



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

**Item 3
January 18, 2023
Regular Business**

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Approve of Luther Burbank Waterfront Improvements (LBWI) Art in Public Places Request for Proposals (RFP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the request for proposals for the Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvements Art in Public Places project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RFP for Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvements – DRAFT 2. MICC 4.40.200 1% for Art in Public Places Fund

SUMMARY

On September 14, the Arts Council established a Public Art Committee to work with staff on public art project and policy needs throughout 2023. The Arts Council Chair appointed Daniel Becker and Suzanne Skone to the committee, which is supported by Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager. The committee’s first major project has been to coordinate the request for proposals (RFP) process to identify an artist or artist team for the Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvement (LBWI) capital project. At the January Arts Council meeting, the Public Art Committee will present and seek approval of the draft RFP.

PROCESS TO DEVELOP RFP

The Public Art Committee, Bluvas, and Paul West, CIP Project Manager, met three times from October to January to develop and refine the draft RFP (Exhibit 1). They started with parameters prepared by Noelle Higgins, a member of the LBWI design team from Anchor QEA who is experienced in engaging artists in capital projects. In between meetings, staff continued to edit the RFP and solicit input from the Public Art Committee throughout the drafting process.

Committee members guided key components of the RFP, including:

- Preference for a regional call for artists (Pacific Northwest focus);
- Interest in a cohesive arts integration to pull the site together; and
- Interest in providing a project budget range that may necessitate recommending additional funds beyond the project estimated 1% contribution be appropriated from the existing 1% fund.

To release the RFP, the Committee seeks approval from the full Arts Council on the draft RFP. Arts Council members should review the draft RFP and send questions and feedback to Bluvas directly by Tuesday, January 17, at noon, to allow time to review and incorporate changes before the board meets on January 18.

ARTIST SELECTION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to reviewing the RFP, the Committee also invited Arts Council members to suggest community members to serve on the Artist Selection Panel. The guidelines for acquisition for the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program outline the following positions for the Artist Selection Panel:

- An artist generally recognized for producing quality work
- A Mercer Island citizen with special interest in the proposed site
- A Mercer Island Arts Council member (will serve as Chair of the ASP)
- A Mercer Island Design Commission member
- A lay citizen of Mercer Island
- A Mercer Island City Council member
- A City staff advisor (non-voting member)

On January 9, staff e-mailed the Arts Council to request suggestions to fill three positions: an artist, a citizen with special interest in the site, and a lay citizen. Staff and the Committee also asked if any other Arts Council members would be interested in serving on the panel.

On Wednesday, the Committee will report the status of the Artist Selection Panel; if ready, the Committee will request Arts Council approval of a proposed panel at the same time.

PROJECT BUDGET & 1% FUNDING

Per MICC 4.40.200 (Exhibit 2), the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund (1%) pools contributions from qualifying capital improvement program (CIP) projects to support AIPP projects on Mercer Island. Staff estimate a 1% contribution of \$60,000-\$70,000 from the LBWI and associated Luther Burbank docks/waterfront capital projects. The RFP lists a project budget range of \$50,000-\$120,000 for all design, fabrication, artist fee, site delivery, installation, and other associated elements of the project.

Staff has considered how to use the estimated 1% contribution for functional art elements that integrate into the LBWI design. An artist needs to be engaged in the upcoming 90% design work this spring and summer. However, the capital project's 1% funding will not accrue until *after* the project is completed through construction (estimated 2025). Staff recommend appropriating funds from the existing 1% revenue to pay for the artist's fee and other costs associated with developing the final artwork concept. Staff and the Public Art Committee will return to the Arts Council at a future meeting to request that appropriation. If approved by the Arts Council, the appropriation will be included in the request for project approval that will be transmitted to the City Council in the second quarter of 2023 (meeting date TBC). The current 1% fund balance is \$167,116.00.

NEXT STEPS

If the RFP is approved by the Arts Council, staff will release it by the beginning of February. Distribution channels will include the City website, on 4Culture's Call for Artists website, directly with individual artists and arts groups, and other mechanisms. If Arts Council members have ideas for where to post the RFP, they can send them directly to staff.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the request for proposals for the Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvements Art in Public Places project.