

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: August 13, 2018

To: The City Manager

From: Meridith Martin, Assistant to the City Manager
 Kelly Bennett, Project Planner, Public Art Commission

Council Action Requested:
 Adoption of Resolution Awarding Contract for Public Art Services.

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods
Strategic Objective: Support Public Art/Community Appearance
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

During its first two years, the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Art Commission has facilitated several projects at the request of City Council and the County Commissioners – a sculpture at the Central Library, artwork from 12 local and state artists in the M.C. Benton Convention Center, and a colorful mural of a river otter on a City-owned water tank paid for through a development fee associated with a new grocery store. As a next step, the Commission conceived of the citywide Winston-Salem Portrait Project, which is to be a mixture of photography and public outreach to result in nine permanent artworks for the City – eight neighborhood artworks and one Downtown piece. The Portrait Project concept was presented to the Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee last August.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) process was conducted and 31 proposals were received. An evaluation panel of Public Art Commission members and local arts professionals reviewed the proposals and interviewed the three artists with the highest scores to select the one most qualified to meet the requirements of the RFP. Exhibit B provides the combined scores of the evaluation panel for each proposal. The full Public Art Commission voted unanimously to endorse the team of Kisha Bari and Jasmin Chang to lead the project.

Committee Action:

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|------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Committee | Finance 8/13/18 CD/H/GG 8/14/18 | Action | Approval |
| For | Unanimous | Against | |

Remarks:

Bari and Chang's proposal was one of only a few that answered the call's dual requirements to demonstrate how their project would include numerous public input opportunities, and also produce compelling permanent artwork for the City. Most other proposals only demonstrated strength in one of these components.

Bari and Chang are skilled portrait photographers based in Queens and Brooklyn, NY, who also have a great deal of experience using their artwork for social advocacy projects, such as Bari's portrait documentary, "How Sandy Hit Rockaway," about those affected by the 2012 hurricane, and Chang's "Community Heroes" project, which highlights unsung neighborhood heroes in several Brooklyn neighborhoods. Both also work for Photoville, a well-regarded annual photo exhibit in New York City.

What Bari and Chang have proposed is a true citizen-led artwork. In addition to the nine sculptures, they propose working with a local artist/photographer to help coordinate four workshops. The final piece of the project will be to produce nine steel and glass artworks with portraits of Winston-Salem residents rendered permanently in the steel. The form of the proposed sculptures may evolve with input from city residents as part of the community outreach component of the project. The artists will work closely with the Public Art Commission in the development of the project. Renderings of the proposed downtown sculpture and 2-D artworks for neighborhood settings are attached in addition to biographies, resumes, and past work examples for each artist.

M/WBE comment: Notifications were sent to all local M/WBE and area HUB businesses on a weekly basis. The bid opportunity was advertised on the City and State of NC Purchasing websites. Exhibit A contains a complete list of artists and their total score received. Jasmin Chang and Edith Abeyta are minority artists and Fanny Allié is a women artist.