

**T** Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: November 22, 2010

Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 8, 2010

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

Date: November 15, 2010  
Subject: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Public Art Contract for Infill Stations  
District(s), Member(s): All  
Policy/Legal Reference: Procurement of Public Artists  
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510  
Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942,  
Rich Rovang, CCLRT Project Director, 651-602-1941  
Division/Department: Metro Transit/ Central Corridor Project Office

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Foster Willey Sculptor LLC to design, fabricate and install public art on the Hamline and Victoria Central Corridor Light Rail Transit stations, in an amount not to exceed \$374,000.
- To negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Widgey Works, Inc. to design, fabricate and install public art on the Western Central Corridor Light Rail Transit station, in an amount not to exceed \$187,000.

**Background**

In 2008, five artists were hired to design, fabricate, and install public art at the original fifteen Central Corridor Light Rail Transit stations. In 2010, the Metropolitan Council initiated a procurement for artists to create integrated public art at stations located at Hamline, Western, and Victoria. These three stations were added to the Central Corridor in February 2010.

Eight artists responded to the Council's request for qualifications, and were all deemed responsive. In September, an Artist Selection Committee (ASC) representing the Metropolitan Council and project partners evaluated and ranked the qualified artists in accordance with established Council procedures for FTA funded projects and developed a shortlist of three artists. The three shortlisted artists were invited to propose on the public art work and were interviewed by the ASC.

The contracts will include provisions:

For staff to issue separate notices-to-proceed for design, and for fabrication/installation.

To give the Council the right to terminate the contract at any time, should that be necessary.

## **Rationale**

The ASC evaluated the proposals in accordance with established Council procedures for FTA funded projects and based on the following criteria:

- Artistic merit
- Appropriateness for outdoor environment
- Durability and ability to withstand the climate extremes
- Maintenance requirements (including resistance to vandalism)
- References/satisfaction of previous installed public art works
- Approach to community coordination

The following artists were deemed the most advantageous based on the criteria:

Foster Willey Sculptor LLC (artist Foster Willey, Minneapolis) – Hamline and Victoria stations

Widgery Works, Inc. (artist Catherine Widgery, Boston area) – Western station

## **Funding**

The total cost for the public art contracts at Hamline, Victoria, and Western stations is \$561,000. External funding for the cost of these contracts was sought from the St. Paul Chamber, Midway Chamber, and Target Foundation without success.

Funding for public artwork at these three stations was not originally contemplated in the stations' construction budget. Funding to implement the public artwork is available from Project contingency within the Project's overall budget of \$956.9 million. No adjustment to the Project budget is required as part of awarding these contracts.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

The artists and station assignments are consistent with the recommendation made by the ASC (see Attachment 1).

The project partners and community support integrating public art into the Hamline, Victoria and Western stations.

## Central Corridor LRT Public Art RFP for Hamline, Victoria, and Western Stations Artist Selection Committee Recommendation

### Summary

The Metropolitan Council in 2008 retained the services of five artists to design, fabricate and install art at the 15 stations on the Central Corridor LRT (CCLRT). Stations were added at Hamline, Victoria and Western in February 2010. The Metropolitan Council solicited artists to design, fabricate and install artwork at these three stations.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued August 13, 2010. An Artist Section Committee (ASC) representing project partners and Metro Transit staff assisted the Metropolitan Council in the procurement process. Responses to the RFQ were received September 9, and the ASC reviewed those proposals, and identified a shortlist of qualified artists. Those shortlisted artists were then issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on September 27. Proposals to the RFP were received on October 26, and distributed to ASC members. The ASC interviewed the three finalists November 2. Each interview was 40 minutes and included a presentation by the proposing artist followed by a question and answer session.

Following the interviews, the ASC discussed the merits of the 3 presentations and proposals and made the following recommendation:

- Foster Willey – Hamline and Victoria stations
- Catherine Widgery – Western station

Details on the evaluation/selection process are provided below.

### Discussion

Prior to conducting interviews, ASC members participated in a pre-interview meeting to discuss the interview format and evaluation process. The Metropolitan Council had requested that the ASC make a recommendation on artist selection and station assignment.

#### *Finalists*

##### Foster Willey

Foster had a very comprehensive and cohesive proposal which touched many areas of the station. His proposed community coordination and past community coordination with completed artwork was impressive to the ASC. The group also felt the materials Foster works with are very durable, low maintenance, and would work well on the CCLRT stations.

##### Janet Lofquist

There was a favorable impression of Janet's past artwork, and the group noted the thoughtful research that Janet conducted with her proposal. There were concerns about Janet's proposal in terms of using cultural symbols and textile patterns, and the proposed community coordination.

Catherine Widgery

Catherine was impressive in her use of abstract and organic artwork, and her past experience working and living in culturally diverse areas. The group felt this artist would work well with the community, and felt her past projects are indicative of the quality of her work.

*Recommendation*

Based on review of past work and interviews, the ASC is recommending the following:

- Foster Willey—Hamline and Victoria stations
- Catherine Widgery—Western station

The ASC felt that all three artists were strong finalists, but ultimately felt that Foster and Catherine would be a great fit with the community.