for the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project building in Grove Park. Vote: Ayes — Bachrach, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Dutta-Choudhury, Montgomery, Pineda, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Scott.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal by Sorell Raino-Tsui was selected based upon the following criteria: creativity, experience, project goals, site specificity, feasibility and maintenance, and project management.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

On August 6, 2025, the selection panel was reconvened to consider five finalists' presentations in an interview format. Staff thoroughly presented the project background, agenda, timetable, scoring criteria, and voting process in advance of and at the start of the meeting. After the five finalist interviews, staff presented a summary of the public

input survey. Selection Panelists then discussed each presentation, citing the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal before individually scoring the five proposals. Three rounds of voting were conducted. For the third and final round of voting, all seven panelists submitted a response directly to staff to tally. At the conclusion, Sorell Raino-Tsui's proposal, *South Berkeley Shines 2*, was selected by five of the seven selection panelists for a final recommendation to the Public Art Subcommittee.

CONTACT PERSON

Mark Salinas, Civic Arts, Office of Economic Development, (510) 981-7538

Attachment:

1: Resolution

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

CONTRACT WITH SORELL RAINO-TSUI TO CREATE PUBLIC ART ON THE EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR WALLS OF THE MLK JR YOUTH SERVICES CENTER/YOUNG ADULT PROJECT CLUBHOUSE (MLK/YAP) BUILDING

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's Arts and Culture Plan calls for the enhancement of Berkeley's environment by placing temporary and permanent public art in public spaces throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Arts Commission approved the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Public Art Project Plan, on October 30, 2024, which called for the commissioning of a permanent 885 square foot mosaic artwork upon the exterior East wall, exterior North wall, and interior North wall of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Building at 1730 Oregon Street in Grove Park; and

WHEREAS, funding for the artist contract for the mosaic artwork at Grove Park is included in the budget of the Measure T1 bond funds (Fund 511) for Fiscal Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Qualifications from professional practicing artists was released on November 25, 2024 and 139 applications were received; and

WHEREAS, a selection panel comprised of three Bay Area arts professionals reviewed the qualifications of the 139 applicants and recommended 26 applications to be presented to the MLK/YAP selection panel comprised of seven people including the three Bay Area arts professionals, a Civic Arts Commissioner, a Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commissioner, a member of the project's architect team, and a community representative; and

WHEREAS, five finalists were selected by the panel and invited to develop site-specific public art project proposals; and

WHEREAS, the selection panel reconvened to evaluate the five proposals and selected the proposal by Sorell Raino-Tsui's entitled *South Berkeley Shines 2* for recommendation to the Civic Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Arts Commission approved Sorell Raino-Tsui for a permanent mosaic artwork at MLK/YAP in Grove Park at its scheduled commission meeting on August 13, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager, or designee, is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments

thereto with Sorell Raino-Tsui for a permanent mosaic artwork on the exterior East wall, exterior North wall, and interior North wall of the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project Building in Grove Park located at 1730 Oregon Street for an amount not to exceed \$442,000.

A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments are to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.