



Cultural Arts Programs

Cultural Arts & Marketing Division

TO: Public Art Advisory Committee
ATTN: Judy Moran and Andrew Woodd, Co-chairs
FROM: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager
DATE: November 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposed Selections for Inaugural Sculpture Exhibition in Uptown Art Park

SUMMARY

Public Art staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) accept the proposed selections of preexisting sculptures to be included in the opening exhibition at the Uptown Art Park.

BACKGROUND

In spring 2010, the Public Art Program began developing a temporary outdoor gallery for the exhibition of sculpture, debut of new commissioned artworks, temporary installations, performances and other events. The project is funded through a National Endowment for the Arts grant matched with public art dollars from the former Oakland Redevelopment Agency. The future site of the outdoor gallery, to be called the Uptown Art Park, is the parcel of land in Oakland's Uptown District bordered by Telegraph Avenue to the east, 19th Street to the south, William Street to the north, and Henry J. Kaiser Park to the west. Construction of the art park began in September, 2012, and is tentatively scheduled for completion in early December. City staff has established a tentative opening date for the park and the exhibition in December, 2012.

For the inaugural exhibition in the art park, the Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed and accepted (at its meeting of June 4, 2012) a proposal from the Black Rock Arts Foundation for a sculpture entitled *Bike Bridge*, to be constructed from repurposed bicycles and other materials by lead artist Michael Christian, guiding young Oakland women from Fremont High School and the Oakland School of the Arts who developed components of the sculpture through welding workshops at The Crucible. When completed, *Bike Bridge* will measure approximately 20' high by 20' wide and will include a central LED lighting element.

To solicit other, preexisting works for the exhibition, Public Art staff issued a Call for Sculptures in August, 2012. The program received applications from 21 artists, each submitting one to three available works for consideration.

On September 28, 2012, a selection panel consisting of Public Art Program staff members Steven Huss and Kristen Zaremba, and PAAC members Nick Dong, Joyce Hsu, and Judy Moran, reviewed the submissions and made a preliminary selection of works by eight artists for further consideration. This list of artists was reviewed by the full PAAC at its meeting of October 1, 2012. From discussion at the



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panel meeting, the exhibition theme of “Repurposing” emerged, relating to the recycled or repurposed materials used in many of the selected sculptures.

SCULPTURE SELECTIONS

Public Art staff has refined the list of selected works based on appropriateness and practicality for long-term outdoor display, and their cohesiveness as a group. Staff has confirmed that the following sculptures recommended by the panel are available and that the artists’ schedules permit installation of the works in the required timeframe. In addition to the *Bike Bridge* previously accepted by the PAAC, staff recommends that the inaugural exhibition include:

- *Barbican* by Randy Colosky (Oakland), 2011, engineered ceramic honeycomb and PL adhesive, 6½’x3’x6”
- *The Pressure to hold together that which held things back* by Randy Colosky (Oakland), 2011, salvaged retaining wall timbers, hardware, and PL adhesive, 6½’x9’x9’
- *Dandelion* by Karen Cusolito (Oakland), 2011, 20’Hx14’diameter
- *Trumpet Flowers* by Karen Cusolito (Oakland), 2011, 20’x14’x14’
- *Offering* by Bruce Johnson (Cazadero, Sonoma County), 2009, redwood and copper, 14’x16’x16’
- *Uprising* by Bruce Johnson (Cazadero), 2009, redwood and copper, 14’x9’x5’
- *Skiff* by Eric Powell (Berkeley), 2010, steel and patina, 12’x 34”x30”

These sculptures will be displayed for a period of eight to 12 months (to be determined) before they are rotated out and replaced with new selections. Staff is also seeking one to four additional works for inclusion in the inaugural exhibit.

Staff further recommends the temporary installation, for the day of the opening event only, of the *Sleeper Cells* series of recycled-wood sculptures, *Owl*, *Porcupine*, and *Paranoia* (all 2011), by Suzanne Husky, contingent on the artist’s availability and a reasonable cost for the installation and de-installation of these works.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Art staff recommends that the PAAC accept the proposed selection of sculptures, to be displayed for a period of eight to 12 months, as the inaugural exhibition in the Uptown Art Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager