

ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR



BEN KOLENDAR
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City Art Design Board Meeting
March 4, 2021
4:00 – 6:00 pm
Webex Online

PRESENT: Larissa Trout Joe Jacoby
Justin Johnson Aurelio Velazquez
Nancy Rivera

Staff Members

Abby Draper, Public Art Program Assistant
Felicia Baca, Arts Council Executive Director

EXCUSED:

GUESTS: Tyler Murdock, Department of Parks and Public Lands

I. Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

- a. After a quorum was established at approximately 4:00pm, Mr. Justin Johnson called the meeting to order and read a statement concerning the need for remote meetings in light of the pandemic. Mr. Johnson motioned to approve the minutes from the Board's February 4, 2021 convening. Ms. Nancy Rivera seconded and all Board members voted in favor.

II. Jordan River Boat Ramps Finalist Selection

- a. Ms. Abby Draper provided an overview of the Jordan River Boat Ramps public art opportunity. The project was selected for public art funding in November of 2019 and additional funding was allocated in December of 2020, for a total project budget of \$144,000. The call for artists was open from January 15, 2021 to February 19, 2021 and was open to artists in the western region. The opportunity had 25 applicants apply; 11 were from Utah. 48% of applicants were first time applicants to the program. Mr. Tyler Murdock provided an overview of each of the four boat ramp sites. Ms. Baca provided an overview of the selection criteria and artwork goals. Ms. Draper noted that the Board and stakeholders had reviewed all applications and rated them with a score of zero indicating a vote of "no," one indicating a vote of "maybe," or two indicating a score of "yes." The highest possible total score was ten and shortlist was comprised of the nine applicants who had received a total score of six or above. Ms. Draper noted that in addition to reviewing the entire shortlist, Board members could suggest any other applicants for further discussion.
 - i. The Board discussed applicants to the Jordan River Boat ramp public art opportunity. The Board considered whether or not this opportunity was appropriate for emerging artists and identified that the challenging sites and need to carefully allocate the budget among four locations meant that it was not ideal for an emerging artist. The Board considered finalists from throughout the eligible region, including teams and artists that reside in Utah, and assessed all applicants based on the selection criteria regardless of their state of origin. The Board discussed the applicants' use of color, height, light, and scale, in their

portfolios. Mr. Tyler Murdock noted that, given the sites' locations near the river, durability was a high priority from the perspective of the Parks Department. The Board discussed teams that had applied, and considered if they had adequate technical expertise represented among the members. Ms. Rivera noted that some teams had not identified in their letters of interest that they had ever worked together.

- ii. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Joe Jacoby noted that Ms. Colette Hosmer's portfolio included beautiful work and her cover letter spoke about water symbolism in a way that could be suitable for this project. Mr. Aurelio Velazquez stated that he would like to see color used in the artwork at the boat ramp sites, which was not a primary part of Ms. Hosmer's portfolio. Ms. Larissa Trout noted that there was a strong connection between the fish imagery in Ms. Hosmer's portfolio and the river sites of the artwork, but that there were already a number of sculptures of fish in the collection and the use of fish imagery for this site might be too literal. Mr. Joe Jacoby noted examples in her work of the use of fish imagery contributing to a larger, abstract form. Ms. Trout noted that height may be a valued aspect of the project from both a durability and a visibility perspective and that Ms. Hosmer's work tended not to focus on height. Ms. Rivera stated that the portfolio was comprised of past work, and that articulating height as a valued aspect of the project that could help finalists design for that goal. Mr. Murdock noted that artwork that could be visible to river users from a couple of blocks away would help achieve a wayfinding element. The Board stated that color would assist with standing out in an outdoor setting and with any wayfinding functions of the artwork. The Board discussed Mr. Christopher Weed. Ms. Trout stated that she valued the use of color. Ms. Rivera stated that she appreciated in his letter of interest a comment on the use of light. Mr. Velazquez stated that he appreciated the use of scale, shape, and light in his portfolio. Mr. Jacoby stated that he could imagine this artist creating something fun, colorful, and integrated into the landscape. Ms. Trout stated that she found the use of repetition in the portfolio to indicate that this artist may be adept at designing across multiple sites. The Board stated that they were hoping for proposals that could engage with repetition, color, and scale. The Board discussed the application from Mr. Joshua Weiner. Mr. Jacoby noted that his work was fun and clever. Mr. Justin Johnson stated that he valued the variability throughout the portfolio and noted that the artist made durable artwork. The Board discussed that these artists had existing work in their portfolios that was already appropriate for the boat ramps sites, but that given the expectation for site specificity and community engagement finalists were asked to engage the same level of inventiveness, play, and uniqueness in a new design for these particular sites.
- iii. Ms. Larissa Trout motioned that the Board solicit designs from finalists Colette Hosmer, Christopher Weed, and Joshua Weiner. Ms. Rivera seconded and all Board members present voted in favor, with Mr. Velazquez abstaining because he had left the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The Board articulated that in Ms. Hosmer's work they found the artist's engagement with water symbolism suitable to the site, and that her use of repetition and pattern would be interesting in four different locations that are far from each other. The Board also noted as feedback their interest in height and color in the artwork. Mr. Jacoby noted that fish imagery used less literally and more abstractly or a focus on water symbolism over fish imagery were most exciting to the Board. The Board articulated that they appreciated the site specificity of Josh Weiner's artwork and were excited to see how site specific his design would be. They valued the playfulness, creativity, and color in his portfolio, and valued the durability. The Board stated that they valued the use of color, scale, and repetition in Chris Weed's artwork.
- iv. The Board discussed the division of the budget among four sites, noting that the fourth boat ramp at 1700 South had a more uncertain future as the surrounding

area faced redevelopment. Mr. Murdock stated that the other three boat ramps made the most sense, so if the artists ran into budget problem, the 1700 South Ramp would be the one eliminate from the project. Ms. Trout stated that the Board had selected the fourth boat ramp for funding to add continuity to the public artwork along the river trail, and because it was unclear when the Board would realistically address that site in the future. The Board identified that the finalists would benefit from clear information on where artwork could go at each site.

III. Executive Director's Comment

- a. Ms. Baca thanked Ms. Draper for helping with staffing transition in the public art program. She stated that she attended the City Council work session to report back on the maintenance and inventory assessment completed over the summer. Ms. Baca noted that part of the proposed ordinance revision to a 1.5 percent for art fund would allow for designated maintenance funding. Ms. Baca stated that the arts council was in the final interview stage with the public art program manager candidates, and stated that the hire was subject to new equity-in-hiring protocols. She stated that next month the Board would discuss new members of the Art Design Board and determine candidates to recommend to the Mayor. Ms. Baca stated that the Mayor had approved the Board's recommendation of Stephen Kesler's *Out of the Blue* for the 9th South Roundabout public art project, with the request that it be painted with murals immediately rather than left white.

IV. Public Comment

- a. None.

V. Other Business/Adjourn

- a. The next Art Design Board meeting will be April 1, 2021. Mr. Johnson motioned to close the meeting and Ms. Rivera seconded. All Board members voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 pm.