



**MINUTES
ART REVIEW BOARD
VIRTUAL MEETING OF MAY 20, 2020**

This meeting was conducted utilizing the teleconferencing software Zoom and is consistent with the State of California Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020 regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Meerjans called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairperson Meerjans
Vice Chairperson Deridder
Board Members Benton, Squires, and Valdez

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Luciana Torres, Management Analyst
Aki Snelling, Associate Planner
Roger Ravenstad, Parks Planning & Design Manager
Trish Cordova, Recording Clerk
Maria Salinas, Recording Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Board Member Squires** moved to approve minutes for the special meeting of February 26, 2020 and the regular meeting of April 15, 2020. **Board Member Valdez** seconded and motion carried unanimously.

DISCLOSURES: None

**PUBLIC/
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** None

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- Item 1. **PUBLIC ART FOR METRO CROSSING RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT URBAN PLAZA SITE IN WARM SPRINGS INNOVATION DISTRICT** – To receive a presentation with artwork submissions, provide feedback, and select finalists for new public art installation located at the Metro Crossing Urban Plaza site at the southeast corner of Warm Springs Boulevard and Tom Blalock Street Boulevard in the Warm Springs/South Fremont Community Plan Area as part of the Warm Springs Innovation District Art Work Plan, and to consider an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), General Rule, which states that, where it can be seen with certainty that

the activity will not have a significant effect on the environment, that activity is not subject to CEQA.

Management Analyst Luciana Torres introduced the item and **Associate Planner Aki Snelling** gave a brief presentation in which she described the project, the proposed site for the art installation, and budget. Ms. Snelling reported that 56 qualifying submissions were received through the web based program CaFÉ and that members of City staff chose their top five to recommend to this Board, as indicated in Informational Item 1 of the agenda packet. Preferred features of the piece included: substantial height, visible at night, colorful, and minimal maintenance required.

Parks Planning & Design Manager Roger Ravenstad offered commentary of the recommendations from City staff, as to how each of the five proposals aligned with the preferred features. Discussion ensued regarding staff recommendations, in addition to other submissions preferred by Board Members, as selected from Informational Item 2 of the agenda packet.

Chairperson Meerjans opened the public hearing and invited public comments.

Mari Todd identified herself as an art enthusiast and expressed appreciation for the City utilizing teleconferencing software in order to conduct the meeting. She stated her preference for the art submission “*Just Dance*” by Terence Martin, and asked about access and safety of the LED light feature on the piece titled “*Inception*” by Jennifer Madden and Jeffrey Reed.

Following discussion, **Board Member Benton** moved to approve the following artists and their proposed art concepts as candidates to interview for the new public art installation at Metro Crossing Urban Plaza, to which **Board Member Deridder** seconded:

- Jeffrey Reed and Jennifer Madden for “*Inception*”
- Michael Clapper for “*Community*”
- Ride Art for “*Blossom*”
- Ray King for “*Beacon*”
- Sijia Chen for “*Bloom*”

IT WAS MOVED (BENTON/DERIDDER) AND CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE (5-0-0-0) THE ART REVIEW BOARD – HELD PUBLIC HEARING;

AND

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING FIVE FINALISTS TO INTERVIEW IN THE SELECTION PROCESS OF A NEW ART INSTALLATION FOR METRO CROSSING URBAN PLAZA:

- JEFFREY REED AND JENNIFER MADDEN FOR “*INCEPTION*”
- MICHAEL CLAPPER FOR “*COMMUNITY*”
- RIDE ART FOR “*BLOSSOM*”
- RAY KING FOR “*BEACON*”

- SIJIA CHEN FOR “*BLOOM*”

AND

CONSIDERED THE PROJECT EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PER CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15061(B)(3).

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: 5 – Benton, Deridder, Meerjans, Squires, Valdez
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Information from Board and Staff:

- Information from staff, as reported by **Management Analyst Luciana Torres**:
 - The City Council approved this Board’s recommendation of “*Lanterns*” by Ride Art for the new Age Well Center, at the May 12, 2020 meeting.
 - The City Council also approved this Board’s recommendation of “*The Flame of Inspiration*” by Amie Jacobsen for the Fairfield Residential Embark Apartments Inspiration Plaza, at the May 19, 2020 meeting.
 - A new call for artists for the Downtown Event Center is anticipated to go live in June or July. Ms. Torres will update the Board accordingly.
- Information from Board:
 - **Chairperson Meerjans** asked staff about the stability of the budget for the *boxART!* program, to which **Management Analyst Luciana Torres** stated that there was no longer funding available for the program for fiscal year 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the City’s General Fund; and that the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 was currently under review by City Council. Ms. Torres then said she would reach out to Maintenance to see if they have data on graffiti abatement efforts for painted versus non-painted boxes.
- Art Liaison Update – Christina Valdez: None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Luciana Torres, Secretary
Art Review Board