

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** April 10, 2024

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Through:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of artist Michele Gutlove for the Moana Springs Community Aquatics and Fitness Center Public Art Project in an amount not to exceed \$525,000. (Public Art Fund)

**From:** Megan Berner, Arts and Culture Manager

**Department:** City Manager's Office – Arts and Culture

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**Summary:**

On February 26, 2024, the Reno Arts and Culture Commission (RACC) approved the recommendation from the Public Art Committee (PAC) to commission artist Michele Gutlove for the Moana Springs Community Aquatics and Fitness Center (MSCAFC) Public Art Project. Michele Gutlove's proposal was rated the highest out of the five finalists by the community based on public surveys.

<b>Consent Review</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		<b>X</b>
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?	<b>X</b>	
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	<b>X</b>	
<b>Other Considerations</b>		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	<b>0.0006%</b>	

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

**Previous Council Action:**

At the April 12, 2023, Council meeting, Council approved the call for artists and project timeline for the Moana Springs Community Aquatics and Fitness Center Public Art Project.

**Background:**

On April 12, 2023, Council approved a process and Call for Artists in the form of a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the MSCAFC Public Art Project. The RFQ was released on May 1 and closed on June 20, 2023. A total of 136 artists applied to the RFQ. 116 of those applicants met the requirements of the RFQ.

At their meeting on September 11, 2023, the PAC reviewed 116 eligible applications and recommended five finalists to move forward with community engagement and the creation of a proposal for artwork. The PAC's recommendation was approved by the RACC at their meeting on September 18, 2023.

The five finalist artists conducted a site visit with City staff to the MSCAFC construction site, met with City staff working with the construction and design team of the facility, and presented past work and their approach to similar projects to the public during an input session on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at Osher Lifelong Learning Center on Moana Lane. The presentations were done in a hybrid format and allowed the community to ask questions directly to the artists and give input. Following this engagement, a survey was opened to the public asking for further input on the finalist artists and what they would like the artwork to represent. The survey was open for two weeks. The community input was gathered and shared with the finalist artists to take into consideration as they developed initial proposals for the art.

On February 12, 2024, the finalist artists presented their proposals to the public during a PAC hybrid meeting. After the presentations, the artists' proposals were shared online and in a survey to collect feedback from the community. The feedback from this survey was used by the PAC and RACC when making a recommendation for a selected artist for this commission. The PAC and the RACC met on February 26, 2024, to discuss the finalist proposals and select an artist for the MSCAFC Public Art Project. After discussion, they unanimously voted to recommend artist Michele Gutlove, in line with the community feedback received.

**Discussion:**

The MSCAFC Public Art Project call for artists followed the public art process approved and adopted by Council in 2009. The PAC and RACC took the selection process seriously, selecting an artist with experience to successfully execute this project and respond to site-specificity and the community input received.

**Financial Implications:**

\$525,000 is allocated to this project in the Public Art Fund as part of Reno Municipal Code (RMC) Title 22 - 2% for Public Art.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council approve artist Michele Gutlove for the Moana Springs Community Aquatics and Fitness Center Public Art Project.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

Moana Springs Public Art Proposal - Michele Gutlove

Moana Springs Public Art Call for Artists

Moana Springs Public Art Agreement Studio GH