



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** March 20, 2025

**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:**

Consideration of approval of a Prequalified List of Public Art Professionals to be available for selection by the San Antonio Arts Commission and/or contracting through the Department of Arts & Culture for projects that have available funding.

**SUMMARY:**

This item 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 List of Public Art Professionals to be available for selection by the San Antonio Arts Commission and/or contracting and payment through the Department of Arts & Culture.

In September 2024, the department issued an open call as part of a competitive and curated process to update the City's Prequalified List of Public Art Professionals comprised of 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 and collectives. 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 residents, and placed in advertisements through various local and national trade publications/organizations.

In addition to these outreach efforts, the department held an in-person information session on October 7, 2024, on the Prequalified Public Art List. During this session, staff provided an informational presentation on what it means to be prequalified followed by a step-by-step tutorial on how to apply. The department also attended several outreach and tabling events 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 227 applications, 164 from the San Antonio area and 63 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, LGBTQIA+, living with a disability or medical condition, or a veteran / active-duty military. Applicants could receive a score of up to 115 points, with those receiving 75 points or above recommended for inclusion on the Prequalified List of Public Art Professionals.

Following the evaluation, a total of 216 applicants were recommended for the Prequalified Public Art List, 158 from the San Antonio area and 58 from outside the San Antonio area (with 14 from Texas), with applicants remaining available for selection for a six-year period. In December 2024, this recommended list was approved by the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art subcommittee.

## **ISSUE:**

This action approves the 216 public art professionals that have been recommended by the San Antonio Arts Commission for inclusion on the FY 2025 Prequalified Public Art List for a six-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. All contracts are subject to the Public Art Policy adopted by City Council in 2023 and availability of funds in the adopted City budget. This list was approved by the Community Health Committee on February 28, 2025.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

If City Council chooses not to approve the Prequalified List of Public Art Professionals, the department will be required to continue to use the 2024 Prequalified 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 contracted to implement public art projects established by the public art plan in an amount not-to-exceed the eligible budget allocation for public art and arts programming through the Department of Arts & Culture.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff, the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art subcommittee, and the Community Health Committee recommend approval of the Prequalified List of Public Art Professionals.