

ERIN MENDENHALL
MAYOR



LORENA RIFFO-JENSON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Salt Lake City Art Design Board Meeting
February 1, 2023
5:00 – 7:00 pm
Webex Online & Finch Lane Gallery

PRESENT: Alejandro Moya Tiffini Porter Meggie Troili
Michael Mejia Colour Maisch Angela Dean

Staff Members

Renato Olmedo-González, Public Art Program Manager
Felicia Baca, Arts Council Director
Brenda Alavez, Public Art Program Coordinator
Taylor Knuth, Arts Council Deputy Director
Mark Stephens, City Engineer
Susan Lundmark, Transportation Planner

EXCUSED: Jen Lopez

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Ms. Meggie Troili called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of January 4th, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Alejandro Moya motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Colour Maisch seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.

III. 400 South Viaduct Trail public art opportunity

a) *Request for Qualifications* overview

Ms. Troili reminded the Board that selections for the artist would not be made in today's meeting. Today's meeting would be focused on selecting anywhere from 3-5 artists for in-person interviews.

b) Background, artwork goals, and selection criteria

Mr. Renato Olmedo-González reviewed the project background and artwork goals as outlined in the Request for Qualifications. He emphasized that this selection process is unique in that the Art Design Board is not commissioning a specific art project but rather hiring an artist to reimagine the infrastructure and the materials that will be used during construction. There is a particular desire to focus on the physical and literal division of East Salt Lake and West Salt Lake that the bridge represents along the 400 South Viaduct Trail.

Ms. Felicia Baca noted that it is important to look for someone who is highly experienced and competent, as the nature of this project is such that it is not well suited for emerging artists. Mr. Mark Stephens also reiterated that the selected artist would need to be open to suggestions due to the limitations of transportation regulations.

c) Shortlist artist discussion

Mr. Renato Olmedo-González presented the shortlist of artists based on total rankings given by the Art Design Board and project stakeholders, Mr. Stephens and Ms. Susan Lundmark. This shortlist was comprised of 21 artists and the list was organized by high and low scores marked in green and yellow respectively.

After a brief overview of the shortlist, it was determined that the higher scores had very strong portfolios and were narrowed down based on their overall versatility and creativity. The Board proceeded to focus on solely the high scores and would look at lower scores only by request.

Upon closer review of the high-scoring artists, the Board eliminated artists who were either limited in their scope of work (i.e. only specialized in one discipline) and/or did not have a strong enough demonstration of how to re-interpret materials or aesthetics in a functional way. Special attention and preference were given to artists that expressed a clever use of materials with dual functionality (aesthetically bold but also functional) and/or showed a commitment to the site-specific needs of the examples they provided.

d) Finalist picks

After extensive discussion of the top candidates' applications and each of their merits, the Board narrowed down finalists to a total of four artists. Ms. Maisch motioned to invite the following four artists to come in for a round of interviews: DiBari & Associates, Sujin Lim, Suikang Zhao, and Laura Haddad & Thomas Drugan. Ms. Tiffini Porter seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.

IV. Art Design Board Bylaws

Mr. Olmedo-González brought up the newly drafted bylaws for the Art Design Board to adopt. These were provided to the Board for review before the meeting. Ms. Baca clarified that the bylaws were formalities of procedures set in place for the hybrid electronic meeting still taking place across many Boards.

Mr. Mejia motioned to adopt the bylaws. Ms. Maisch seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.

V. Vice Chair nomination – Alex Moya

Mr. Olmedo-González informed the Board that an invite was extended to Mr. Moya to serve as Vice Chair of the Art Design Board. Ms. Maisch motioned to nominate Mr. Moya as Vice Chair. Ms. Porter seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.

VI. 2023-2025 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool

a) Ms. Brenda Alavez explained that due to an administrative oversight, artist Brook Robertson's application for the *2023-2025 Prequalified Artist Pool* was missed in the initial list of applicants. Today, the Board will be looking at Mr. Robertson's application materials to formally accept or reject his entry into the Prequalified Artist Pool. Mr. Robertson was a re-applicant, as he was included in the previous iteration of the *Pool*.

b) Mr. Mejia motioned to add Brook Robertson to the *2023-2025 Prequalified Artist Pool*. Ms. Maisch seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.

VII. Public Comment

None.

VIII. Other Business / Adjourn

a) Bloomberg Public Art Challenge

- a. Ms. Baca informed the Board that Salt Lake City, in collaboration with the Salt Lake City Arts Council, would be applying for the Bloomberg Public Art Challenge grant – if awarded, this grant would assist with funding of up to \$1 million for a temporary public art project or projects that are centered on a critical civic issue. The Arts Council would like to focus on the shrinking of the Great Salt Lake and as part of the process and is currently looking for potential funders. The aim of this project would be to be cross-disciplinary across multiple site with multiple artists involved – local, national, and international.

b) Upcoming public art projects

- a. Mr. Olmedo- González notified the Board that the next few months would be busy for the Public Art Program and, by extension, the Art Design Board. There are two major public art projects coming up soon: one is the upcoming *Foothills Trailheads: Bike Rack Murals* Request for Qualifications and the other will be the *Liberty Park Basketball Court* mural project.
- b. Mr. Olmedo-González also invited the Board members to attend two upcoming community engagement events for the Jordan River Boat Ramps project. The first will be an activity with the students of Edison Elementary School on Friday February 24th who will be visiting the Fisher Mansion site where the Mayor will say a few words about the site and the importance of the Jordan River. The other activity will be the ribbon cutting ceremony for the installation of the 25 fish sculptures along the Jordan River. This will be held on Monday March 20th at 10:00am.
- c. Ms. Baca also invited the Board to review the Mayor's recent 2023 goals as there was some mention of public art including growing interest in an iconic work of public art on the westside comparable to *Out of the Blue*.

c) Ms. Porter motioned to close the meeting. Mr. Mejia seconded the motion. All others voted in favor.