

November 20, 2017

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Resolution authorizing the execution of a General Services Agreement with Stuart Nakamura for public art in the Meydenbauer Bay Park project, in an amount not to exceed \$125,120, plus applicable taxes.

FISCAL IMPACT

This contract allows the City to spend up to \$125,120 plus applicable taxes for the following:

- Fabrication and installation a public artwork titled “Floating Worlds” on the promenade and pier of the Meydenbauer Bay Park project for a total of \$116,000 plus applicable sales tax.
- A contingency fund of \$9,120 to cover additional services or funds for construction escalation requested from the consultant.
- This project is funded from the CIP Plan (CD-11)

STAFF CONTACTS

Mac Cummins, Department Director, 452-6191

Joshua Heim, Arts Program Manager, 452-4105

Department of Planning and Community Development

POLICY CONSIDERATION

City Financial policies:

Bellevue City Code 4.28.040 authorizes the purchase of material, supplies, and equipment of \$90,000 or more in accordance with the Code and state law. This artist was selected through the standard public art program artist selection process. 4Culture managed this process, issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) call to artists. A panel of residents, arts professionals, and an arts commissioner reviewed 42 applications and interviewed nine artists for three opportunities. The panel recommended Mr. Nakamura for one of the opportunities. They presented the recommendation to the Arts Commission which voted to endorse the recommendation on May 5, 2015. The Arts Commission voted to endorse Mr. Nakamura’s artwork design on December 1, 2015.

Comprehensive Plan:

UD-5. Support community efforts to develop art that enhances neighborhood character, builds community, and engages residents in the artistic process.

UD-14. Support and encourage development, display and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the city.

UD-17. Support and encourage a variety of artwork in public places, such as parks, public buildings, and plazas.

UD-18. Expand the city’s public art collection and involve the community in the selection of new major items.

BACKGROUND

The goal of Phase I of Meydenbauer Bay Park is to create a signature park that reestablishes Bellevue as a waterfront city by strengthening connections between the City Center, Old Bellevue with its historic main street, and the Lake Washington shoreline. The city envisions a public park characterized by excellence in design, environmental restoration and stewardship that encourages contemplation, socializing and recreation. Public art is envisioned as a way of telling the stories of the waterfront and revealing layers of meaning and opportunities for engagement and contemplation to its visitors.

Public art opportunities

Three public art opportunities take advantage of the unique characteristics of the Phase 1 site including the ravine, beach house, and promenade and pier. The forested ravine setting is currently part of an intimate neighborhood park with restrooms, play area, beach, and public pier. In the central waterfront zone, the beach park will expand with restored shoreline, swim beach, beach house with changing rooms and restroom facilities, play and picnic areas. A shoreline promenade, that connects the ravine to the marina, will extend out into the water through a dramatic and memorable curved pedestrian pier that encourages access to the lake and terminates in a 35-foot circular gathering area.

Selection Method

A consultant, King County 4Culture Public Art, was contracted to manage the selection process for three art opportunities in Meydenbauer Bay Park including the Ravine, Beach House, and Promenade and Pier. An RFQ was released on February 17, 2015 and closed on March 17, 2015. Eligible candidates were required to be professional artists residing in the Pacific Northwest Region including Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia. The RFQ was advertised on the King County 4Culture website.

A panel of residents, arts professionals, and an arts commissioner identified by City Staff reviewed 42 applications and selected nine based on the following selection criteria:

- Quality and strength of past work as demonstrated in submitted application materials;
- Strong conceptual skills and an ability to reflect or reveal site context, history and story of place in compelling ways;
- Relevant previous experience such as budget, materials use, site context, and/or integrated approach to developing artworks within architecture or landscape;
- A command of dynamic spatial relationships and an ability to activate high use public spaces;
- Availability to begin work in May 2015.

These applicants were invited to participate in a project orientation on April 16 and interview with the panel on April 17, 2015. The panel selected Stuart Nakamura for the promenade and pier art opportunity. The panelists were:

- Vikram Madan, Arts Commission Lead, artist and Panel Chair;

- Taidi Fang, resident;
- Peter Hummel, landscape architect for the project;
- Doug Landreth, resident and artist; and
- Debra Westwood, resident and managing librarian for Bellevue Regional, Lake Hills and Crossroads libraries.

Artwork Design and Development

The City entered into a design contract with Mr. Nakamura on August 8, 2015, to design a public artwork for the promenade and pier for the park. The artist developed concepts and presented his work at progressive stages of development, each time incorporating feedback from the panel and other community members. Proposals were shown at the Bellevue Regional Library for a week and a public hearing was held to collect comments. The panel voted to endorse Mr. Nakamura's proposal on November 18, 2015. The Arts Commission accepted the proposal on December 1, 2015, a date driven by the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which was submitted in the spring of 2016. Since that time, the artist developed construction drawings to be included in the project's final design and bid documents that were due in December 2016. The art project was put on hold (until June 2017) until the Utilities Department completed their sewer pipeline project, the construction contract was awarded, and a new construction schedule was set by the contractors. The targeted timeframe for installation of this artwork is October 2018.

Artwork description: Promenade

Mr. Nakamura has designed a composition called "Floating Worlds", a tribute to the adaption of a water-based lifestyle and economy by two diverse cultures that utilized the fresh waters of Lake Washington. Mobility over water, whether for sustenance, commerce, or transit, is symbolized by an oar/paddle gateway design in stainless steel. The Salish-inspired paddles were used in conjunction with canoes for a variety of uses, practical or ceremonial, in everyday life. The Whaler oars, more utilitarian in nature, were used with chase boats which pursued whales for whale oil.

Artwork description: Pier

Soaring bird forms in stainless steel on the pile caps of the pier serve to express a sense of spatial and emotional freedom a viewer would experience while on the circular floating pad. A pair of in-flight Herons and Eagles, two common species found in this area, are used to convey this sense of freedom and grace. At the center of the circular pad is an interactive sundial/compass which can be illuminated from within to highlight the stich-cut bird silhouettes on the surface of the inverse conical base. This feature is possible by linking into the planned circuits for the pier. The imagery on the base column serves to echo the flight of birds placed on the pile caps.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Resolution becomes effective immediately upon Council adoption.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the execution of a General Services Agreement with Stuart Nakamura for public art in the Meydenbauer Bay Park project, in an amount not to exceed \$125,120, plus applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

MOTION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9331 authorizing the execution of a General Services Agreement with Stuart Nakamura for public art in the Meydenbauer Bay Park project, in an amount not to exceed \$125,120, plus applicable taxes.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 9331

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

- A. General Services Agreement
- B. Request for Qualifications