

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: June 6, 2022
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Albany Creative Justice Art Project Panelist Stipend

REPORT BY: Isabelle Leduc, Assistant City Manager/Recreation and Community Services Director

SUMMARY

The action before the City Council is a request by the Arts Committee for the allocation of up to \$1,500 from the Art in Public Places fund for stipends to be paid to 3 panelists the Arts Committee will select to review 12 public art project submissions received for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project.

ARTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council authorize a total of \$1,500 (3 individual payments of \$500 each) for 3 experts to serve on the selection panel for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project. The amount is to be paid from the Art in Public Places fund as specified in the Albany Public Art Master Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council approve Resolution No. 2022-52, allocating \$1,500 from the Art in Public Places fund for stipends for 3 panelists with expertise in public art to review submissions received for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project.

BACKGROUND

The Public Arts Project Plan (PAPP) is the document that the Arts Committee (AC) uses to recommend public art projects and funding allocation of Art in Public funding to Council. The PAPP is drafted upon review by the Arts Committee of the site inventory in the Public Arts Master Plan, the projected annual budget, public art project options recommended by Council, and projects presented by staff and AC members. The PAPP can be reviewed periodically by the AC for possible revisions and amendments to be approved by the City Council. All projects included in the PAPP are subject to the Arts Committee's Public Art Review process as described in the Public Art Master Plan. On May 3, 2021, the [2021 - 2023 PAPP](#) was approved by the City Council and included a public art project in support of Black Lives and Social Justice.

On October 4, 2021 Council authorized the release of a [Call for Artists](#) which closed on April 8, 2022 for the creation of a new public artwork that will actively engage residents of Albany in creatively addressing past, present, and future issues of social justice in the City and region. Proposals in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Stop Asian Hate movement, Indigenous rights and recognition, and other movements centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion were strongly encouraged. A specific location for the art piece had not been designated, but a selection of locations such as Solano Avenue and San Pablo Avenue business corridors, the Ohlone Greenway, public parks and pathways, as well as other sites were suggested for placement in the call for artists. The Council also approved [Resolution No. 2021-99](#), increasing the allocation of Art in Public Places funds for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$30,000.

Project proposals may include diverse contemporary art strategies, may be processed-based or durational, open to all media, but in accordance with the [Art in Public Places Ordinance \(Ordinance No. 07-04\)](#), the final work must consist of one of the following formats: sculpture, monument, mural, fountains, fresco, relief, painting, drawing, etching, original print and collage, mosaic, ceramic, weaving, carving, stained glass, wood, metal, plastic, textile, earthworks, digital art, or electronic art. 12 submissions have been received and a review in accordance with procedures outlined in the Public Art Master Plan is pending the selection of a review panel.

DISCUSSION

The Arts Committee has submitted a recommendation memo (Attachment 2) requesting an additional allocation of Art in Public Places funds of \$1,500 as stipends for 3 expert panelists to review the submissions received. As determined in the Public Art Master Plan, the AC is to appoint a selection panel to review projects over \$10,000. The current budget for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project is \$30,000. Although it has not been the City's practice to provide selection panelists a stipend for the review of art submissions, other city public art programs will in some instances, largely depending on the size and complexity of projects, and at the city's sole discretion, pay panelists for their time and expertise.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no sustainability considerations applicable to providing stipends to selection panelists.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Albany Creative Justice Art Project invites artists to submit proposals for the creation of a new, public artwork that will actively engage residents of Albany in creatively addressing past, present, and future issues of social justice in the city and region.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

Goal 2: Engage our diverse community

Goal 4: Advance economic development and the arts, Objective 2: Update and continue to implement Public Arts Master Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is currently \$30,000 allocated for the creation of the Albany Creative Justice Art Project. Approval from the City Council for additional Art in Public Places funding requested by the AC in the amount of \$1,500 is needed as City Council authorization is required to allocate all funding from special funding sources. There is currently just over \$180,000 available in the Art in Public Places fund.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2022-52
2. Arts Committee Memo 5/12/2022 - Albany Creative Justice Art Project – Panel Selection

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-52

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOCATE
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500
FOR STIPENDS FOR 3 PANELISTS WITH EXPERTISE IN
PUBLIC ART TO REVIEW SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED
FOR THE ALBANY CREATIVE JUSTICE ART PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Public Arts Project Plan (PAPP) is the document that the Arts Committee (AC) uses to recommend public art projects and funding allocation of Art in Public funding to Council, all projects included in the PAPP are subject to the Arts Committee’s Public Art Review process as describe in the Public Art Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 - 2023 PAPP approved by the City Council on May 3, 2021 included a public art project in support of Black Lives and Social Justice, and on October 4, 2021 a Call for Artists was released, the Council approved Resolution No. 2021-99 increasing the allocation of Art in Public Places funds for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$30,000, and as of the close of the call on April 8, 2022, 12 submissions had been received; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Committee is requesting an additional allocation of Art in Public Places funds of \$1,500 to cover the cost of 3 expert panelists to review submission received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany City Council allocates Art in Public Places funds in the amount of \$1,500 to cover the cost of stipends for 3 panelists with expertise in public art to review submissions received for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project.

PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR

DATE: May 12, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Albany City Council

From: Albany Arts Committee

Re: Albany Creative Justice Art Project – Panel Selection

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council authorize a total of \$1500 (3 individual payments of \$500 each) for 3 experts to serve on the selection panel for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project. The amount is to be paid from the Art in Public Places fund as specified in the Albany Public Art Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The AAC has received 12 proposals in response to the RFP for the Albany Creative Justice Art Project which was previously authorized by Council at an amount of \$30,000. As per the Master Plan, since that amount exceeds \$10,000, the AAC is required to convene an external panel. Section J3 of the Albany Public Art Master Plan states, “The AAC will appoint a Selection Panel to assist with the Public Art Review process for any project in the PAPP with an estimated cost of \$10,000 or more, or for any project sited on one of the twelve top priority sites identified in the Public Art Master Plan Survey of Sites. Depending of the number of projects meeting these criteria in a given cycle, the AAC may choose to appoint more than one Selection Panel, or may hire an expert facilitator, and may direct funds from the APP Fund to cover such costs.” Staff has informed the AAC that while the Master Plan already allows the AAC to “direct funds from the APP Fund to cover such costs” we need to seek Council approval for the amount.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The amount requested is based on the following analysis:

- Reviewing 12 proposals at a minimum of 20 minutes per proposal = 240 minutes (4 hours)
- Scoring each proposal according to a uniform rubric provided to each panelist at a minimum of 10 minutes per proposal = 120 minutes (2 hours)
- Introduction and orientation of each panelist to brief them on the scope of the RFP, expectations, and protocols (1 hour)
- Convening an open session with the panelists to determine selections (minimum 1 hour).
- Total anticipated time commitment of panelists: 8 hours
- Hourly rate for panelists: \$62.50 per hour

This is a below-market rate for arts professional of the caliber we hope to invite; however, we believe it is enough to indicate that we respect the contribution of their expertise.

The amount is also well below the \$10,000 amount that usually requires the AAC to ask for Council authorization for administering APP funds in connection to any item on the previously approved Work Plan.

Pros: We are able to attract qualified panelists who are respectfully compensated for sharing their expertise with our city, and the Albany Creative Justice Art Project moves closer towards a successful outcome.

Cons: It's not free.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

All panelist materials will be provided digitally, and meetings will be conducted remotely online via Zoom.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

Particularly considering that this art project has a social justice focus, the AAC hopes that we duly compensate participating individuals for their labor. In addition, the list of panelists that we are hoping to invite currently consists of 3 women, including 2 women of color, all of whom have extensive experience working regionally with a wide range of artists in diverse community contexts. As per the Master Plan, the panel may also include non-voting members made up of volunteer committee members who are not compensated. Ideally, this will include a member of the AAC as well as support from the Social & Economic Justice Committee and the Economic Development Committee.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The current amount of the Art in Public Places Fund is just over \$180,000.