

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donna Barron, City Manager

FROM: James Kunke, Community Relations and Tourism Director

DATE: July 2, 2018

SUBJECT: **Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with May + Watkins Design in the Amount of \$60,000 for Creation and Installation of Art Benches in Conjunction with the Main Street Corridor Project, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Agreement**

BACKGROUND

City Council approved a Public Art Master Plan in early 2018. One of the key recommendations in that plan was to allocate money for a “kickoff” project in conjunction with the Main & Mill Corridor Project. City Council approved \$60,000 in the 2018-19 budget for the kickoff project.

The Arts Advisory Board considered various options for the project, including a mural, art benches, art bike racks, and a free-standing sculpture. The Board decided to pursue creation and installation of four art benches on Main Street east of Mill Street, both because of the permanent nature of the installation and the opportunity for significant visual and visitor impact.

MCL Grand staff posted a Call For Entries online and received 83 proposals from artists nationwide. The Arts Advisory Board served as the selection committee, rating all 83 proposals and selecting six finalists that included two from Texas, two from Colorado, and two from New York. The board recommends a contract with May + Watkins Design for the \$60,000 project. Completion is expected around September 2019.

ANALYSIS

The Public Art Master Plan recommended a “kickoff” project as a way to get immediate public awareness and buy-in for a public art program. Because of its high visibility and importance for both resident and visitor traffic, the plan identified the Main & Mill Corridor Project as the best opportunity to kick off the program, preferably near the central intersection. It also advances the “Old Town” Big Move in the Lewisville 2025 vision plan.

From the Call For Entries: “The selection panel seeks a unique, one-of-a-kind art project that is appropriate for Old Town Lewisville and for the diverse community that will experience it. Considerations should include the historical nature of Lewisville and the community’s deep connection to a thriving outdoor environment. The City is interested in artists who can demonstrate experience using public art to tell a story relevant to the community.”

Subject: May + Watkins Design Contract
December 17, 2018
Page 2

The art project will consist of four uniquely designed benches, of a material and concept determined by the artist and approved by the Arts Advisory Board. These benches will replace three black decorative benches currently in the corridor plan, and add a fourth bench in an area currently shown as a landscape bed.

It is the intent of the Arts Advisory Board that the four benches be used to tell a single coherent story related to the history and development of Old Town Lewisville.

Two of the benches will be approximately eight feet long, and the other two will be approximately 10 feet long in order to add a bicycle accommodation (such as a bike rack) that is integrated with and compatible with the rest of the bench.

All four art benches will be placed on Main Street east of Mill Street, three on the south side and one on the north side. All four benches will face away from the street toward a standard 6' concrete sidewalk. Specific locations are described below and shown in an attached project map.

Bench #1 (10-foot length) will be on the north side of Main Street approximately 20 feet west of Kealy Street, immediately west of an ADA pedestrian ramp to cross Main Street. The bench is partly shaded by a Mexican Sycamore tree that will be planted approximately five feet to the west. The bench faces the patio area of J2 Steakhouse in the converted Lewisville Feed Mill.

Bench #2 (8-foot length) will be on the south side of Main Street approximately 120 feet west of Kealy Street, immediately east of an existing commercial driveway. The bench is partly shaded by a Mexican Sycamore tree that will be planted approximately five feet to the east. The bench faces Royal Affairs Ballroom, a two-story red brick building.

Bench #3 (10-foot length) will be on the south side of Main Street approximately 20 feet west of Kealy Street, immediately west of an ADA pedestrian ramp to cross Main Street. The bench is partly shaded by a Mexican Sycamore tree that will be planted approximately five feet to the west. This bench also faces Royal Affairs Ballroom.

Bench #4 (8-foot length) will be on the south side of Main Street approximately 30 feet east of Kealy Street, immediately east of an ADA pedestrian ramp to cross Main Street. The bench is partly shaded by a Mexican Sycamore tree that will be planted approximately five feet to the east. The bench faces the patio area of Tierney's Café & Tavern, a historic home converted into a restaurant.

Each location has unique visual characteristics. While design of the benches and the story to be told will not be decided until after a public input event in January, the artist stated in the proposal submission (attached to this memo) that each bench will play off the nearby buildings in order to more smoothly blend into the overall streetscape

May + Watkins Design (married artists Carol May and Tim Watkins of New York City) have completed more than 50 public art projects across the country, including one earlier this year at

Subject: May + Watkins Design Contract
December 17, 2018
Page 3

Watters Park in Allen. Many of these projects have included art benches. Examples of their past work can be seen in the submission materials attached to this memo.

Total cost for the four art benches is set at \$60,000 with a proposed timeframe that is projected to coincide with completion of the Main Street portion of the Main & Mill Corridor Project in late 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council the agreement as set forth in the caption above; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.