

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 15, 2020

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee

SUBJECT **Update on the Arthello Beck Public Art Project at Twin Falls Park**

On February 12, 2020, City Council authorized a contract for the Twin Falls Park Public Art Project honoring notable Dallas artist Arthello Beck. The proposed piece, recommended by the Public Art Committee and approved by both the Arts & Culture Advisory Commission and Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee, is the collaborate work of local Dallas artists, Jennifer Cowley and Tyra Goodley.

City staff and both artists remain committed to delivering this project although, regrettably, the contract has not yet been completed or executed at this time. Staff has identified two primary reasons for this delay, as described below, and will implement changes to improve the public art process.

First, as has been our practice for public art contracts, one artist was designated as the lead artist. Ms. Cowley was the artist of record for contracting purposes, based on her written direction in December 2019. However, both artists were always to be recognized as artists for the project. Going forward, staff will ensure that external agreements are in place between artists working jointly before recommending a contract.

Secondly, this long-planned project – originally conceived in 2017 – is unique in working with experienced, local artists that are emerging in the public art field. This is an important goal in our Cultural Plan towards greater equity and, going forward, staff will identify and implement improvements to appropriately support artists new to this program.

The Public Art team, joined by three of our dedicated Arts & Culture Advisory Commissioners, has worked assiduously with the artists to help them to identify and select fabricators, engineers and other key professionals needed to execute a public art project of this type, and we will continue to do so. Staff is working towards a two-contract approach in which both artists must agree to finalize discrete scopes of work and a comprehensive budget breakdown for all costs, overseen by both artists separately, for the \$81,000 project budget.

Draft contracts are currently in-process and we hope to conclude this phase by June 1, if not sooner. Please let me know if you need additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata  
Assistant City Manager

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C: Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors