



MEMO TO: Parks and Human Services Committee of the Whole

FROM: Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator

DATE: 2/4/19

SUBJECT: Approval of Artist Contract for 152nd Ave NE Public Art Project

I. PURPOSE ☐ For Info Only ☒ Future Motion Item ☐ Motion Requested
Proposed approval of artist contract on consent agenda at City Council meeting on 3/3/20

II. RECOMMENDATION
Briefing on Artist Selection and Contact for 152nd Ave NE Public Art Project

III. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS
Carrie Hite, Parks and Recreation Director, 425-556-2326
Rachel Van Winkle, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, 425-556-2334
Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator, 425-556-2316

IV. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND
The purpose of this briefing is to review the art opportunities and the artist selection process for the Overlake Village and the 152nd Ave NE redevelopment project. Staff will introduce the selected artist, Horatio Law, and describe the artist contract in preparation for seeking the City Council's approval of the artist contract.

The City of Redmond solicited proposals from artists and artist teams to design, fabricate and install site-integrated outdoor artwork for the Overlake Village neighborhood. The selected artist/artist team will create a permanent artwork that highlights the innovation, creativity, and diversity of Overlake Village. The artist/artist team will be integrated into the design team and work directly with the City of Redmond's Cultural Arts staff. The art opportunities include:

1. A 3D gateway in the vicinity of the intersection at 152nd Ave NE and NE 24th St
2. A series of artworks that integrate into the amenity zone of the sidewalks along 152nd Ave NE, between NE 24th St and NE 26th St.
3. A 2D artwork for a 100' x 10' wall located on the Southwest Corner of 152nd Ave NE and NE 24th St

A. Analysis

In 2016, while the Public Art Plan was being reviewed, the 3P team and Mayor approved of the city incorporating public art into the 152nd Ave NE redevelopment project. The Public Art Plan, adopted by City Council in 2017, prioritized this project as a Leading with Arts and Cultural Engagement LACE Project, or site-specific integrated public art project as 152nd Ave NE is planned to become the main street, pedestrian and retail focused corridor in Overlake Village that connects Bellevue, the bus transit center, two city parks and the Overlake Village Light Rail Station.

The Public Art Plan identified two art projects related to this capital project:

- A gateway at NE 124th Avenue and 152nd Street NE at the Signature Project scale
- Pedestrian-scale experiences along 152nd Street NE. at the Hallmark Project scale

The total budget for this public art project is \$180,000, including a one percent allocation from the project. The Arts and Culture Commission recommended an artist call that included both the gateway and pedestrian-scale projects or one of the projects to make the most impactful project for the neighborhood. Attachment A shows the list of proposed public art projects from the Public Art Plan, modified slightly based on the timing of capital project construction.

On August 5, 2019, staff presented Parks and Human Services an overview of the Overlake Village and the 152nd Ave NE redevelopment and focused on location opportunities, temporary or movable art and permanent art, materials, and themes. The Arts & Culture Commission unanimously approved the final draft of the arts call on October 10, 2019. The call was posted regionally for eight weeks and 23 artists applied by the December 6, 2019 deadline.

On December 12, 2019 a panel consisting of Arts & Culture Commissioners, Angie Yusuf and Savita Krishnamoorthy, along with staff members Lorna Velasco and Chris Weber, selected two finalists to interview. On January 6, 2019 two artist teams, Horatio Law and Preston Singletary/David Franklin, were interviewed by a panel made up of Arts & Culture Commissioners Angie Yusuf and Cheri Fowler, along with staff members Lorna Velasco, Chris Weber, and Peter Dane. The panel selected artist Horatio Law and then on January 9, 2019 the entire Arts & Culture Commission unanimously approved the artist for consideration for the 152nd Ave NE Public Art Project.

Horatio Hung-Yan Law is an interdisciplinary artist who works with common cultural artifacts to explore inter-cultural communication and the complex relationship between individual and community. He resides in Portland, Oregon, and is a faculty member at the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Law was born in Hong Kong to Chinese parents and moved to the US at the age of 16. With this multi-cultural background, he has developed an artistic practice whose subjects include the Chinese immigrant's experience, reinterpretations of cultural icons, trans-cultural adoptions, the Iraq War, and the current culture of consumption. His work often tackles weighty subjects with ephemeral and unexpected materials, creating quiet, conflicting, meditative, and evocative works. In his work, public art and community residencies, Law deploys common cultural artifacts to explore

issues of identity, memory and the loss and gain of cross-cultural struggle in the evolving global community. He is involved in making work that engages community and interacts with people from different backgrounds.

V. TIME CONSTRAINTS

Staff would like to seek contract approval from the City Council in March and have the artist design the project(s) by early 2020 and have the opportunity to incorporate the integrated components of the art proposals into the engineering plans such as electricity, footings, and even the materials and finishes of some elements that may be used for art. The final engineering plans will be developed in early-mid 2020 and construction will begin in 2020 or 2021.

VI. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A: Artist Letter of Interest and Resume
- B: Presentation
- C: Public Art Plan