



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 17

**Agenda Date:** May 16, 2024

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Arts and Culture

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Krystal Jones

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Prequalified Public Art List of Public Art Professionals

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance approves a prequalified list of public art professionals whose services may be used to implement art projects established by the San Antonio Arts Commission and/or the Department of Arts & Culture in an amount not-to-exceed the budget allocation for public art and arts programming through the Department of Arts & Culture. This ordinance also authorizes contracts and payments to the availability of funds.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Department of Arts & Culture has issued an open call for artists since 2012 to create a Prequalified Public Art List to be available for selection by the San Antonio Arts Commission and/or contracting and payment through the Department of Arts & Culture for a three-year period. In March 2022, City Council approved a list that remains active for one more year.

In October 2023, the department issued an open call as part of a competitive and curated process to update the City's Prequalified Public Art List is comprised of public art professionals including

public artists and art support services. Extensive outreach included: weekly emails to art professionals and organizations requesting they apply including, but not limited to, local universities, community colleges, citywide neighborhood associations, citywide arts agencies, galleries and museums in San Antonio and Texas, Americans for the Arts, the Texas Public Art Association, and arts organizations or collectives representing artists of color. Information regarding the open call was included in the department's newsletter which has a distribution of 5,000+ recipients, posted on the department's website and social media accounts, notified to all City Council Offices to share with constituents, and placed in advertisements through various local and national trade publications/organizations.

In addition to these outreach efforts, the department held two information sessions (one virtual, one in-person) on the Prequalified Public Art List. During these sessions, staff provided an informational presentation on what it means to be prequalified followed by a step-by-step tutorial on how to apply. The first session was held virtually on November 7 and the second was held in-person on November 13 at Mission Library in District 3. The department also held several tabling events, including at Second Saturday in District 5 (November 11) and at In the Eye of the Beholder Gallery in District 2 (December 1), to explain the application process and advertise the call. The goal of this open call and the outreach process was to seek new art professionals to be added to the already active list.

The Department of Arts & Culture received a total of 156 applications, 105 from the San Antonio area and 51 from outside of the San Antonio area. An independent panel of art experts reviewed applications based on merit, experience and qualifications, and collaboration with additional points provided for San Antonio based artists and support services as well as applicants who identified as a person of color, female, or non-binary /third gender, LGBTQIA+, living with a disability or medical condition or a veteran / active-duty military. Applicants could receive a score of up to 100 points, with those receiving 75 points or above recommended for inclusion on the Prequalified Public Art List.

Following the evaluation, a total of 129 applicants were recommended for the Prequalified Public Art List, 86 from the San Antonio area and 43 from outside the San Antonio area (with 13 from Texas). This recommended list was approved by the San Antonio Arts Commission's Public Art Subcommittee on April 2, the San Antonio Arts Commission on April 9 and the City Council Community Health Committee on April 25.

## **ISSUE:**

This action approves the 129 public art professionals that have been recommended by the San Antonio Arts Commission and the City Council Community Health Committee for inclusion on the 2024 Prequalified Public Art List for a three-year term. Eligible appropriations may be used to contract with these art professionals for design services, selection, acquisition, fabrication, installation, conservation, and display of artworks. Inclusion on the prequalified list does not guarantee a contracting opportunity and all contracts are subject to the Public Art Policy adopted by City Council in 2023 and availability of funds in the adopted city budget.

Final selections for public art project commissions will be made through an evaluation process that will include representatives of the Public Art Committee, the San Antonio Arts Commission, stakeholders such as local art professionals, neighborhood and community members, and representatives of City departments where the art will be located. Final artist selections and projects are reviewed and approved by the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art Committee. Once an artist is selected for a public art project commission, the artist establishes a concept which must be reviewed by stakeholders and approved by the Public Art Committee. Final designs of all public art are approved by the San Antonio Arts Commission before the artwork may be fabricated. The Public Art Division of the Department of Arts & Culture manages the entire process from artist selection to installation.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

If City Council chooses not to approve the Prequalified Public Art List the department will be required to continue to use the 2022 Prequalified Public Art List and would lose the opportunity to select and contract with new artists.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance approves a prequalified list of public art professionals whose services may be used to implement art projects established by the San Antonio Arts Commission and/or the Department of Arts & Culture in an amount not-to-exceed the budget allocation for public art and arts programming through the Department of Arts & Culture.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff, the City Council Community Health Committee, and the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art subcommittee recommend that City Council approve the Prequalified Public Art List to be contracted for department projects utilizing eligible capital project funds dedicated to public art as well as Department of Arts & Culture budgeted operating funds.