

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

January 18, 2023

HDRC CASE NO: 2022-478
COMMON NAME: ROW at Frio & W Commerce
ZONING: UZROW, H
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 5
DISTRICT: Cattleman Square Historic District
APPLICANT: Bianca Alvarez/Department of Arts & Culture, City of San Antonio
OWNER: Bianca Alvarez/Department of Arts & Culture, City of San Antonio
TYPE OF WORK: Installation of public art
APPLICATION RECEIVED: January 06, 2023
60-DAY REVIEW: Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders
CASE MANAGER: Rachel Rettaliata
REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to permanently install two public art sculptures within Cattleman Square.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

UDC Section 35-450. General Rules.

(a)Area of Jurisdiction. A certificate of appropriateness is required and shall be secured by a party prior to the issuance of a permit from the department of planning and development services before said party will be allowed to undertake activities affecting a designated historic landmark, property within a designated historic district, a state archaeological landmark, a recorded Texas historical landmark, property within a National Register Historic District, property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a National Historic Landmark, property within the river improvement overlay district, public property, public rights-of-way, or public art.

UDC Sec. 35-641. - Design Considerations for Historic and Design Review Commission Recommendations.

In reviewing an application, the historic and design review commission shall be aware of the importance of attempting to find a way to meet the current needs of the City of San Antonio, lessee or licensee of public property. The historic and design review commission shall also recognize the importance of recommending approval of plans that will be reasonable to implement. The best urban design standards possible can and should be employed with public property including buildings and facilities, parks and open spaces, and the public right-of-way. Design and construction on public property should employ such standards because the use of public monies for design and construction is a public trust. Public commitment to quality design should encourage better design by the private sector. Finally, using such design standards for public property improves the identity and the quality of life of the surrounding neighborhoods.

UDC Sec 35-642. – New Construction of Buildings and Facilities:

In considering whether to recommend approval or disapproval of a certificate, the historic and design review commission shall be guided by the following design considerations. These are not intended to restrict imagination, innovation or variety, but rather to assist in focusing on design principles, which can result in creative solutions that will enhance the city and its neighborhoods. Good and original design solutions that meet the individual requirements of a specific site or neighborhood are encouraged and welcomed.

(a) Site and Setting.

(1) Building sites should be planned to take into consideration existing natural climatic and topographical features. The intrusive leveling of the site should be avoided. Climatic factors such as sun, wind, and temperature should become an integral part of the design to encourage design of site-specific facilities which reinforces the individual identity of a neighborhood and promotes energy efficient facilities.

(2) Special consideration should be given to maintain existing urban design characteristics, such as setbacks, building heights, streetscapes, pedestrian movement, and traffic flow. Building placement should enhance or create focal points and views. Continuity of scale and orientation shall be emphasized.

(3) Accessibility from streets should be designed to accommodate safe pedestrian movement as well as

vehicular traffic. Where possible, parking areas should be screened from view from the public right-of-way by attractive fences, berms, plantings or other means.

(4) Historically significant aspects of the site shall be identified and if possible incorporated into the site design. Historic relationships between buildings, such as plazas or open spaces, boulevards or axial relationships should be maintained.

FINDINGS:

- a. The applicant has requested to install public art sculptures on the east side of the intersection of N Frio, S Frio, and W Commerce Streets. This area is within the Cattleman Square Historic District. This proposal is part of the larger 2017 Bond for capital improvements within Zona Cultural.
- b. CASE HISTORY – The applicant's request was previously heard by the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) on October 5, 2022. At that time, the HDRC conceptually approved the request and referred the request to the Design Review Committee (DRC) to further discuss the material specifications and finishes for the proposed installation. The applicant met with the DRC on October 11, 2022, and the discussion included an explanation of the public outreach process for the proposal, the artist's vision, the materiality of the proposed installations, the proposed finishes for the pieces, and details regarding the installation. The applicant has met the previous stipulation to submit material specifications to staff for review and is requesting final approval.
- c. PUBLIC ART: NORTHEAST CORNER – The applicant has proposed to install one public art sculpture in the public right-of-way on the northeast corner of the N Frio & W Commerce intersection. The proposed sculpture will feature dimensions that are 10 feet in height and will resemble a kite. The proposed sculpture will be constructed of steel that will be finished with vinyl wrap and paint and will feature an anti-graffiti coating. The sculpture will be installed on a concrete foundation that is 2'-6" in height and 8 feet in diameter. The design of the artwork is based on community engagement completed by The Department of Arts & Culture and attendance at the Public Art Committee and San Antonio Arts Commission meetings. The engineering fabrication, and installation of the sculpture will be managed by a contractor through the Department of Arts & Culture in coordination with the artist. The installation is scheduled to be completed in Winter 2023. Staff finds the proposal generally appropriate.
- d. PUBLIC ART: SOUTHEAST CORNER – The applicant has proposed to install one public art sculpture in the public right-of-way on the southeast corner of the N Frio & W Commerce intersection. The proposed sculpture will feature dimensions that are 10 feet in height and will resemble a top. The proposed sculpture will be constructed of steel that will be finished with vinyl wrap and paint and will feature an anti-graffiti coating. The sculpture will be installed on a concrete foundation that is 2'-6" in height and 8 feet in diameter. The design of the artwork is based on community engagement completed by The Department of Arts & Culture and attendance at the Public Art Committee and San Antonio Arts Commission meetings. The engineering fabrication, and installation of the sculpture will be managed by a contractor through the Department of Arts & Culture in coordination with the artist. The installation is scheduled to be completed in Winter 2023. Staff finds the proposal generally appropriate.
- e. SITE WORK – The installation of the proposed sculptures will not require electrical or irrigation work to be conducted. All lighting, traffic fixtures, and signage will remain. The applicant has not proposed any landscaping changes to the site and the respective corners where work is proposed will feature new Greco patterned tile as part of the Zona Cultural improvements. Staff finds the proposal generally appropriate.
- f. ARCHAEOLOGY – The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval based on findings a through f with the following stipulation:

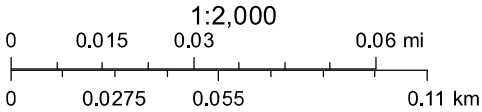
- i. ARCHAEOLOGY – The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

City of San Antonio One Stop



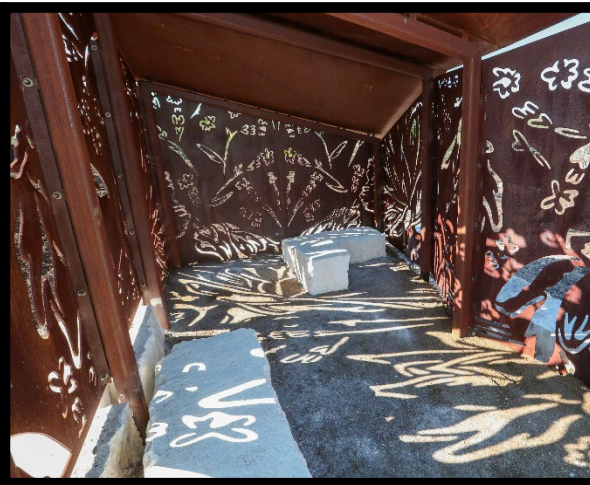
September 29, 2022

— User drawn lines





ARTS & CULTURE



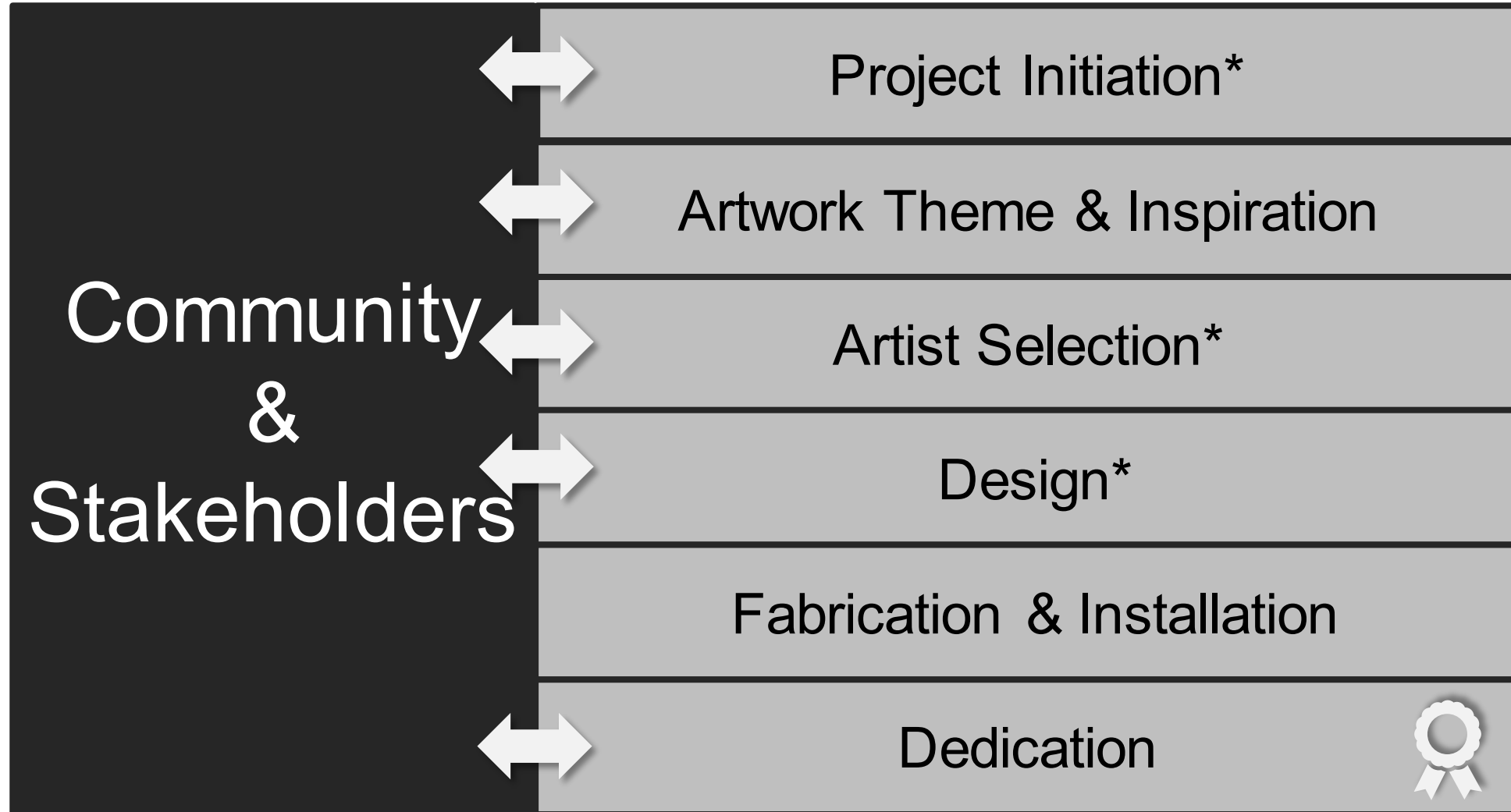
COA Support Materials: Frio & Commerce Sculptures
Located at South Frio and West Commerce Intersection

Contents

- Public Art Process
- Project Location
- Existing Conditions
- Project Scope
- Project Schedule

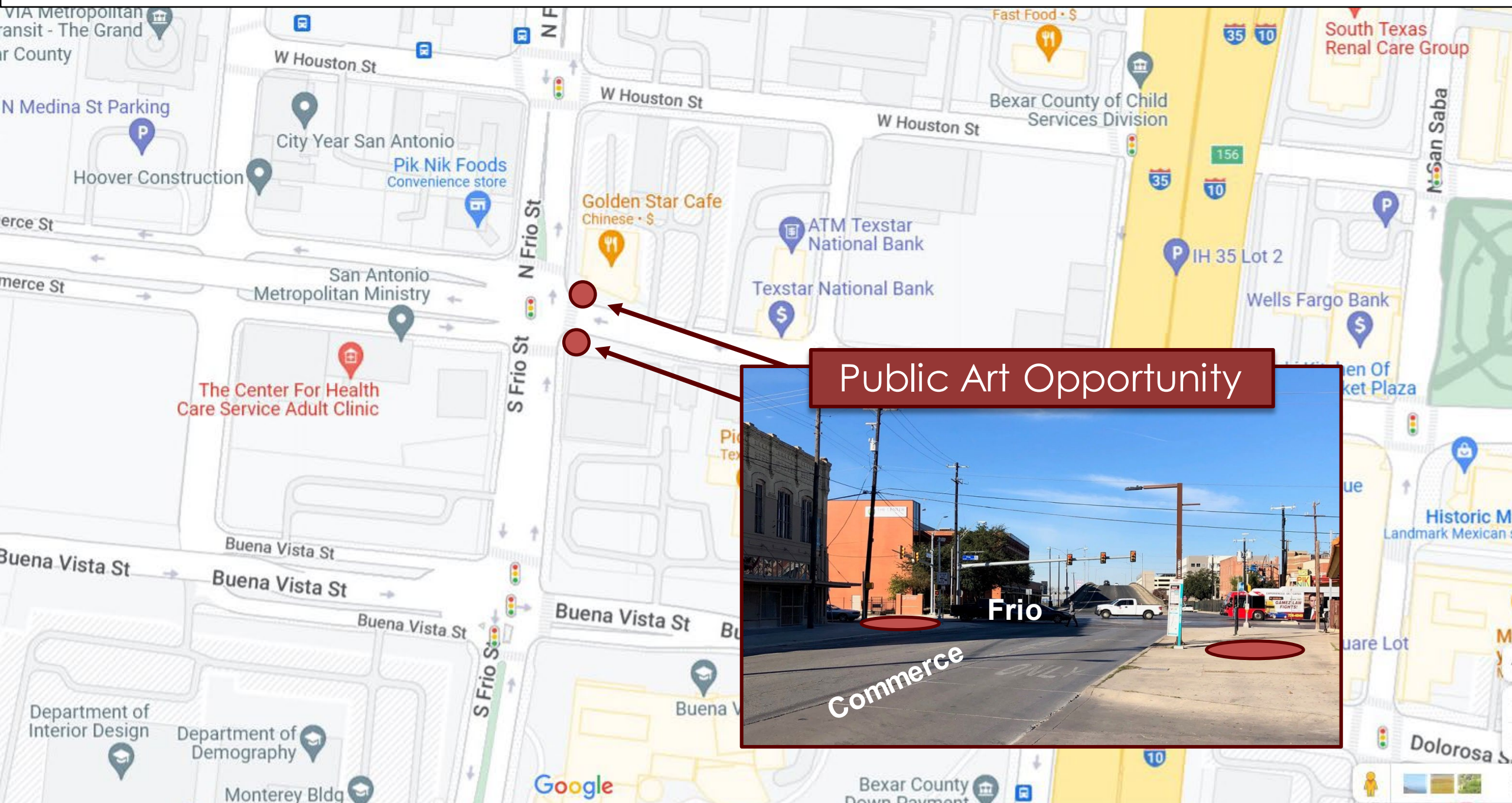
Public Art Process

Art in a public place that has been through a public engagement process to determine the artwork's location, inspirations and themes, and the selected artist.



**Approval from Public Art Committee and San Antonio Arts Commission (Public Meetings)*

Project Location: Northeast and southeast corner of S. Frio and W. Commerce



Existing Conditions: S. Frio and W. Commerce (Prior to PWD Street Construction)



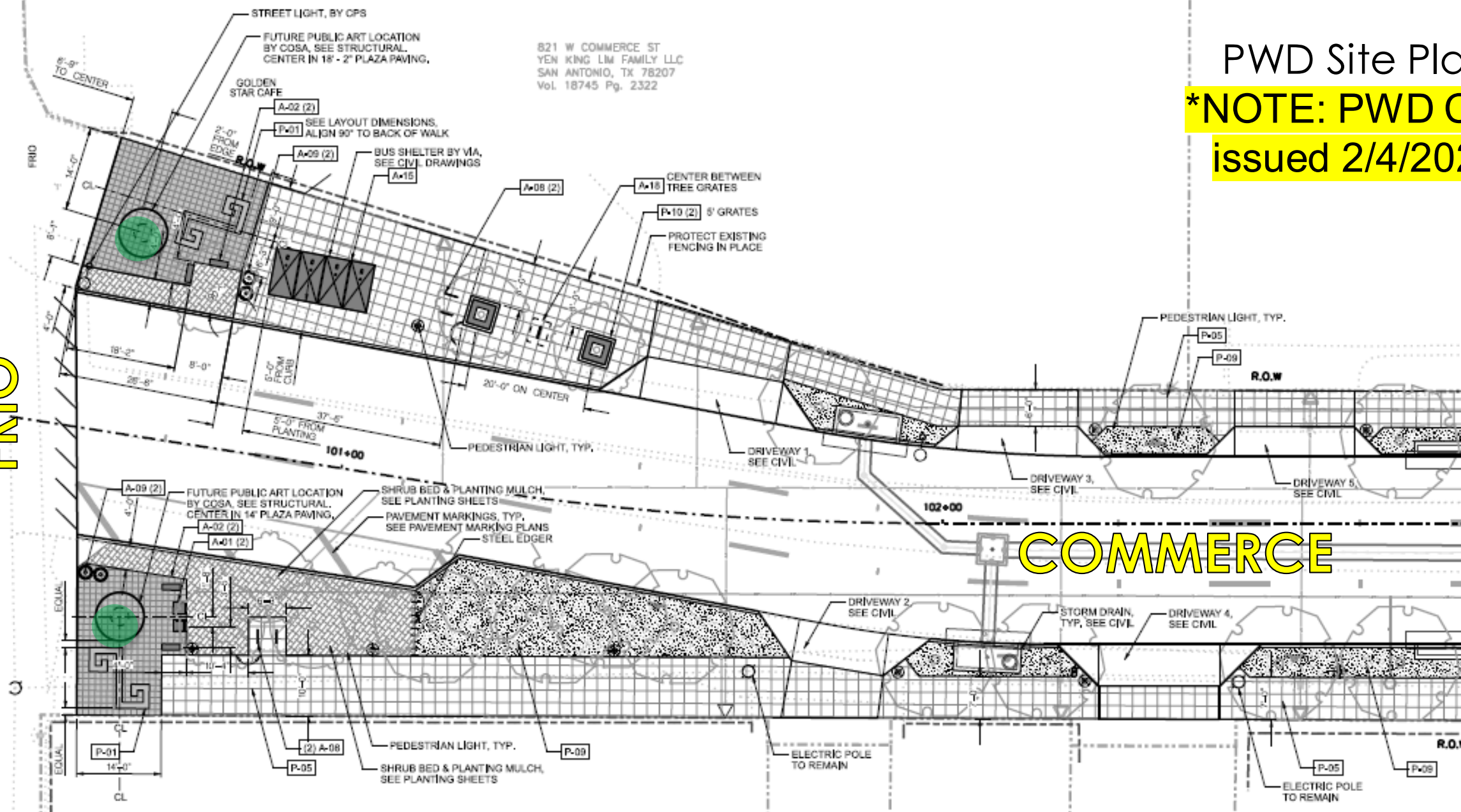
821 W COMMERCE ST
YEN KING LIM FAMILY LLC
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78207
Vol. 18745 Pg. 2322

PWD Site Plan

***NOTE: PWD COA
issued 2/4/2021**

FRIO

COMMERCE



Public Works Scope: Capital improvements, including ADA improvements/modifications, driveway/sidewalk, landscaping/hardscaping/irrigation, Right-of-Way, and construction of sculpture foundations.

Project Scope: Design, fabricate, and install two sculptures, each 10'h x 6'd, on the southeast and northeast corners of S. Frio & W. Commerce St. The foundations will measure 2'6" tall x 8' diameter. Total dimensions are 12'6"h x 8'd. Surfaces will include anti-graffiti coating. All lighting, traffic fixtures, and signage will remain. No electrical or irrigation work will be conducted.





Goal of Engagement: Identify theme, style, and material of the sculptures.

Summary of Findings: Results indicate that sculptures should be bold and colorful. Thematically, the community is interested in seeing celebrations that reflect the Westside's diverse history, culture, and heritage as passed down through the generations. As a lasting impression, the sculpture should leave viewers feeling energized.

Final Design – Approved by San Antonio Arts Commission & Public Art Committee



Artwork
10' x 6'



Combined
12'6" x 8'

Foundation
2'6" x 8'

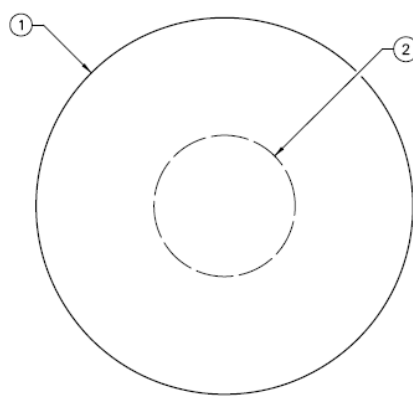
Artist: Joe Villarreal (District 5)

Final Design – Approved by San Antonio Arts Commission & Public Art Committee

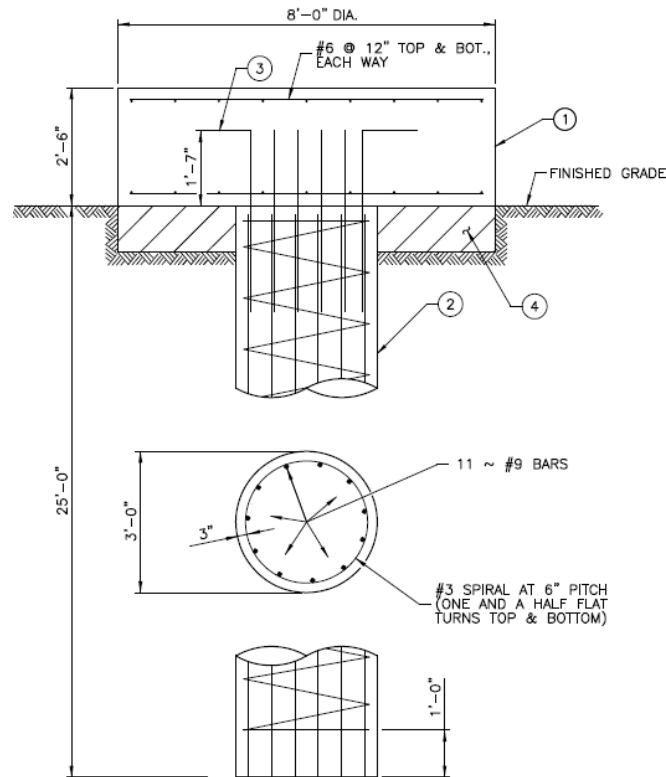
Artist: Joe Villarreal



Materials: Steel, paint, and vinyl wrap



PLAN



ELEVATION

Foundation Plan

GENERAL NOTES:

1. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY EXISTING CONDITIONS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OR ORDERING MATERIALS.
2. COORDINATE INFORMATION ON THIS DRAWING WITH ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS, SEE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FOR INFORMATION NOT SHOWN.
3. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL EXISTING CONFLICTS AND UTILITIES PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
4. SET AND ADJUST ELEVATIONS OF CONCRETE BASE AS REQUIRED TO MEET ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS. PROVIDE FINISH, COLORATION AND ANY OTHER AESTHETIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CONCRETE BASE PER ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS. REVIEW ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
5. ART PIECE FOUNDATION WILL BE PAID FOR UNDER BID ITEM 308.7 DRILLED SHAFTS (36") (ART FOUNDATION) TO INCLUDE 8 FT DIAMETER PIER CAP.

NOTES BY SYMBOL:

- ① 8 FT. DIAMETER PIER CAP, TXDOT CLASS S CONCRETE.
- ② 36" DRILLED SHAFT, CENTER ON PIER CAP. TXDOT CLASS C CONCRETE.
- ③ #9 BAR WITH STD HOOK: PROJECT HOOK 1'-7" INTO PIER CAP WITH BAR EXTENSION 4'-6" INTO DRILLED SHAFT. BAR MAY BE ADDED AFTER SHAFT POURED BUT BEFORE CONCRETE HAS SET; FULLY VIBRATE TOP SHAFT CONCRETE AFTER BARS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.
- ④ PROVIDE A 12-INCH OF FLEXIBLE BASE, GRADE 1-2. PER TXDOT ITEM 247.

Project Schedule

Milestone	Start Date	Completion Date
Final Design Approval from Public Art Committee & San Antonio Arts Commission	Public Art Committee 10/4/2022	San Antonio Arts Commission 10/11/2022
HDRC Hearing - Concept Design Approval Obtained	10/5/2022	10/5/2022
DRC Meeting	10/11/2022	10/11/2022
HDRC Hearing: Final Design Approval	1/18/2023	1/18/2023
Fabrication Phase	Spring 2023	Fall 2023
Installation	Winter 2023	Winter 2023
Dedication	January 2024	January 2024





Contact:

BIANCA ALVAREZ

Public Art Project Manager

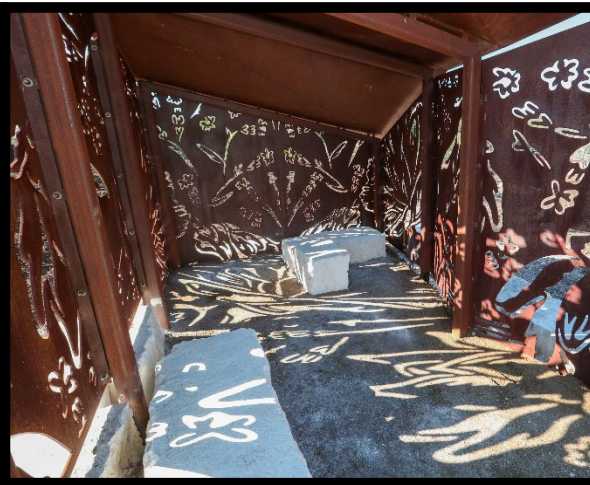
bianca.alvarez@sanantonio.gov

210.207.6963

www.sanantonio.gov/arts



ARTS & CULTURE



COA Support Materials: Frio & Commerce Gateway Sculptures
Located at South Frio and West Commerce Intersection



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**OFFICE OF HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Historic and Design Review Commission
Design Review Committee Report

DATE: 10/11/2022

HDRC Case #: 2022-478

Address: ROW at Frio & W Commerce

Meeting Location: WebEx

APPLICANT: Bianca Alvarez (Public Art), Veronica Rippel (Arts)

DRC Members present: Lisa Garza, Roland Mazuca,

Staff Present: Rachel Rettaliata

Others present:

REQUEST: Installation of public art

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

BA: Materials will be constructed from steel and painted and the kite will have a durable vinyl wrap. We have obtained the necessary trademarks to use La Prensa. Joe Villareal is a District 5 artist. This morning we received final design approval from the Public Arts Commission and the Public Art Committee. These are the Committees that give us the approvals we need to move forward in this process.

RM: This location says "Gateway to the Westside" to me. Seeing the overlay of La Prensa gives it historic importance. I don't necessarily get the top, I don't think it is unique to the west side. I think the historical reference to La Prensa saved this art piece. The west side has produced some important artists, including the artist for these works.

MS: Regarding the content of the artwork, what is it about this top that distinguishes it from any other top? How is it specific to its gateway and what lies beyond.

BA: In conversations with the artist, his body of work does include child play, family scenes, community. In his compositions, we often see playfulness in the center of his interactions, including these toys like the trompo. This was a toy that he played with as a child. Wooden

tops are popular in Latin America. The design is driven by our community engagement, which we conducted as early as February 2021, moving into a community engagement survey online with virtual meetings and the District 5 office was involved. The community engagement stated that the public art should celebrate the westside and its cultural heritage.

MS: I wanted to see what would differentiate this top from a Central European one. I will rest comfortably knowing that many of these decisions came from community engagement and the artist's plans.

VR: The way we work with our artists, you give them guidelines or limitations. When we work with artists we work on the constraints with Public Works first, this is a public street and there are traffic studies. We worked with PWD for location guidelines, they selected the best location based on the weight. We create the base and the location first and the artist can create a piece for this location based on the weights and dimensions. The base is solid concrete because it needs to withstand a certain weight. There is a lot of engineering behind this artwork. I remain neutral regarding the content of the art pieces and our job is to follow our process and be transparent with our governing bodies. Art is very subjective and it brings us together.

MS: Would a slightly taller base help to distinguish it from surrounding structures? I'm thinking also of people sitting on it and how does that play into the mission of how we interact with our artwork?

VR: The bases and foundations were in the hands of the experts in PWD, the base is assigned by them based on a lot of consideration.

MS: Officially, the base is not part of the artwork? Will there be designation of the artist on these spaces?

VR: Yes, usually that will include a narrative that explains what the art is trying to accomplish.

LG: I have an opinion similar to Roland's, especially concerning the top. How much feedback did you get? Was there high turnout?

VR: Generally, we get about 30 people who contribute to the surveys and the meetings. With this one, we had a couple of meetings. There is a problem with lack of participation from the public right now. With the Bond, my goal is to have 500 contacts with the

community. Public Arts is a 5-person team. During Covid things changed a little bit. We have more participation virtually. There may be participation fatigue in SATX.

BA: For the survey alone, we had 67 responses. The survey was open for 2 months Feb-April 2021. Responses were published on the Public Arts website. Some of the themes included seeing objects like pinatas, cascarones, and trompo. So, the trompo made the cut specifically.

VR: This is a lot of participation, especially given the location.

RM: I have a question about lighting, will there be lighting in the base?

VR: No, we will use the lighting existing on the streets, it will be changing due to a PWD project. We do not have funding for lighting.

RM: I understand the appreciation for art. When it comes to public art, you are dealing with people who see it. In public art we always think about the audience and the message and what you want to say before starting the project. There are gads of public art pieces elsewhere that don't say much. I grew up in this neighborhood, there were Belgians, Germans, expat-Mexicans, Chinese families and there is a rich tapestry of people who live here and move on to somewhere else. On the other side of the bridge, there is an opportunity for another art piece that could serve as the gateway to the West side.

MS: That is great, bridges often have finials on either end.

VR: Thank you for that explanation.

OVERALL COMMENTS: