

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

August 4, 2015

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**SUBJECT: SITE SELECTION FOR PUBLIC ART AT BOB BOLEN PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX**

Staff would like to advise the City Council about the process by which a new site will be selected for artist Beliz Brother's artwork for the Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex.

Artist Selection: Beliz Brother was competitively selected through a process outlined in the Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan and conducted by the Contract Manager with oversight of the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC); and the FWAC unanimously approved the artist selection panel's recommendation of the Artist on August 12, 2013; and recommended that Beliz Brother be retained to design permanent artwork for the project.

Preliminary Design: Artist Beliz Brother's concept for the sculpture is based on the shape of the City's Police and Fire patches. The design enlarges the two shapes and tilts them towards each other, creating a joined form where each half supports the other. The artist envisioned the interior grassy courtyard (between the two historic depot buildings that now house the Fire and Police departments) as the location for the sculpture. The artist felt the sculpture would be embraced by the buildings and metaphorically demonstrate the connection and support between the City's Fire and Police Departments.

Originally Proposed Courtyard Location: The transparency of the Administration building lobby and sight lines through the front entrance through the building and out to the courtyard (and from the rear glass wall of the auditorium to the courtyard) were factors in the artist's choice of location. Police and Fire Departments support locating the sculpture in the courtyard, and have commented on how the public will have a chance to see the artwork up close at graduations, awards ceremonies, public meetings and school tours. In addition, Police and Fire Departments in conjunction with FWPA staff have offered to lead monthly tours of the artwork so the public can experience it up close at regularly scheduled times. The artist's Preliminary Design was approved by the Fort Worth Art Commission at the June 8 meeting, but NOT a location for the artwork (the two items were considered separately at separate meetings). Based on the artwork being available to the public via monthly tours and their site visit, the Fort Worth Art Commission approved the artist's recommendation of locating the artwork in the courtyard.

Site Selection Criteria: In accordance with the City Council's expectations, the artwork location should be readily available to the general public; not requiring taking a guided tour in order to view the artwork. The location must be ADA accessible and adjacent to parking. The location should not be so remote as to encourage vandalism or tagging, and it should offer an appropriate setting for the artwork. The Art Commission will be informed of these changes at the regular August 10, 2015 Fort Worth Art Commission meeting.

Next Steps: New Location Selection Prior to Final Design: The artist, with the aid of FWPA staff, will revisit the site to evaluate alternate locations that meet the above criteria, and will present a new location to the Art Commission and the community in the next few weeks. Then an M&C will be taken to Council in October or November to authorize the Final Design contract, which it will



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include the new public location for the artwork. After Final Design is approved, a subsequent M&C will go to Council, authorizing a Commission contract for the project.

Council Members may contact Anne Allen, Public Art Project Manager for the Arts Council of Fort Worth at 817-298-3028 ([aallen@fwpublicart.org](mailto:aallen@fwpublicart.org)) or Martha Peters, Vice President of Public Art for the Arts Council of Fort Worth, at 817-298-3025 ([mpeters@fwpublicart.org](mailto:mpeters@fwpublicart.org)) for further information.

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**

Attachment A: Artwork Preliminary Design

