

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Powell, City Manager

FROM: James Kunke, Community Relations and Tourism Director

DATE: April 15, 2024

SUBJECT: **Approval of an Agreement with Skyrim Studios, Inc. in the Amount of \$320,000 for Creation and Installation of a Permanent Work of Art at the Tittle McFadden Public Safety Center, and Authorization for the City Manager, or Her Designee, to Execute the Agreement.**

BACKGROUND

City Council approved a Public Art Master Plan in early 2018. One recommendation in that plan is to identify public art opportunities at civic facilities, with the goal of one day having art at most, if not all, civic facilities in Lewisville.

The Arts Advisory Board and City Staff saw the opportunity with the new Tittle McFadden Public Safety Center to have a signature, large-scale work of art. This commission will be installed prior to opening of the building. The City Council approved \$350,000 for this project, which was listed as the top priority in the Public Art Work Plan for FY 2023-24, with \$200,000 coming from the building project funding, and \$150,000 coming from the public art project fund.

Staff posted an international call for entries online and received 218 artist applications. All applications were evaluated by a group that included Arts Advisory Board members, City staff, and representatives from the architect and construction project teams for the facility. That group selected three semifinalists, conducted online interviews with all three 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. Images from the artist proposal for this work art were shared with City Council at the February 5 meeting workshop. A proposed agreement is presented here for City Council approval.

ANALYSIS

Blessing Hancock is the owner and founder of Skyrim Studios, Inc, of Arizona, which focuses on site specific sculptures. She has completed monumental sculpture projects throughout the world. Blessing's distinctive ability to merge natural and organic forms with technology, culture, math, science, site specificity and community engagement has brought her world acclaim.

Examples of her past work can be seen online at <https://www.blessinghancock.com/>

Subject: **Skyrim Studios Agreement**

April 15, 2024

Page 2

As part of the Lewisville project, Blessing and her team are preparing a public engagement plan that will include opportunities both in person and online for the public and staff to contribute words and phrases that will be incorporated into the work. That process would take place this summer of 2024.

The total project budget of \$350,000 includes costs associated with the artist call and the stipends paid to the three finalists to help them develop their proposals, as well as contingency funds to be available for site preparation costs. The value of the proposed agreement with Skyrim Studio, Inc., is in the amount of \$320,000 for all costs associated with designing, creating, and installing the artwork. The remaining \$30,000 from the project budget will be used for administrative costs in conducting the artist call, for title signage for the work, and for unexpected expense contingency.

CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

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