



DATE: June 26, 2018

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Community Development/
Public Works

TITLE: **Public Art for the Community Center
Building Remodel Project – Artist
Agreement**

RECOMMENDATION

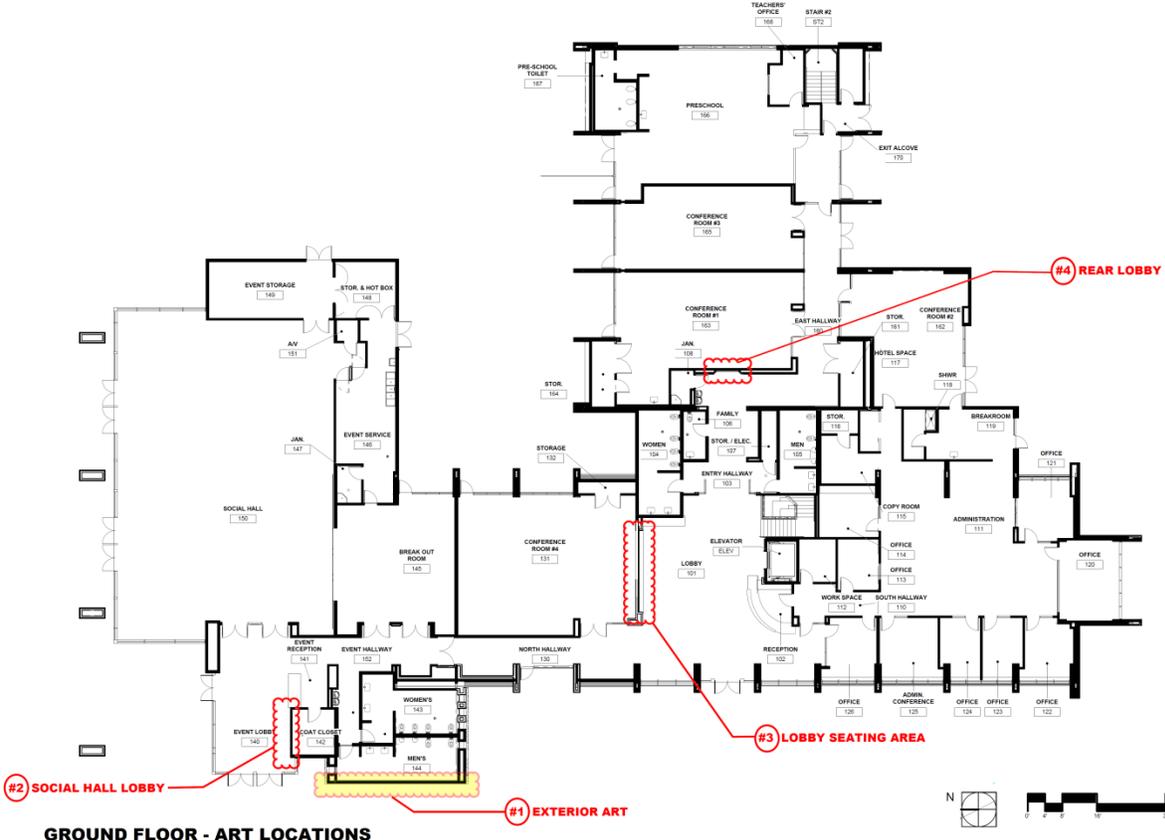
1. Terminate the art design and installation agreement with LC Studio Tutto for public art at the Community Center due to their inability to produce the agreed-upon scope of work for the agreement amount.
2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to negotiate and execute an agreement with one of the previously approved artist alternates by the Visual Arts Committee for the Community Center Building Remodel Project.

BACKGROUND

Over the years, the City has instituted a public art program and built a collection of art at City facilities throughout the City using public funds. A major component of this program is a City policy which requires that 1 percent of all major City capital improvement projects (CIPS) \$1 million or more be devoted to the purchase of public art as part of the project. The Visual Arts Committee (VAC) is responsible for advising the City Council on the selection of art and artists for the qualifying CIPs.

The Community Center is located at 201 South Rengstorff Avenue. The City Council approved funding to renovate and expand the Community Center along with areas external to the building. The renovation of the Community Center was anticipated to cost \$14.0 million with the budget for the commission of art at \$140,000.

The Community Center Remodel has been under construction since late August 2017 and, as of this report, is over 60 percent complete. The building contractor has commenced installing the exterior waterproofing and finishes, which includes the large, west-facing wall where LC Studio Tutto proposed to locate their public art installation (see diagrams below), which is one of four art pieces approved for the project.



GROUND FLOOR - ART LOCATIONS



Site 1, Exterior Wall

ANALYSIS

On May 1, 2016, staff issued a Request for Proposals through the online “Call for Artists” website, callforentry.org, to obtain submittals for public art located at the Community Center. The RFP sought artists who can produce art pieces that incorporate the environment and sense of community of Rengstorff Park, the Community Center, and the City of Mountain View. The VAC is responsible for providing input and recommending potential artists to Council for design and installation of art for the Community Center remodel project.

On November 22, 2016, Council approved artists recommended for separate building locations (one exterior and three interior building areas). LC Studio Tutto (“LCST”) was the artist approved for artwork slated for the exterior of the building (Site 1: Exterior Wall, depicted above). On October 30, 2017, the City and LCST entered into an agreement with a scope of work that includes a painted mural/tapestry named “Woven City.” The proposed art is comprised of a painted mural of an abstracted aerial map of Mountain View, measuring approximately 33’ wide by 13’ high. It also includes small three-dimensional figures of approximately 2” clustered in the center of the mural, depicting the essence of a close-knit community. At night, the artwork would be transformed with the installation of LED lights that illuminate the streets of the painted aerial map, and gave a feeling of flying over the City at night. LCST’s current agreement has a maximum compensation of \$73,300 for the design and execution of this art installation. For further illustrations, see renderings on the following page.



View from Main Entrance Drive Aisle



Original Art Proposal – Daylight Hours



Original Art Proposal – Night View

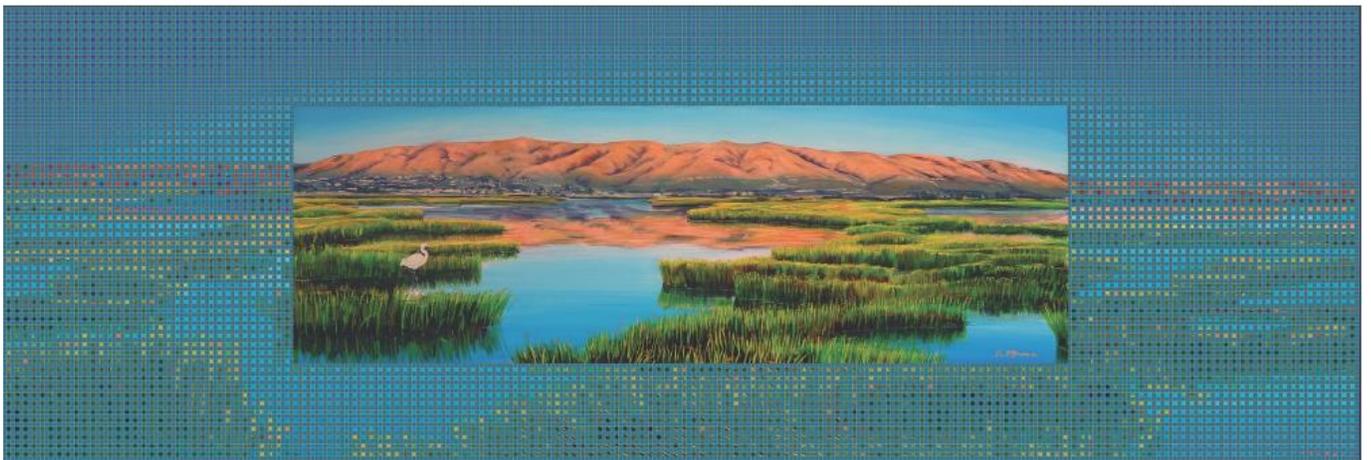
A problem arose during the artists' feasibility of the lighting element pertaining to the proposed art work as depicted above. Prior to commencement of construction in August 2017 and at regular intervals since, staff has been working with the artist to assist them in development of a workable solution to their proposed exterior public art installation. Throughout this time frame, the artist's approach and method of achieving their design goals continuously evolved as they explored various technical and aesthetic solutions—none of which had been previously attempted or executed by the artist.

On February 14, 2018, LCST presented to the VAC the latest iteration of design which included a large exterior mural along with a raised metal "roadway" with embedded lighting and hundreds of metal figurines installed on the building's new exterior stucco wall. Staff had previously advised LCST that their proposed art would still require specialized waterproofing and embedded support elements to avoid compromising the weather-fastness of the building. After many months of receiving technical feedback from staff and their own consultants on various design alternatives, LCST ultimately proposed a solution that eliminated the lighting. LCST represented that this was due, primarily, to the higher-than-anticipated costs for the artist's fabricator to make and install all of the non-painting elements of the artwork. Therefore, LCST advised staff that they would not be able to provide the lighting component, as described in their agreement, without additional compensation. Their modified proposal includes keeping the painted mural and small figurines for the original agreement amount.

Due to the proposed change in scope for this art installation, the VAC hosted a Special Meeting on June 4, 2018 to allow the artist to further explain their request to eliminate the lighting feature from the overall artwork and proceed with the agreement at the

same amount. The VAC's input from the Special Meeting was to terminate the agreement with artist LC Studio Tutto due to not being able to design and install the agreed-upon artwork and select a previously approved alternate artist. The VAC's previously approved alternate artists for exterior Site 1 are Kathleen Frugé-Brown (ranked first) and Roberto Delgado (ranked second).

The first alternate approved by the VAC was Kathleen Frugé-Brown on June 26, 2016. Ms. Brown proposes artwork entitled, "Mountains and Bay," which depicts Mission Peak Range, a visible view from Shoreline Park at Mountain View, at an estimated cost of up to \$60,000 (Attachment 1). The proposed size is 8'x24' and will be going in the same place where previous artists LCST artwork would be. The change in artists and artwork will not delay or hold up the progress of the project remodel. Staff recently contacted Ms. Frugé-Brown to ensure she was still available and interested in pursuing artwork for exterior Site 1, which she confirmed.



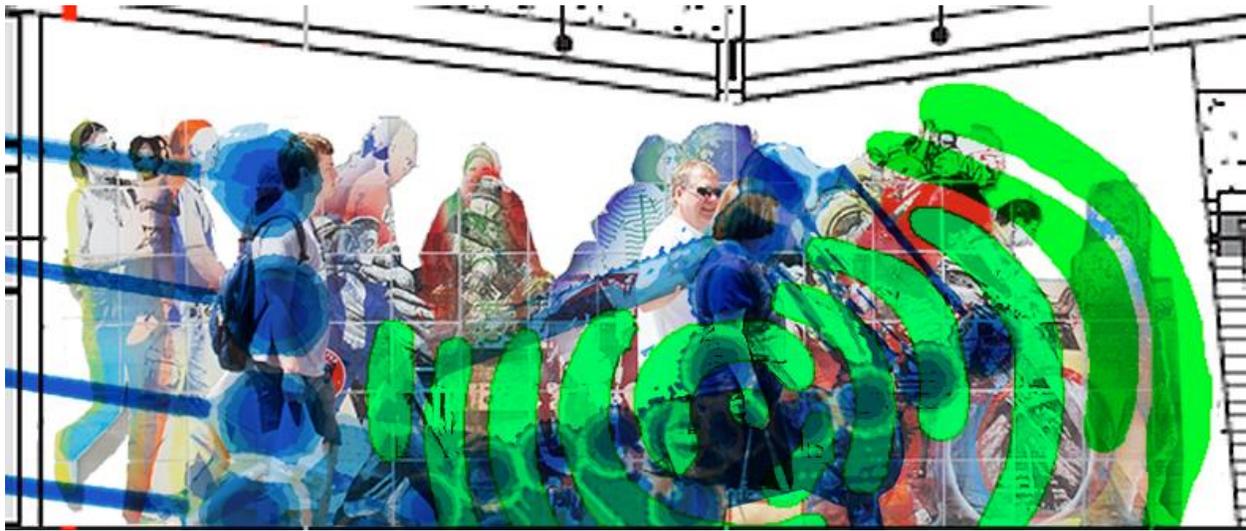
Kathleen Frugé-Brown Art Proposal – "Mountains and Bay"



View from Main Entrance Drive Aisle

As mentioned above, the second alternate approved by the VAC was Roberto Delgado. Mr. Delgado is proposing a 2D tile mural with fired fade-proof ceramic tiles (freeze-thaw proven) with an airbrushed over photo silkscreen technique. This technique offers a narrative depiction of the history and culture of Mountain View neighborhoods. The tiles will be cut-to-shape for a 300 square foot composition that fills 70 percent of the overall wall space. His work is people oriented and based on the history and culture of the subject site. Mr. Delgado's style of superimposing the imagery touches on abstraction and the reality of the photo silkscreens is mixed one with the other, with stenciled delineations using airbrushing. The researched imagery and photos are digitized with various Photoshop tools to make them suitable positives for burning onto the silkscreens.

Below is a conceptual image of the mural area using the cut-tile image from the Blake Transit Center, which is superimposed with the Nanobio DNA and the Ohlone petroglyph (Ann Arbor, Michigan). If selected, the artist will work with the VAC, collections or artifacts from the Mountain View Historical Association, the City historical photos, and the Computer History Museum.



Roberto Delgado Art Proposal - 2D Tile Mural



View from Main Entrance Drive Aisle

The other three artists are progressing well with their artwork. Site 2 is the social hall lobby, and Counterpoint Studios (Peter Tonningson and Lisa Levine) are the artists; Site 3 is the lobby seating area, and Nga Trinh is the artist and she has completed her artwork; and Site 4 is rear lobby hallway, and Stephen Galloway is the artist.

FISCAL IMPACT

The original budget for this public art project presented to City Council in December 2016 was based on an estimated \$14 million building construction budget, or \$140,000, which includes fabrication, delivery, and installation. The project is funded through approved CIPs 15-43 and 17-32. The four original recommendations total approximately \$126,550 (with administration costs being approximately \$134,800) within the budget for the public art. The estimated project cost was \$58,900, which was subsequently increased to \$73,300 for LCST's executed agreement due to added costs of incorporating lighting and addressing building weatherproofing requirements.

To date, LCST has received a payment of \$7,330 from the City. LCST asserts they have incurred costs of \$18,107.50 as of June 19, 2018. In addition, LCST recently invoiced the City for satisfactory completion of the approved artwork design in the amount of \$47,645. However, the VAC did not approve the modified artwork proposal and therefore a payment of \$47,645 has not been made to the artist. Staff will consult with LCST and legal counsel to determine any additional appropriate payment.

If Council approves staff's recommendation to proceed with one of the alternate artist, the estimated agreement amount would be up to \$60,000.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Retain LC Studio Tutto to complete their proposed art, but with a reduced scope of work, which eliminates lighting.
2. Amend the current agreement to add additional funds and allow LC Studio Tutto to complete the art project inclusive of the LED lighting.
3. Post a new Request for Proposals for the artwork for the exterior wall (Site 1) at the Community Center.
4. Provide other direction.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends discontinuing the current artist agreement with LC Studio Tutto for reasons outlined above and proceed with either Kathleen Frugé-Brown or Roberto Delgado as approved VAC alternate artists.

If Council decides to pursue Alternative 2, it is estimated that incorporating the lighting feature would be approximately \$37,000 and may need additional time to integrate their work.

PUBLIC NOTICING

The City Council meeting agenda and associated Council report have been posted to the City's website and a copy was sent to the VAC.

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Attachments: 1. Kathleen Frugé-Brown Art Proposal
2. Roberto Delgado Art Proposal