



DATE: June 28, 2006

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Library Department

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF THE ARTIST SELECTION FOR THE LIBBY LAKE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER PUBLIC ART PROJECT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT**

**SYNOPSIS**

The Arts Commission presents two alternative art proposals for consideration with the recommendation that the City Council approve the art proposal from Alber and Luna De Matteis for the Libby Lake Community Resource Center Public Art Project and authorize staff to implement the project.

**BACKGROUND**

The Libby Lake Public Art Project first began in 2001, but two prior artist solicitations failed to result in an artist selection that met the necessary criteria. In 2005, a new ad hoc committee of four members of the Arts Commission was established to guide the Libby Lake Community Resource Center Public Art Project. The ad hoc committee developed a detailed project description and scope of work. The art medium was to be ceramic, glass, stone and/or tile to create a thoughtful design and/or mosaic which would reflect the natural surroundings and the mission of the Center for health, education, and community enrichment in a multicultural neighborhood.

On February 13, 2006, the Call for Artists brochure was widely distributed to artists throughout the San Diego region and was also posted on the City web site. The ad hoc committee made a presentation at the Libby Lake Neighborhood Association community meeting on February 27, 2006, to inform the residents about the project, obtain community input, and solicit volunteers to serve on the selection panel. Following the meeting, a selection panel was assembled composed of two local art professionals, two community representatives from the Libby Lake neighborhood, a staff member from Neighborhood Services Department, and two members of the Arts Commission.

The selection panel reviewed and rated the artist submissions using standard objective criteria, and four proposals were selected for personal artist interviews. These artists were given an additional time period to prepare detailed, site-specific concepts and were interviewed on May 22, 2006. Two finalists were selected for presentation to the full Arts Commission on June 5, 2006: Kim Emerson and Alber and Luna De Matteis.

### **ANALYSIS**

At their meeting on June 5, 2006, the Arts Commission voted to present proposals from both Kim Emerson and Alber and Luna De Matteis to the City Council for consideration. Both artists' proposals were praised for their creative vision and colorful enhancement of the Center. The proposal by Alber and Luna De Matteis was favored by a small majority of the Commission, and their project is the one recommended for approval.

Alber and Luna De Matteis meet all insurance requirements, and the project does not present any maintenance or safety concerns. The artists have demonstrated flexibility and responsiveness in responding to questions and suggestions from the Arts Commission, and their proposal is within budget.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The total funding available for the project is \$33,450. The artwork is estimated at \$25,000 with the remaining funds set aside to cover all necessary expenses of the selection process, the dedication event, and a contingency for any additional requirements. These funds are already allocated in the Neighborhood Services budget for the public art element of the Libby Lake Resource Center, and no additional funding is required.

### **COMMISSION REPORT**

The Arts Commission recommends that Alber and Luna De Matteis be awarded the project for the reasons detailed below.

- It draws on artistic elements from the natural surroundings of the hills, river and lake.
- The artwork is colorful and visually interesting with details and designs that complement and enliven the exterior space of the Libby Lake Center.
- The artists are highly regarded professionals who have done other work for the City, including the bike trail markers on Broadway.
- The artists meet all eligibility requirements and the proposal is within budget.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS**

City Attorney analysis does not apply.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Arts Commission recommends that the City Council approve the art proposal from Alber and Luna De Matteis for the Libby Lake Resource Center Public Art Project and authorize staff to implement the project.

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