



# Agenda Report

March 26, 2018

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Municipal Services Committee (March 13, 2018)  
**FROM:** Planning & Community Development Department  
**SUBJECT: GLENARM CAPITAL PUBLIC ART CONTRACT AWARD**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the action proposed herein is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1 Existing Facilities) and that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class and, therefore, there are no unusual circumstances.
2. Appropriate \$850,000 from the Capital Public Art Fund reserved fund balance (Fund 310) to account 31021002-811400 Capital Public Art Contractual Services and authorize staff to make necessary adjustments to the budget.
3. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract, as the result of a competitive selection process, as specified by the Public Art Program Guidelines for City Construction Projects, with AYC Ltd. (Alice Aycock) for a public art project at the Glenarm Power Plant in an amount not to exceed \$740,000. Competitive price bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F)(contracts for professional or unique services).

## **ADVISORY COMMISSION/BOARD/CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

On March 13, 2018, the proposed project was presented as an information item to the Municipal Services Committee (MSC).

On January 10, 2018, the Arts & Culture Commission recommended that the City Council approve the recommended artist Alice Aycock and the proposed public art concept for the artist finalist award for the Glenarm Power Plant Public Art Project.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Glenarm Capital Public Art Project has been developed in accordance with the CIP Public Art Program Guidelines, which emphasize public inclusion and participation. A Stakeholder Group, which represented several community constituencies, including arts, education, business and local residents, created the project Vision Statement. The Vision Statement outlined the objective for the public art project to be an iconic and innovative gateway for the City. The project was envisioned to be experiential, dynamic and inspirational to make a strong visual statement about the City's role as a leader in art, science and technology.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) provided the vision for the project and the technical requirements netted 89 respondents. A Selection Panel, composed of members of the Stakeholder Group as well as local public art professionals and a representative from the Water and Power Department, narrowed the qualified pool to 18 applicants. Each were reviewed and scored per the RFQ criteria to produce a list of four finalists. Each finalist artist/team were commissioned to develop conceptual design proposals. Two artists/teams were subsequently selected, based on Panel scores, to further refine their concepts. The Selection Panel's final recommendation was artist Alice Aycock's proposal.

The Arts & Culture Commission's role, as outlined the Capital Public Art Guidelines, is to ensure that the artist procurement process has been properly implemented and to make a recommendation, in the form of an Agenda Report, to the City Council. At the January 10, 2018 meeting, the Arts Commission recommended that the City Council approve the recommended proposed public art concept and artist for a contract award.

The source of funding for the development of the Glenarm public art project is derived from two Water and Power capital projects. The total project budget was established at \$868,935, which includes an allotment for future conservation funds. Per the Capital Public Art Program Guidelines, the Public Works department would be responsible for light maintenance.

The recommended contract award amount of \$740,000 will include the development of a Final Art Plan for the Arts Commission's approval, schematic and working documents, a community meeting for input and feedback, oversight of fabrication and installation. This budget includes a 10% contingency amount.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Glenarm Power Plant Public Art Project was designated as a high priority Capital Public Art Program project in the Public Art Master Plan. The Capital Public Art Guidelines requires eligible capital projects to designate one percent of construction costs to the Capital Public Art Fund. Two Department of Water and Power capital projects at the power plant site generated the funds for this public art project.

The Capital Public Art Program Guidelines outline the following artist selection process:

- A Stakeholder Group creates a Vision Statement for the project, which provides the framework for project development
- A Request for Qualifications is issued to seek qualified artists or artist/design teams to develop appropriate public art proposals
- A Selection Panel reviews respondents to the Request for Qualifications based on the published criteria and recommends to the Arts & Culture Commission project finalists
- Project finalists develop Conceptual Design proposals
- A Selection Panel reviews the Conceptual Design proposals and recommends a project Finalist to the Arts & Culture Commission,
- The Arts & Culture Commission considers the Selection Panel recommendation and makes a recommendation to City Council for a final project award to one artist or artist/design team.

Upon approval by City Council the selected artist will be contracted to develop a Final Art Plan to include further conceptual design, schematic and final design, working documents, oversight of fabrication and installation. The selected artist will be required to participate in up to three public meetings (including at least one community meeting), and to collaborate with City staff from the Cultural Affairs Division and Departments of Water & Power, Public Works and Transportation to ensure that the proposed public artwork meets safety standards and can be easily maintained.

### **Site**

The City's Power Plant is located on the parcel bounded by Glenarm Street to the north, the 110 freeway to the east, Fair Oaks Avenue to the west, and State Street to the south. The site includes the decommissioned portion of the Plant along a narrow portion of Broadway (known historically as the "Broadway" Power Plant) which is the easternmost section of the site facing the Arroyo Seco Parkway, and the active Glenarm Power Plant that is adjacent to Glenarm Street. For the purposes of this project, the term "Glenarm" has been commonly used.

The first generator was installed at the site in 1906; today, the Power Plant generates electricity for Pasadena's 143,000 residents as well as for the commercial sector. The 19-acre site produces electricity for Pasadena and includes several decommissioned structures, including cooling towers and turbines. The Power Plant is a dramatic series of industrial installations at the southern portion of the city. Considered a gateway to Pasadena, the Power Plant includes a steam plant, gas generating units and an historic art deco building with tile fountain.

The Plant is a visual landmark and a gateway for vehicular traffic both north/south along the 110 freeway and Fair Oaks Avenue, as well as east/west along Glenarm Street, which is a major east-west arterial. The site is bisected by Metro's Gold Line light

rail. Blair High School lies to the east of the 110 freeway. The plant is located south of Art Center College of Design's south campus, which houses departments in fine art, illustration, graduate art media programs and shared exhibition spaces. Art Center is expanding its south campus to include new residence halls which will alter the Raymond Avenue corridor.

### **Stakeholder Group**

The Capital Public Art Program Guidelines provide for the assembly of a group of project stakeholders to create a vision for the public art project. Typically, this group draws representatives from the business, resident/neighborhood association sectors of the district in which the public art project is to be located. However, because the Power Plant public artwork is intended as a gateway project, each Councilmember was asked to provide a representative for the Stakeholder Group. In addition, representatives from Art Center College and Blair High School were asked to serve based on the proximity of both institutions to the Power Plant site.

These representatives were invited to attend two meetings to review the physical and conceptual constraints of the project site, and to discuss and determine the most practical and important aspects that should be considered by artists/design teams for the development of a public art project. Two Arts & Culture Commissioners had been appointed by the Commission to oversee the project development. The Cultural Affairs Manager and the Public Art Master Plan consultant oversaw the discussion, which centered on the following project goals:

- Highly visible project that may relate to the mission and function of the Department of Water and Power
- Enhancement of the urban environment
- Potential for iconic gateway
- Consideration of proximity to Art Center's South Campus
- Vehicular experience
- Site security

Other Goals included alignment with the City's General Plan and recently updated Land Use and Mobility Elements:

- Pedestrian orientation and experiences
- Placemaking
- Mobility and connectivity to neighborhoods
- Expanded tourism
- Emphasis on Pasadena's vibrancy and attractiveness for residents and businesses

Elements identified as other important considerations included alignment with the City's Public Art Master Plan:

- Celebration of Pasadena's unique gateways to Downtown and neighborhoods by enhancing them with the work of artists
- The use of public art to reinforce Pasadena's identity, weaving together culture, people, neighborhoods and ideas to create a memorable urban landscape that respects the past and builds for the future
- The embrace of public art as a citywide urban beautification effort, using the access and strength of the City's Cultural Affairs Division to build its collection of art in public places, and to facilitate public art and public art partnerships with City Departments, private developers, and arts and cultural organizations.

### **Vision Statement**

The objective for the public art project was articulated in the Vision Statement: "Public art at the Glenarm Power Plant is envisioned to be an iconic and innovative gateway for Pasadena. The project should be experiential, dynamic and inspiring, making a strong visual statement about the City's role as a leader in art, science and technology. It will be seen day and night and may explore themes of energy, water and sustainability."

### **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**

In accordance with the City's CIP Public Art Program Guidelines, a two-step process was identified by the Cultural Affairs Manager to solicit and select an artist/design team for the project. A Request for Qualifications was developed to include guidance for applicants as to the articulated goals and constraints for consideration. The RFQ sought qualified U.S.-based artists and artist/design teams to design, fabricate, and install a permanent public art project using light, color, data and/or motion at the Glenarm Power Plant.

The RFQ was widely distributed and circulated by the Cultural Affairs Division through the City Manager's Newsletter, email lists and cultural partners, as well as by the Public Art Master Plan consultant, the Public Art Network of Southern California, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional notices were distributed to the MTA and other local arts agencies. The RFQ was posed on the Cultural Affairs website, Planet Bids and on the online CallforEntry.Org (CaFE) website. A Community Meeting was held at Art Center's South Campus on February 23, 2017 to review the RFQ. Answers to questions that had been posed via email by February 21, 2017 were posted on February 24, 2017 on Planet Bids, CaFE and the Cultural Affairs website.

### **Selection Panel**

Per the Capital Public Art Program Guidelines, a Selection Panel of local community members and stakeholders, arts professionals and City staff was assembled to review submittals in response to the Request for Qualifications.

The online CaFE website was utilized as the portal for applicant responses and facilitated the review and scoring by the Selection Panel of all 89 applications received by the March 6, 2017 deadline. A preliminary online review by the Selection Panel narrowed the list to 18 submissions which were reviewed at the Panel meeting on April 17. A careful review of submitted materials and a thoughtful discussion of the attributes of each—as articulated in their applications and related to the outlined goals for the project—produced a short list of four Artist/Team Project Finalists.

#### Evaluation Procedures and Criteria for Project Finalists

Per the Request for Qualifications, the selection of the Project Finalists by the Selection Panel was based on:

- Artistic achievement and quality of work as demonstrated in the artist resume, public recognition and images of previous projects (25%);
- Appropriateness of the artist/artist team's skills to develop a Glenarm Power Plant public art project (25%);
- Artist/artist team approach to public engagement during project development (15%);
- Artist's capacity to successfully conduct the project or provide the service promptly, or within the timeline specified, without delay or interference (according to the Standard Terms and Conditions of the City's contract) and ability to perform the project within the established budget (25%).

The City's standard procurement procedures provide for an additional 5% each to be awarded to those applicants that meet the City's criteria for Local Pasadena Business and Small/Micro –Businesses (10%).

#### **Artist/Team Finalists**

The Selection Panel's review process culminated in the recommendation of the following four Artist Finalists:

- Alice Aycock
- Laura Haddad/Tom Drugan
- Ned Kahn
- Peter Tolkin/Yunhee Min

All four Artist/Team Finalists were notified that, upon approval by the Arts & Culture Commission, a \$5,000 contract would be awarded to each for the following scope of work:

- Attend a site visit and walk through with the Department of Water and Power staff for a better understanding of the site and opportunities for public art placement
- Attend an orientation with an expanded Stakeholder Group to include relevant City Department Staff
- Present their previous related public artworks at a public Community Meeting
- Develop a Conceptual Design Proposal
- Travel honorarium (as appropriate)

Pursuant to their contracts, the four Artist/Team Finalists participated in a site visit and walk through with the Power Production Superintendent and staff to discuss the parameters of the project and site logistics. They posed questions and were able to inspect equipment to better understand Plant operations. They participated in an orientation meeting with project Stakeholder Group members to elicit further input from a community perspective regarding the site, adjacent neighborhoods, possible concerns and suggested resources.

A Community Meeting was held on the evening of June 6, 2017, at the Library's Wright Auditorium. Three of the four Finalist Artist/Teams presented their previous public artwork to the public. The fourth artist made her presentation remotely.

### **Conceptual Design Proposals**

The Selection Panel convened on July 17, 2017 to review the Conceptual Design proposals to select a Final Project Artist/Team for recommendation to the Arts & Culture Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council for approval.

### **Evaluation Procedures and Criteria for Final Project Artist/Team**

Per the project RFQ, the selection of the Final Project Artist/Team by the Selection Panel was based on:

- Quality of Design Proposal in response to site analysis and initial community engagement (25%);
- Proposed approach to collaboration with the City of Pasadena and its stakeholders (25%);
- Creativity of community engagement approach (15%);
- Artist/Team's approach to project implementation, materials and methods (25%).

The City's standard procurement procedures provide for an additional 5% each to be awarded to those applicants that meet the City's criteria for Local Pasadena Business and Small/Micro –Businesses (10%).

All four Finalists made presentations of their Conceptual Design proposals to the Selection Panel, of which two proposals were selected for further consideration. Both proposals, while completely different in material choices and form, explored the concept of energy transformation. Each had major strengths but also some potential weaknesses. Because the Panel was unable to make a unanimous decision at that time, they recommended that artist Alice Aycock and the team of Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan be commissioned to further refine their Conceptual Design proposals in order to address the Panel's questions and concerns. As a result of the Panel's recommendation, an additional \$10,000 was allocated for this final stage of the artist selection process.

On October 30, 2017, the final two Artists/Teams under consideration presented their revised Conceptual Design proposals to the reconvened Selection Panel. Based on the

Panel scores of her proposal, Alice Aycock was selected as the recommended Final Project Artist for the Glenarm Power Plant Public Art Project.

### **Recommended Final Project Artist**

Alice Aycock: A New York resident since 1969, Alice Aycock holds a B.A. from Douglass College and an M.A from Hunter College. She has exhibited widely in major museums and galleries nationally as well as in Europe and Japan. Her artworks can be found in numerous collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Museum and LACMA. She was awarded the International Association of Art Critics Award for her 2013 retrospective exhibition of drawings and small sculptures.

Aycock's public sculptures can be found in many major cities in the U.S. Her public commissions are large-scale, diverse and include works for municipal buildings, airports as well as for corporate clients. Many of these pieces exemplify her exploration of space, energy, industrialization and her interest in amusement park architecture; particularly the relationship among roller coasters, super-duper loopers and highway forms. A member of New York's National Academy, Aycock has taught at numerous colleges and universities, including Yale University, the School of Visual Arts in New York and the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore.

### **Public Art Concept**

Ms. Aycock's proposed public art concept centers on the forces of energy. Her conceptual proposal consists of a sculptural installation to be located on the front façade of the northernmost cooling tower (on the Broadway portion of the Power Plant), along the western edge of the 110 Freeway/Arroyo Seco Parkway. This is a part of the decommissioned area of the Power Plant site. The compositional structure of the installation is based in part on diagrammatic images of cloud chamber photographs of particle collisions as well as the wind/wave patterns in space. Although the impact of these phenomena can be seen on the physical landscape as a result of their motion, her sculpture provides a three-dimensional representation of these forces of nature that may not be physically visible otherwise.

While the proposal is not a literal narrative, it is intended to provide a series of linked events suggestive of Aerodynamic "dance" movements within space. It contains shapes and forms that refer to turbines (wind energy), and galactic elements. Three structures of aluminum silver "ribbons" swirl around themselves like whirly-gigs to suggest turbine forms unravelling in space. Torqued screens of aluminum mesh attach to aluminum pipes containing fiber optics. Curved lines of LED lighting are interspersed throughout the suspended artwork. This assemblage of forms combines the disciplines of art and science—a combination of thought and ideas that is particularly relevant to the City of Pasadena which is home to Caltech, Art Center College of Design and the nearby Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



The artwork site is adjacent to Art Center's south campus, which contains the former wind tunnel that was adapted to a new use as a Gallery in 2004. That original wind tunnel complex was built by Caltech after World War II, when the science of jet propulsion was an important factor to Pasadena's growth. The laboratory was operated by Caltech and co-owned by all four of Southern California's aeronautic giants and was a site where small planes could be tested and researched. Air was driven around a rectangular loop by electronic motor fans.

Appropriately aligned with its context, Aycock's sculpture is designed to integrate ideas of energy, motion, space and technology on a large scale. The overall dimensions of the sculpture are approximately 44' high x 76' wide; appendages add an additional 20 feet to the height. The materials will consist of powder coated aluminum, structural steel, aluminum tube forms, metal mesh with fiber optics and flexible LED light tubing on an aluminum pipe armature. With a daytime and nighttime presence, the sculpture is intended to garner attention without posing a traffic risk. The sculpture will be visible for vehicular traffic, both north and south bound on Arroyo Parkway, as well as for pedestrians along Glenarm Street and Arroyo Parkway. Visibility will also extend, in part, to nearby Blair High School.

### **Approval Process, Implementation and Timeline**

Per the Capital Public Art Program Guidelines, the Arts & Culture Commission's role is to determine if the process for the artist selection was properly implemented. The Arts & Culture Commission will ratify and confirm the Panel's recommendation by taking a formal vote. Based on the City's procurement procedures, the Arts Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council in the form of an Agenda Report for review and approval.

With City Council approval, artist Alice Aycock will be contracted to develop final designs, schematics, working drawings and will oversee the fabrication and installation of the artwork. She will work with all relevant City staff to ensure that the project meets safety standards and will provide a maintenance plan that recognizes a minimum life-span for the project with reasonable costs for maintenance.

Per the Request for Qualifications and the Capital Public Art Program Guidelines, Ms. Aycock's Final Design will be presented to the Arts Commission for approval and the artist will be required to present the final proposed project to the public in a community meeting to further engage the community and to elicit feedback.

### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed Concept Art Plan for the Glenarm Capital Public Art project is in alignment with the following:

- General Plan Land Use and Mobility Element
- Cultural Nexus Cultural Master Plan Principles

- Communicate Pasadena's unique cultural identity to the region and the world
- Public Art Master Plan Policies
  - Use public art to reinforce Pasadena's identity, weaving together culture, people, neighborhoods and ideas to create a memorable urban landscape that respects the past and builds for the future
  - Celebrate Pasadena's unique gateways to Downtown and neighborhoods—such as...its freeway entrances, overpasses and offramps—by enhancing them with the work of artists
- City Council Strategic Planning Goals
  - Improve, maintain, and enhance public facilities and infrastructure
  - Support and promote the quality of life and the local economy

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

This project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(9); Administrative Code, Title 14, Chapter 1, §15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities). Class 1 exempts from environmental review the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of the existing use. The action proposed herein consists of a contract authorization and appropriation of funding for installing public art at the Glenarm Power Plan, which would be a minor alteration of the existing facility involving a negligible expansion of use, if any.

There are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class and, therefore, there are no unusual circumstances.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost of this contract award is \$740,000 for schematic and final design, working documents, oversight of fabrication and installation and a 10% contingency. Other project costs are estimated at \$110,000. Funding for this action will be addressed by an appropriation of \$850,000 from the unappropriated fund balance of the Capital Public Art Fund to expenditure account 31021002-811400. This designated funding in the Capital Public Art Fund has been transferred from Pasadena Water and Power, and is based on construction costs for the various phases/projects at the Glenarm Power Plant and the required percent for public art.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachments: (3)

- Attachment A – Concept Art Plan for Glenarm Capital Public Art Project
- Attachment B – Glenarm Capital Public Art Project Evaluation Scoring Matrix
- Attachment C – Taxpayer Protection Amendment