

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Powell, City Manager

FROM: James Kunke, Community Relations and Tourism Director

DATE: May 19, 2025

SUBJECT: **Approval of a Contract with FrogTree Studios, LLC. in the Amount of \$50,000 for Creation and Installation of a Permanent Work of Art Along the Centennial Creek Hike and Bike Trail Extension; and Authorization for the City Manager, or Her Designee, to Sign the Agreement.**

BACKGROUND

City Council approved a Public Art Master Plan in early 2018 and an update in 2023. One recommendation in these plans is to identify public art opportunities within city parks and other green spaces, as well as public art opportunities be considered within city facility and other infrastructure improvements, such as bond-financed projects. The Public Art Master Plan also identifies several methods for selecting artists for identified projects, which include open competition (also called “Call for Artists”), limited competition or invitational and direct selection.

The Arts Advisory Board and City Staff saw the opportunity with the new trail project in Centennial Creek Hike and Bike Trail Extension, to integrate public art along the trail. \$50,000 of the trail development project budget was committed to support this public art element.

Staff posted a Texas-based artists Call For Entries online and received 24 artist applications. All applications were evaluated by a group that included members of Arts Advisory, Parks Board, and city staff. That group selected five finalists, conducted online interviews with all five finalists and recommended one finalist to the Arts Advisory Board.

The Arts Advisory Board accepted this recommended artist to move forward with on this project. The project and artist were presented to the City Council at the workshop session about public art on April 7, 2025. A proposed agreement is presented here for City Council approval.

ANALYSIS

Gigi Griffin Miller is the owner of FrogTree Studios, LLC, based in Austin, Texas. Gigi’s primary medium is mosaic sculpture with an emphasis on public art. She is dedicated to grass roots involvement in the creative process, creative placemaking and the important role of the arts in community development. She has commissions on public display throughout Texas and the United States.

Examples of her past work can be seen online at www.gigimiller.com

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As part of the Lewisville project, Gigi is preparing a public engagement project that will include an opportunity for the public to create and customize small titles that will be incorporated into the mosaic elements of the work. That process would take place in Spring and Summer of 2025.

The total project budget of \$60,000 includes costs associated with the artist call and the stipends paid to the finalists to help them develop their proposals, as well as contingency funds to be available for site preparation costs and signage. The value of the proposed agreement with FrogTree Studios, LLC is in the amount of \$50,000 for all costs associated with designing, creating, and installing the artwork. The other \$10,000 is from a previously funded public art project, formerly titled “Metal Cutouts” that was intended for a park location in the FY21 Public Art Work Plan. This project is in place of the Metal Cutouts as set forth in the FY25 Public Art Work Plan.

CITY STAFF’S RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the agreement and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to sign the agreement as set forth in the caption above.