



Public Art Commission Staff Report

From: Elise DeMarzo, Manager Community Services Sr Programs

Meeting Date: April 18, 2024

Report #: 2404-2895

TITLE

Fire Station 5 Mural – Staff recommends the approval of Bodeck Luna as the project artist for a temporary mural to be painted on the roll up door of Fire Station 5 located at 600 Arastradero Road.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Public Art Commission (PAC) approve Bodeck Luna as the project artist for a temporary mural to be painted on the roll-up door at Fire Station #5, located at 600 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA.

ANALYSIS

Guided by the PAC 2024/25 working priorities to expand the temporary murals program to Palo Alto neighborhoods and commercial corridors, the Public Art Program staff in partnership with the City's Fire Department identified an opportunity to commission an artist to paint a temporary mural on the surface of a large roll-up engine entrance door at the Fire Station #5. The station, located in south-west Palo Alto at the corner of Arastradero Road and Clemo Avenue and adjacent to Juana Briones Park, is a welcoming community hub, providing fire, emergency medical services and all hazard response to the Palo Alto community. The mural will have high visibility and experienced by pedestrians, cyclists and drivers using the busy intersection.

The Public Art Commission approved funding in the amount of \$12,000 at the February 15, 2024 meeting. Staff initiated an artist selection process and reach out to a selection 55 of California-based artists in the muralist roster appropriate for the commission who may be interested in creating a site-specific mural for the fire station. Staff assembled a selection panel of community stakeholders to evaluate and rank 36 applicants according to their qualifications. Based on their evaluations 18 artists were advanced to the panel meeting discussion. The stakeholder panel included:

John King - Barron Park Neighborhood Association
Stephen Lindsey - Palo Alto Fire
Lisa Waltuch - Public Art Commissioner
Shannon Wright – Cubberley Artist
Harumo Sato – Cubberley Artist and muralist
Jennifer Samayoa - Barron Park Kids' Club, Palo Alto Community Childcare

Artist Bodeck Luna was selected based on their demonstrated artistic excellence and skillset provided in the samples of previously completed murals. The selected artist will be provided with the Palo Alto Public Art Master Plan and input from the community stakeholders as part of their design brief to inform their design development. A finalized conceptual design will be presented to the Public Art Commission for approval before the painting onsite may begin.

FISCAL IMPACT, TIMELINE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The artist selection is anticipated to take place in Spring 2024 and the mural is anticipated to be painted in early Summer 2024. The mural will be temporary in nature due to the potential need to replace the roll up door with little to no notice and the wear and tear to the mural on a roll up door. Staff has a muralist consultant to advise them as to the best surface preparation and types of paint appropriate for the project. The mural will be funded through the City's Art in Public Places CIP fund.

The City of Palo Alto Public Art Program operates in accordance with Chapter 2.26 Visual Art in Public Places Policy of Palo Alto Municipal Code. The [Municipal Percent for Art Policy](#) specifies that the City will budget one percent (1%) of its construction costs to include public art for City capital improvement projects that have a visual impact on the surrounding environment by altering a site through new construction or reconstruction, at the initial stages of design, thereby ensuring that art elements become an integral part of the overall design. In 2015, in order to strengthen its ongoing commitment to the City's municipal public art program, the Palo Alto Council amended the Palo Alto Municipal Code to add Section 2.26.070 "[Public Art for Municipal Projects](#)" to Chapter 2.26 (Visual Art in Public Places). The Ordinance enhanced the funds available for public art and increased flexibility to provide art experiences that are timely and relevant throughout the community. According to the Ordinance, one percent (1%) of the City's annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget devoted to public art is deposited into the Public Art Fund. Funds may be used at any appropriate site within Palo Alto for permanent or temporary public art projects. Additionally, funds from two or more CIP projects may be pooled to fund a single work of art.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: CV – Bodeck Luna