



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 3  
April 19, 2023  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>  <b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Luther Burbank Waterfront Improvements (LBWI) Art in Public Places – Artist Selection and Funding Allocation Recommendation  Recommend to City Council the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award the Luther Burbank Park Art in Public Places project to Marsha Rollinger; and</li> <li>• Appropriate \$50,000 from the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund to develop the project in consultation with Anchor QEA.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
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<b>STAFF:</b>  <b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>  <b>EXHIBITS:</b>	Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager  Ted Weinberg  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RFP for Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvements</li> <li>2. Proposed Public Art Concept Submitted by Marsha Rollinger</li> <li>3. MICC 4.40.200 1% for Art in Public Places Fund</li> </ol>
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## SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

On [January 18](#), the Arts Council approved the request for proposals (RFP) to identify an artist or artist team for the Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvements (LBWI) project. The RFP (Exhibit 1) was released on January 19, 2023, and the Public Art Committee and City staff have stewarded the selection process.

At the April Arts Council meeting, staff and Arts Council Member Daniel Becker, the Chair of the LBWI Artist Selection Panel, will present the results of the selection process and seek the Arts Council’s recommendation to award this Art in Public Places (AIPP) project to Marsha Rollinger.

### ARTIST SELECTION PANEL

Per the Guidelines for Acquisition for the AIPP, an Artist Selection Panel (ASP) is appointed to review submittals and make a finalist recommendation to the Arts Council. The following list includes the community members and staff who served on the panel as well as their specific “panel positions,” which are required by the Guidelines for Acquisition:

- **Artist generally recognized for producing quality work:** Kevin Au (nominated by MIVAL)
- **Citizen with interest in the site:** Judith Roan (nominated by Friends of Luther Burbank Park)
- **Mercer Island Arts Council members:** Daniel Becker and Lalo Bruhl
- **Mercer Island Design Commission member:** Anthony Perez (appointed by Design Commission Chair)
- **Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) member:** Sara Marxen (appointed by PRC Chair)
- **Lay citizen:** Rosalie Frankel (nominated by the Arts Council)
- **City Council member:** Ted Weinberg

- **City staff advisors (non-voting):** Paul West, Senior CIP Project Manager; Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager

Noelle Higgins and Rachel Anderson from Anchor QEA, the consultants designing the LBWI project, also participated as non-voting advisors.

**ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS + ARTS COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

The RFP closed on March 7, 2023, and the City received five complete submittals. Each panelist reviewed all submittals individually before convening on March 22. Led by Becker, the ASP discussed each submittal and selected two finalists – artist Marsha Rollinger and the artist team MI Arts Collab, comprised of Suzanne Zahr and Juliana Kang Robinson. The artists selected as finalists received \$500 stipends to present their proposed concept to the ASP. On April 3, 2023, presentations were held at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center, then the ASP deliberated and voted to recommend Marsha Rollinger as the selected finalist. Rollinger’s proposed concept is attached as Exhibit 2.

At the April Arts Council meeting, member Becker and staff will present Rollinger’s proposed concept and answer clarifying questions about the selection process and deliberation. Following the discussion, the Arts Council may choose to accept the ASP’s recommendation to award the project to Rollinger. This recommendation will then be transmitted to City Council for approval on May 16, 2023.

It is important to note that Rollinger’s proposal is a concept, *not* a completed public artwork ready for installation. If recommended to Council and accepted, the artist will fully develop her concept in collaboration with the community, City staff, and Anchor QEA this summer. Mercer Island community members will have ample opportunity to provide input on the artwork designs that will ultimately be installed during the capital project’s construction.

**PROJECT BUDGET + APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Per MICC 4.40.200 (Exhibit 3), 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. The current 1% balance is \$170,936. Staff estimate a 1% contribution to the fund of \$60,000-\$70,000 from the LBWI and associated Luther Burbank docks/waterfront capital projects.

Based on the RFP requirements and stated budget range, Rollinger submitted a high-level, estimated budget for her proposed concept, provided below.

Artist Design & Project Management	\$26,000
Fabrication	\$73,300
Installation	\$2,000
Documentation	\$1,500
Marketing & Communication / Outreach Materials	\$1,500
Community Engagement	\$5,000
Contingency	\$10,700

**TOTAL \$120,000**

The artist will engage in the upcoming 90% design process this spring and summer and will develop the final artwork concept in collaboration with the community and Anchor QEA. Funds from 1% will also cover Anchor

QEA's additional scope to manage the public art integration into the design process; staff are still negotiating this scope and will update the Arts Council at the April meeting.

On January 18, staff proposed that the Arts Council recommend appropriating funds from the existing 1% reserve to fund the artist's fee and other costs associated with developing the final artwork design. This recommendation balances the need to integrate an artist into the 90% design process with the fact that the capital project's 1% contribution will not transfer to 1% until *after* the capital project is completed through construction (estimated 2025).

Building on that guidance, staff propose that the Arts Council recommend that City Council appropriate \$50,000 from 1% to fund the development of the final art concept. This amount would cover Rollinger's artist fees and budget for project management, community engagement, marketing, and some documentation / contingency, as well as the additional consultant scope for Anchor QEA. Staff will return to the Arts Council to seek a recommendation for budget for fabrication, installation, and documentation prior to construction bid award (est. Q1 2024).

#### **NEXT STEPS**

After the artist selection and recommended appropriation request are accepted, the Arts Council's recommendation will be transmitted to City Council at their Regular Meeting on May 16, 2023. Once Council approves the artist award and appropriation, staff will finalize contracting to integrate Rollinger into the 90% design process as quickly as possible and amend the contract scope for Anchor QEA. Staff will also work with Rollinger to schedule community workshops and other opportunities to solicit artwork design input during summer 2023. One of the workshops will likely take place at Summer Celebration! on Saturday, July 15, 2023. Details about those workshops and other elements of the project progress will be shared on Let's Talk at <https://letstalk.mercergov.org/lbdock>.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Recommend to City Council the following:

- Award the Luther Burbank Park Art in Public Places project to Marsha Rollinger; and
- Appropriate \$50,000 from the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund to develop the project in consultation with Anchor QEA.