



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 19, 2021

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 Artworks For The City's Annual Purchase Award Program Entitled "Reuben Rodgers" and "Christian Sands" By Emeryville Artist Ronald Davis With Funding Of Up To \$11,500 From The Public Art Fund (Fund 243) For The Purchase And Installation Of The Artworks, And Acknowledging Arie Dallas And Linda Lee Boyd As The First And Second Honorable Mentions**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the above-entitled resolution to purchase artworks for the City's Annual Purchase Award Program. The artworks are entitled "Reuben Rodgers" and "Christian Sands" by Emeryville artist Ronald Davis. The estimated cost to purchase and install the artworks is \$11,500, including a purchase price of \$5,500 and up to \$3,000 for installation as well as \$3,000 in other administrative costs, which is available in the budget of the Public Art Fund (Fund 243) for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, previously approved by the City Council.

BACKGROUND

The 35th Annual Emeryville Celebration of the Arts Exhibition (Exhibition) opened on October 1, 2021 and will run through October 31, 2021. For the past fifteen years, the City's Purchase Award Program has supported the Exhibition through the purchase of artwork 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 artwork 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 13, 2021, the City Manager appointed a five-person Selection Panel, with an alternate for each panelist, based on the September 9, 2021 recommendation of the Public Art Committee (PAC). The members of the Selection Panel are: 1) Edythe Bresnahan as the PAC member; 2) Klaus Lange as a community member; 3) Regina

Almaguer as outside arts professional; 4) Kava Massih as Emeryville Celebration of the Arts (ECA) Board Representative; and 5) Daraja Wagner as City staff representative. The Selection Panel alternates were: 1) Judy Wetterer, PAC member; 2) Tobey Klein, community member; 3) Tessa Wilcox, outside arts professional; 4) Pam Mendelson or Albert Repola, ECA, and 5) Maggie Mahaffy, City staff representative. The Selection Panel convened on September 30, 2021, to review the artworks installed at the Exhibition that are available for sale and for consideration for the Purchase Award, and to make a recommendation of artwork to be purchased by the City.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel began the process with review of the existing collection in City Hall and available spaces in and around the facility. Additionally, the Selection Panel reviewed the City's existing collection of artworks in the Senior Center and Police Station and potential sites for art in these facilities in a photo presentation. Potential sites at each facility included those reviewed by the PAC at its September 9 and 30, 2021, meetings.

Potential sites at each facility include:

- City Hall
 - Wall adjacent to the stairwell from 1st to 2nd floor in City administration building under a south-facing window (below the 2020 purchase)
 - Wall and landing in stair well from 2nd to 3rd Floor
 - Wall above the staff entry on north side of staff area on the 2nd floor (requires relocation of a poster)
 - 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).
 - Entries from east to Old Town Hall on 1st and 2nd floor (small wall on western end of link requires donated pieces to be relocated).
 - The walls above the drinking fountains in the 1st and 2nd floor lobbies
- Senior Center
 - First floor ballroom wall niche (clock cubby)
 - 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 (access for a minimum of 40 hours needs to be confirmed).

Panelists then convened at the Exhibition site to review all works available for purchase. The Selection Panel members provided a score on a sheet listing each artwork 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 2021 Purchase Award. Other art not considered for purchase included works that were not available for sale, works created by artists whose work has been purchased through the Purchase Award Program in the last five years, and artwork whose dimensions would not fit into the potentially available locations.

In the first round of selection, the members of the Selection Panel individually viewed the eligible works among the 200 artworks by 87 artists available for purchase and selected their top five choices. This process resulted in a short list of 13 art works. In the second round, the Selection Panel reviewed and discussed the short-listed art works. Art works were further short-listed if a majority of selection panel members voted to include them in the third round of ranking. After the second round, five art works remained under consideration as semi-finalists. These semi-finalists were each nominated by more than four panelists and were reviewed by the Panel and scored individually. Scoring resulted in three top ranked finalists for the Purchase recommendation, with Ronald Davis's "Reuben Rodgers" and "Christian Sands" the highest scoring, which the panel awarded 97 points. Arie Dallas' "Man Dog Hellebore", with 87 points, is recommended for First Honorable Mention. Linda Lee Boyd's five works "Leaves and Crosswalk"; "Rocks, Utility Covers, Bricks, Poppy"; "Homage to Maria Drive Repaving"; "Safety Cone, Sawdust, New Concrete"; and "Street Scene 1" received 84 points and is recommended for Second Honorable Mention.

The Purchase Award recommendation is for installation at City Hall. Installation may require movement of existing installations such as a donated work, poster or poem. The artist will be consulted to determine preferred conditions for installation among a short list of options.

DISCUSSION

At its meeting held on September 30, 2021, 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 is by Ronald Davis and includes two works: "Reuben Rodgers" and "Christian Sands". These digital prints measure 24" x 36" and 30" by 30",

respectively, and were completed in 2019. The purchase price of the artworks is \$5,500. Images of the artworks are in Attachment 1, and a biography of the artist is in Attachment 2.

The First Honorable Mention artwork is by artist Arie Davis and is entitled “Man Dog Hellebore”. The work is a painting, oil on canvas, 30” by 24”. The purchase price of the artwork is \$3,000.

The Second Honorable Mention works are five pieces by artist Linda Lee Boyd and are entitled “Leaves and Crosswalk”; “Rocks, Utility Covers, Bricks, Poppy”; “Homage to Maria Drive Repaving”; “Safety Cone, Sawdust, New Concrete”; and “Street Scene 1”. The works are acrylic on panel, and each measures 11” x 14” x 0.5”. The individual purchase price of the artworks is \$425, totaling \$2,125 for all five pieces.

Next Steps

Following the purchase of the work by the City and the conclusion of the Exhibition, staff will work with the artist to install the artworks. A plaque will be installed near the artworks naming the artist, artwork title, and medium, and indicating their inclusion in Emeryville’s permanent art collection. A reception is planned to coincide with the City’s 125th Anniversary and the Art In Public Places 30th Anniversary on December 2, 2021.

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 the artwork is \$5,500. Installation costs are anticipated to be no more than \$3,000. Administrative costs include \$1,700 for event and outreach, \$1,000 in plaque and stipend costs, and a contingency of \$300, for a total of up to \$11,500.

The Public Art Fund’s operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 includes sufficient funds to cover these costs.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

As noted above, on September 30, 2021 the PAC reviewed and unanimously approved the Selection Panel’s recommendation to purchase Ronald Davis’ artworks “Reuben Rodgers” and “Christian Sands” for installation at City Hall and to acknowledge the works by Arie Dallas and Linda Lee Boyd as the First and Second Honorable Mentions respectively.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

City staff and PAC and City Council members and their spouses are precluded from consideration in the Purchase Award Program, as are artists whose work was purchased through the Purchase Award Program from 2016 through 2020.

CONCLUSION

The Purchase Award of 2021 will continue a fifteen-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. Support for local artists was confirmed as a top goal in the 2016 Public Art Master Plan. Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution approving the purchase of "Reuben Rodgers" and "Christian Sands" by Emeryville artist Ronald Davis and acknowledging Arie Dallas and Linda Lee Boyd as the First and Second Honorable Mentions.

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

- Artwork Images
- Artists Biographies
- Draft Resolution