



Commission for Arts and Culture

STAFF REPORT

DATE ISSUED: November 27, 2017

ATTENTION: Public Art Committee

SUBJECT: Temporary Exhibit of Artwork Proposal from City Heights Business Association: *City Heights Wire Art* by Spenser Little

REFERENCES: 1) Exhibition List from City Heights Business Association for Temporary Exhibit of Artwork by Spenser Little
2) [San Diego Municipal Code Section 26.0722 – Control of Artworks](#)
3) [Administrative Regulation 95.00 – Management of the Civic Art Collection](#)
4) [Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction 1.00 – Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Christine E. Jones, Chief of Civic Art Strategies

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) that the Executive Director of the Commission approve the temporary exhibit of artwork titled *City Heights Wire Art* consisting of seven wire sculptures by Spenser Little for exhibition on seven street light poles on Fairmount Avenue between University and Orange Avenues for a two year period.

SUMMARY:

In October 2017, Commission staff received an application for a temporary exhibit of artwork from the City Heights Business Association (Applicant). Commission staff evaluated the application utilizing the artwork criteria contained in the *City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction – Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection*. The results of the Commission staff's analysis include:

RE: ARTWORK CRITERIA

Public Safety: The copper wire sculptures were installed on City street light poles without prior permission in 2016. Several City departments worked with the City Heights Business Association to find a reasonable solution to authorize the previous exhibit for a year, ending this fall. If this new

temporary exhibit of the sculptures is approved, five of these works will be installed in new locations. If the sculptures are installed properly at the proposed locations (i.e. methods and materials safe for the public), it is unlikely to pose hazards or threats to public safety or public health and/or is unlikely to pose a potential liability for the City in any other way. The Applicant would be required to submit the project to the Development Services Department for review and permitting.

Cost: The Applicant would be solely responsible for funding the temporary exhibit of artwork. This includes, but is not limited to: costs for site preparation, handling, transportation, installation, signage, maintenance, restoration, repair, and conservation, deinstallation, and site restoration.

Availability of Resources: Commission staff is available to provide administrative services to the Applicant in order to process the application and execute a temporary exhibit of artwork maintenance and removal agreement.

Relevance: The temporary exhibit of artwork would activate Fairmount Avenue, as well as the surrounding community. Due to the placement of the sculptures on a busy city street, the artworks may serve to balance urbanization and development with humanizing elements.

Excellence: The sculptures relate to the community and adds visual interest to an active neighborhood street.

Significance: The application does not indicate that the artworks are of special significance in the artist's body of work.

Condition: The sculptures are in good condition.

Maintenance: The Applicant will be responsible for maintenance, conservation, restoration, and repair of the sculptures for the duration of the exhibition.

Security: The Applicant indicated that the artworks will be installed in a highly visible and heavily trafficked area. No additional security measures have been recommended by the Applicant.

Relationship to Site: The artworks are to be sited on seven separate street light poles on Fairmount Avenue between University and Orange Avenues. The exhibit will serve to activate this busy thoroughfare and the surrounding community. The Applicant indicated that the sculptures depict representational interpretations of characters common to the environment on that street.

Legal and Ethical Considerations: If the temporary exhibit of artwork is authorized, it will be formalized in a temporary artwork maintenance and removal encroachment agreement between the Applicant and the City. The

The artist has provided the City with a royalty-free license to reproduce images of the artwork for noncommercial purposes. The artist has agreed to the terms of the City's standard Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA) and California Art Preservation Act (CAPA) waivers.

Timing: The Applicant is proposing a two-year exhibition period. If the temporary exhibit of artwork is authorized, the proposed dates for the exhibition may need to be adjusted and will be specified in the agreement between the Applicant and the City.

Selection Process for the Artist: The sculptures were chosen for the exhibition by the City Heights Business Association through a direct selection.

Community Feedback: The Applicant indicated that the community has responded enthusiastically to the exhibition since its initial installation in 2016, and the artworks have received publicity in numerous local news publications including the San Diego Union-Tribune, Voice of San Diego, and KPBS.

Restrictions: No restrictions were noted in the application.

Commemorative Significance: Not applicable.

Fair Exchange: Not applicable.

Fair Purchase Price: Not applicable.

RE: SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

Ownership: The City owns the street light poles which are recommended for siting the sculptures.

Public Safety: If the sculptures are installed properly at the proposed locations (i.e. methods and materials safe for the public), they are unlikely to pose hazards or threats to public safety or public health and/or is unlikely to pose a potential liability for the City in any other way. The Applicant would be required to submit the project to the Development Services Department for review and permitting.

Security: The City is patrolled by the San Diego Police Department. However, theft and vandalism still occurs from time to time.

Maintenance: Street lights are managed by the City of San Diego Transportation and Storm Water Department. However, the department only maintains standard public right-of-way elements.

Accessibility: The City complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Council Policy 100-04 Americans with Disabilities Act/City

Contractors. City staff will review the placement of the sculptures for ADA compliance.

Context: The artworks are to be sited on seven separate street light poles on Fairmount Avenue between University and Orange Avenues. The exhibition will serve to further activate this busy thoroughfare and the surrounding community.

Support of City Departments: Commission staff will route the temporary exhibit of artwork proposal with the analysis and recommendation from the Commission for Arts and Culture to relevant City departments for feedback and recommendations about the proposal.

Community Support: Commission staff will determine with other relevant City departments, a process for gathering input and feedback from community, if necessary, on the recommended siting of the proposed temporary exhibit of artwork on the street light poles.

Adherence to Relevant Plans: The City adheres to existing community plans and land use plans, such as the City's General Plan.

Evaluation criteria the Public Art Committee (PAC) will use to decide whether to recommend to the Commission authorization of the proposed temporary exhibit of artwork may include all or some of those given in the *City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction - Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection*.

The Executive Director of the Commission will consider the recommendation from Commission staff, other relevant City staff, the Public Art Committee, the Commission, and any other pertinent stakeholders before making the final decision on whether to authorize the proposed temporary exhibit of artwork.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Should this temporary exhibit of artwork be authorized, the Applicant will be responsible for all costs.



Spenser Little
Wire Artwork #1
2015/16
Copper wire
Installation location: 4228 Fairmount Avenue



Spenser Little
Wire Artwork #2
2015/16
Copper wire
Installation location: 4147 Fairmount Avenue between Polk and Orange Avenues



Spenser Little
Wire Artwork #3
2015/16
Copper wire
Installation location: 4128 Fairmount Avenue



Spenser Little
Wire Artwork #4
2015/16
Copper wire
Installation location: 3879 Fairmount Avenue



Spenser Little
Wire Artwork #5
2015/16
Copper wire
Installation location: 4035 Fairmount Avenue



Spenser Little
Wire Artwork #6
2015/16
Copper wire
Installation location: 4060 Fairmount Avenue



Spenser Little
Wire Artwork #7
2015/16
Copper wire
Installation location: 4265 Fairmount Avenue