



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO:

MEETING DATE: September 4, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Date: September 4, 2018

From: Margaret Glomstad, Parks and Recreation Director – (650) 558-7307

Subject: Study Session Regarding the Public Art Project to Honor Anson Burlingame

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council provide feedback to the Anson Burlingame Subcommittee and the artist, John Roloff, regarding the Anson Burlingame art project draft conceptual design.

BACKGROUND

On February 21, 2017, the Council held a study session to discuss a public art work to honor Anson Burlingame and agreed that further work could be done by an ad hoc subcommittee. Subsequently, the City established a subcommittee that included then-Vice Mayor Brownrigg, Councilmember Beach, Lance Fung and John Talley of Fung Collaboratives, Ruth Waters, Russ Cohen, Leslie Holtzman, Janet Martin, and David Chai. To complete the committee, Andra Norris joined the group in March 2018. More information about the subcommittee members is attached to this report (Exhibit A).

The Anson Burlingame Public Art project is intended to create a timeless artwork that commemorates the values and spirit of Anson Burlingame (as opposed to the man himself) and evolves a sense of place making within the community while engaging the history and culture of Burlingame and embracing both aesthetics and content.

In order to develop the best artwork to honor Anson Burlingame, the project was developed in three phases:

Phase 1:

- Plan and facilitate two educational workshops, for the Councilmembers and community members, about what public art is, the benefits of public art, national and local views on public art, best practices, how the public can get involved, and what art can mean in Burlingame.
- Hold one meeting of the Subcommittee and community working group to begin the conversation, talk about ideas and locations, and create a list of potential artists and/or ways to advertise the project.

Phase 2:

- Research possible grant opportunities to help fund the art.

- Meet with potential local funders, such as businesses or patrons.
- Create the Call for Artists, Request for Qualifications, and Request for Proposals.
- Present to Council to update the status of the project.

Phase 3:

- Advertise and promote the Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposals.
- Select the final location and artist to commission the new site-specific artwork.
- Work directly with the artist to create the draft proposals and the final proposal.
- Schedule meetings with City stakeholders to provide information about the work.
- Obtain funding and present the final proposal to the Council for final approval.
- In conjunction with the City Attorney, develop and execute a contract between the City and the artist.
- Work on installation details such as engineering, safety, ADA compliance, and signage.
- Schedule and complete a ribbon-cutting event.

During these phases, each participating party has a role to play (Exhibit B). The consultant, Fung Collaboratives, oversees and supports the entire project, while the artist, John Roloff, is responsible for the sole artistic vision and resulting permanent public artwork. In addition, the Subcommittee provides background information on community input and general feedback to ensure accurate content interpretation and appropriate location within the city; the community provides input to the artist to guide the development of the artwork; and the City Council approves the final design that confirms the artwork reflects the goals of the project and is fully accessible and visible for the community's enjoyment.

To date, phases 1 and 2 have been completed, and phase 3 is in progress. The consultants received 18 Request for Qualifications (RFQ) submissions. Of the 18 submissions, eight were disqualified because the artist didn't meet the minimum requirements of the RFQ or didn't follow the RFQ instructions. The consultants, based on their extensive art background, selected the top seven most qualified and appropriate submissions for the Subcommittee's review. After evaluation and discussion, the Subcommittee selected three artists to be interviewed on April 4, 2018: Kate Dodd, John Roloff, and Stutz/Dihn. The Subcommittee interviewed all three artists and determined that John Roloff and Stutz/Dihn should be invited to the Request for Proposals (RFP) phase.

The two artists were given eight weeks to complete the RFP phase; On June 7, 2018, the artists presented their statement of intent, a written description and visual representations of the artwork, a budget, and a timeline. The Subcommittee discussed the aesthetics of the designs, the manner in which Anson Burlingame would be honored by exemplifying his actions and philosophy, the relationship of the artwork to the site location, the commitment of the artist to the project, and the feasibility of the proposed budget. The Subcommittee subsequently decided to continue working with John Roloff to continue refining the artwork in order to help solicit funds.

The Subcommittee met with John Roloff and Fung Collaboratives on August 13 to review the preliminary renderings and location and provide additional input to help refine the artist's vision for the artwork.

DISCUSSION

In order to further develop the artist's vision, the City Council's input is requested in the following areas.

1. Do the preliminary design options reflect the goals of the project?
2. Do the materiality, scale, and accessibility resonate with the City Council?
3. Are the representations of the preliminary design options relevant now and into the future?
4. Are there concerns about the artwork's meaning and/or maintenance?

FISCAL IMPACT

Currently, funds in the amount of \$23,833 have been budgeted for this project. At this time, no additional funds are being requested.

Exhibits:

- Information about Subcommittee members
- Anson Burlingame Public Art Roles for all Participating Parties