



City Council Staff Report

From: City Manager

Report Type: CONSENT CALENDAR

Lead Department: Community Services

Meeting Date: May 22, 2023

Report #:2304-1318

TITLE

Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. S20178516 with Hohbach-Lewin, Inc. to increase compensation by \$10,000 and to extend the Contract Term through March 30, 2026 for On-Call Structural Engineering Services for various Public Art Installations; CEQA Status – Not a Project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that City Council approve and authorize the City Manager or designee to execute Amendment No. 1 to Contract Number S20178516 with Hohbach-Lewin, Inc. to increase compensation by \$10,000, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$60,000, and to extend the contract term to March 30th, 2026 to provide On-Call Structural Engineering Services for various public art installations.

BACKGROUND

The City of Palo Alto's Public Art Program manages the Public Art in Municipal Projects funds transferred annually as part of the budget cycle in accordance with Ordinance Number 5301 Municipal Code 2.26.070 (Public Art for Municipal Projects)¹. The Public Art Program oversees the implementation of expanded public art programming, including permanent art installations associated with the City's Capital Improvements Projects, temporary public art installations, Cubberley Artist Studio Program, and Code: ART. Engineered drawings and calculations are required for many temporary public art installations. Costs associated with structural engineering services are often prohibitive for the artists of such temporary public art installations as their overall budgets are limited. Therefore, the Public Art Program entered into the initial professional services agreement with Hohbach-Lewin, Inc. to provide on-call structural engineering services for various public art projects in April 2020.

¹ Ordinance No 5301 of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Amending the Municipal Code to add Section 2.26.070 (Public Art for Municipal Projects) to Chapter 2.26 (Visual Art in Public Places); <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/files/assets/public/community-services/public-art-program/pap-policies-and-docs/ord-5301-public-art-for-muni-projects-2015.pdf>

ANALYSIS

In early January 2020, the Public Art Program released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for on-call engineering services for public art. The RFP was sent to multiple Engineering firms with a due date to respond of February 21, 2020. Hohbach-Lewin, Inc. was the only firm who responded. Staff is not certain why there was only one firm that responded, but suspects that it is due to the small contract amount and the unusual niche focus on public art in the field of structural engineering. Hohbach-Lewin, Inc. has been providing a range of services instrumental for the implementation of temporary public art installations for a variety of projects, including the King Artist-in-Residence program, and the Code:ART public art festival installations. The Public Art Program staff relies on the services provided by Hohbach-Lewin, Inc to ensure the installations are designed and fabricated to provide safety to the public, City staff, and surrounding structures and protection of the project from elements due to wind, seismic, or other typical potential hazards. The current contract with Hohbach-Lewin, Inc. expired on April 1, 2023. Extension of the contract will allow the Public Art Program staff to continue utilizing on-call structural engineering services by Hohbach-Lewin, Inc. essential for the successful implementation of various Public Art installations throughout Palo Alto in the next three years and the additional funds will ensue that adequate funding is available for these projects. This amendment requires Council approval as it extends the term of the contract beyond three years.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT

As part of the annual budget process, 1% of the Annual Capital Improvement Budget is earmarked for the purpose of commissioning public art and budgeted in the Art in Public Spaces CIP Project (AC-86017). The Fiscal Year 2023 Adopted Capital Budget Art in Public Places Capital Project has sufficient funding to absorb the cost of this contract with no additional budgetary action required.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Staff coordinated internally with procurement staff and legal support to review and execute this amendment.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Approval of this amendment is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A Contract (S20178516) HOHBACH-LEWIN, INC.

Attachment B Amendment No. 1 to Contract NO. S20178516 with Hohbach-Lewin, Inc.

APPROVED BY:

Kristen O'Kane, Community Services Director