



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 20, 2020

TO: Christine Daniel, City Manager

FROM: Charles S. Bryant, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: **Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville Approving The Purchase Of Art Work For The City's Annual Purchase Award Program Entitled *Stucked* By Emeryville Artist Prabin Badhia With Funding Of Up To \$3,700 From The Public Art Fund (Fund 243) For The Purchase And Installation Of The Art Work And Acknowledging *Aerial Landscapes* By Judy Hart And *Terrace Martin* By Ronald Davis As First And Second Alternates, Respectively**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the above-entitled resolution to purchase an art work for the City's Annual Purchase Award Program. The art work is entitled *Stucked* by Emeryville artist Prabin Badhia. The estimated cost to purchase and install the art work is \$3,700 including a purchase price of \$700 and up to \$3,000 for installation, which is available in the budget of the Public Art Fund (Fund 243) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, previously approved by the City Council.

BACKGROUND

The 34th Annual Emeryville Celebration of the Arts Exhibition (Exhibition) opened on October 2, 2020 and will run through November 1, 2020. For the past fourteen years, the City's Purchase Award Program has supported the Exhibition through the purchase of art work for display in City facilities. The intent of the City's Purchase Award Program is to build the City's permanent art collection through acquisition of art works on an annual basis from the Emeryville Celebration of the Arts Exhibition. The program is also intended to highlight the City's commitment to the arts and its local artistic community and improve visitors' experiences in public facilities. Potential sites for this year's Purchase Award art work include City Hall, Emeryville Center of Community Life, and the Senior Center. As participants in the Exhibition are either residents or employees working in Emeryville, the Purchase Award reflects the talents and abilities of those within Emeryville.

Selection Panel

On September 17, 2020 the City Manager appointed a five-person Selection Panel, with an alternate for each panelist, based on the September 10, 2020 recommendation of the Public Art Committee (PAC). The members of the Selection Panel were: 1) Joey Enos as the PAC member; 2) Jennifer Walker as a community member; 3) Kerry Adams Hapner as outside arts professional; 4) Gwen Souza as Emeryville Celebration of the Arts (ECA) Board Representative; and 5) Miroo Desai as City staff representative. The Selection

Panel alternates were: 1) Jean Goldman, PAC member; 2) Mari Andrews, community member; 3) Katya Traywik outside arts professional; 4) Kava Massih, ECA, and 5) Maggie Mahaffy, City staff representative. The Selection Panel convened on September 28, 2020 to review the art works being shown at the Exhibition that are available for sale and for consideration for the Purchase Award, and to make a recommendation of art work to be purchased by the City.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel began the process with an online review of all artists with eligible works for sale and then met online to review the City's existing collection of art work and potential sites for art, including photos of locations at available sites. Potential sites at each facility include:

- City Hall
 - One of two lobby area floor spaces, appropriate for a stand-alone sculpture or an art work in a covered vitrine (Site 1: nearest entry door; Site 2: nearest entry to link to Old Town Hall). A recent donation from Joseph DiStefano's heirs will use one of these sites.
 - Lobby ceiling area, potential site for banners or a kinetic or mobile art work.
 - Entries from east to Old Town Hall on first and second floor (small wall on western end of link); however, utilizing either of these spaces would require that a donated piece be relocated.
 - Wall adjacent to the stairwell from first to second floor in City administration building under a south-facing window.
 - Landing in stair well from second to third floor
 - The wall above the drinking fountain in the first floor lobby
- Senior Center
 - First floor ballroom wall niche
 - Wall area to the north of the entry lobby (a small niche)
 - East and south walls of the second-floor multi-purpose room, including a large wall (south side) made available by operational changes in the Senior Center
- Emeryville Center of Community Life
 - Senior Lounge walls

The Selection Panel members were provided with a score sheet listing each art work that was available for consideration. To avoid conflicts of interest, works being shown by current members of the PAC, City Council, and City staff or consultants were not considered for the 2020 Purchase Award. Other art not considered for purchase included

works that were not available for sale and works created by artists whose work has been purchased through the Purchase Award Program in the last five years.

In the first round of selection, the panelists individually viewed all of the 147 art works by 85 artists that are available for purchase, and selected their top five choices. Five semi-finalists were nominated by more than one panelist. These five were reviewed and scored by the Selection Panel, which resulted in three top-ranked finalists. The panel then voted to recommend Prabin Badhia's *Stucked* for the Purchase Award, and to recommend Judy Hunt's, *Aerial Landscapes* for First Alternate and Ronald Davis's *Terrace Martin* for Second Alternate.

Both the Purchase Award recommendation and First Alternate were recommended for installation in City Hall near the lobby level landing of the stairwell to the Garden Level (see Attachment 3). The Second Alternate piece is appropriate for the wall niche in the Senior Center first floor ballroom.

DISCUSSION

At its meeting held on October 1, 2020, the PAC discussed the Selection Panel's recommendations and unanimously voted to accept its recommendations and to forward them to the City Council for approval.

Art Work Description

The recommended Purchase Award by Prabin Badhia, entitled *Stucked*, is an oil on canvas painting. The painting measures 20" x 16" and was completed in 2020. The purchase price of the art work is \$700. The image of the work is in Attachment 1 and the biography of the artist is in Attachment 2.

The First Alternate art work is by artist Judy Hart and is entitled *Aerial Landscapes*. The work, done in mixed media on wood, is a painting. The work measures 20" x 20" x 2". The purchase price of the art work is \$2,500.

The Second Alternate art work is by artist Ronald Davis and is entitled *Terrace Martin*. The work is a photograph and measures 36" x 24". The purchase price of the art work is \$2,000.

Next Steps

Following the purchase of the work by the City and the conclusion of the Exhibition, staff will work with Donna Napper of Chandra Cerrito Art Consultants and the artist to install the art work. Plaques will be installed near the art work naming the artist, art work title, and medium, and indicating its inclusion in Emeryville's permanent art collection. A reception for purchase awardees is usually held in December; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the reception will be postponed to a later date, yet to be determined.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds from the Public Art Fund (Fund 243) have been utilized for the project's administrative expenses and are proposed for the remainder of the purchase's costs. The cost of purchase of *Stucked* is \$700. Installation costs are anticipated to be no more than \$3,000 for a total of up to \$3,700.

If the City Council approves the recommendation to purchase this art work, the total project cost for administration, purchase and installation will be these costs plus approximately \$6,000 for consulting support, credit plaque, and stipend costs, for a total of approximately \$10,000. The City's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 includes \$15,000 for this year's Purchase Award from the Public Art Fund (Fund 243) which is adequate to cover these costs.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

As noted above, on October 1, 2020 the PAC reviewed and unanimously approved the Selection Panel's recommendation to purchase Prabin Badhia's art work, *Stucked* for installation at City Hall and to acknowledge the works by Judy Hart and Ronald Davis as First and Second Alternate, respectively.

CONCLUSION

The Purchase Award of 2020 will continue a fourteen-year tradition of supporting local artists through purchase by the City. This program and the Bus Shelter Temporary Art Program are the City's only art programs specifically supporting Emeryville residents and workers. The support for local artists was confirmed as a top goal in the Public Art Master Plan approved by the City Council in 2016. Staff recommends the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the purchase of *Stucked* by Prabin Badhia for addition to the City's collection and acknowledging the First and Second Alternates by Judy Hart and Ronald Davis, respectively.

PREPARED BY: Amber Evans, Community & Economic Development Coordinator II

REVIEWED BY: Chadrick Smalley, Economic Development and Housing Manager

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Christine Daniel, City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Art Work Images
2. Artists Biographies
3. Site Proposed for the 2020 Purchase Award
4. Draft Resolution