



Office of City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 13, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Eleanor Hollander, Economic Development Manager
Subject: Contract: Masako Miki Public Artwork Commission for Aquatic Park Pathway Wall

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any necessary amendments with artist Masako Miki for an amount not to exceed \$69,000 for a public art commission of a ceramic tile mural on the 42'-long curved wall located along the San Francisco Bay Trail west of the intersection of Addison Street and Bolivar Drive in Aquatic Park.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The \$69,000 contract will be funded through the Cultural Trust Fund (Fund Code 148-21-208-252-0000-000-446-612990) in Fiscal Year 2024.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Artist Masako Miki was selected through a competitive process to create a permanent artwork for the curved cement wall situated along the San Francisco Bay Trail on the north side of the Aquatic Park lagoon. The goal of the project is to enhance a visitor's experience of the park by beautifying its context, reflecting the multi-layered history of the site, and highlighting the ecological importance of the park.

Masako Miki's proposal *Contemplating the Universe* was inspired by Berkeley's tidal lagoon habitat, the history of the land and the local Ohlone people, as well as Japanese animistic folklore. The proposal's imagery features a parade of shapeshifting characters, including shorebirds, fish, acorns, a coyote, eagle, fox, and hummingbird, and meaningful objects including lanterns and bowls. *Contemplating the Universe* reflects the history and ecological importance of the land while celebrating the local diversities of cultures to offer a new context for meaningful connections in our community (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Artwork proposal by Masako Miki, *Contemplating the Universe*, tile mural for Aquatic Park (2023).

BACKGROUND

On July 27, 2022, the Civic Arts Commission approved the *Aquatic Park Public Art Project Plan*, which called for the commissioning of a tile mural artwork for the 42'-long curved wall located along the San Francisco Bay Trail in Aquatic Park, as follows: M/S/C (Passmore/Anno) to approve the Aquatic Park Public Art Project Plan.

Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Covarrubias, Dhesi, Ozol, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Bullwinkel.

A Request for Qualifications for this artwork commission was released on October 11, 2022 and was open through November 15, 2022. A selection panel, comprised of two arts professionals, a community representative, and one representative each from the Civic Arts Commission and the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission, reviewed the qualifications of the 53 applicants and recommended three finalists to develop detailed conceptual site-specific proposals. Once the proposals were received, staff conducted extensive community outreach to elicit the public's responses to the three detailed proposals. A "Berkeley Considers" survey that invited respondents to provide feedback on each of the proposals was hosted on the City's website from July 21 to August 4, 2023 and was widely distributed through a citywide community message (July 2023). In addition to the "Berkeley Considers" survey, staff also provided organizations that have a unique connection to Aquatic Park the opportunity to provide additional written input.

In August and September of 2023, the selection panel was reconvened to consider the finalists' proposals in an interview format and Masako Miki's proposal was selected and submitted to Civic Art Commission for final approval. At the September 27, 2023 Civic Arts Commission meeting, the commission unanimously approved the panel's recommendations with the following vote: M/S/C (Ibarra/Covarrubias) *Motion: to approve the Aquatic Park Public Art Selection Panel's Recommendation to implement the Aquatic Park Public Art Proposal by Masako Miki for the wall project.* Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Covarrubias, Dhesi, Ibarra, Ozol, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Bullwinkel.

The contract with the artist will be for design development and fabrication of the mural's ceramic tiles. The final design must be approved by the Civic Arts Commission before fabrication commences. Installation of the artwork will be handled through a separate contract with a California-licensed contractor.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal by Masako Miki was selected based upon the following criteria: aesthetic quality; appropriateness of the proposed artwork for the site and project goals; demonstrated feasibility of the preliminary proposal and the proposal budget; and demonstrated maintainability and durability of the artworks design, materials, fabrication and proposed installation methods.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The selection panel considered two other artistic proposals for the wall, but ultimately selected Masako Miki's proposal *Contemplating the Universe* for advancement.

CONTACT PERSON

Mark Salinas, Civic Arts, Office of Economic Development, (510) 981-7538

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT WITH MASAKO MIKI TO CREATE A PUBLIC ARTWORK ON THE
AQUATIC PARK PATHWAY WALL

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's Arts and Culture Plan calls for the enhancement of Berkeley's environment by placing temporary and permanent public art in public spaces throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Arts Commission approved the Aquatic Park Public Art Project Plan on July 27, 2022, which called for the commissioning of a tile mural artwork for the 42'-long curved wall located along the San Francisco Bay Trail in Aquatic Park; and

WHEREAS, funding for the tile mural at Aquatic Park was set aside in the Cultural Trust Fund (Fund 148) for Fiscal Year 2024; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Qualifications from professional practicing artists was released on October 11, 2022 and 53 applicants were reviewed by a selection panel comprised of two arts professionals, a community representative and one representative each from the Civic Arts Commission and the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission; and

WHEREAS, three finalists were selected by the panel and invited to develop site-specific public art project proposals; and

WHEREAS, the selection panel reconvened to evaluate the three proposals and selected the proposal by Masako Miki for recommendation to the Civic Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Arts Commission approved Masako Miki for a public art commission of a ceramic tile mural for the Aquatic Park pathway wall at its regularly scheduled commission meeting on September 27, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments thereto with Masako Miki for a public art commission of a ceramic tile mural on the Aquatic Park pathway wall for an amount not to exceed \$69,000. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments are to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.