

Attachment D: Public Input

Summary of Public Input - 51 Comments Received

APPB sought public comment for commissioning Evelyn Rosenberg to create art for the 502 Underpass project during August 2018. Board members staffed a booth at the Los Alamos County Summer Concert Series on 8/17/18 and 8/31/18, as well as a booth at the Farmer's Market on 8/30/18. An article published in the Los Alamos Daily Post on 8/30/18 described the project and invited comment by email.

Public comment for the Underpass project was overwhelmingly positive, with 44 out of 51 comments voicing full support for the project and four more offering measured or qualified support. Many comments supported Rosenberg's general style and other artworks provided as samples, while others appreciated that her approach would seek to represent the character of the County by combining elements of the natural world with the technological. Because the proposed artwork "Multiverse" also will display her signature style and will be customized for Los Alamos to reflect the community in a similar, albeit smaller, way, APPB believes the public comments from August 2018 can speak for the current proposal.

The full-support comments ranged from generic ("Let's do it!") to more detailed explanations. At least 22 included statements about the specific proposal and/or the subject matter, particularly the belief that the design would "represent our town well." Some examples:

- This looks like a potentially stunning project, and Rosenberg's design and technique both seem uniquely appropriate for Los Alamos.
- Love this idea! Art and science together in an outdoor setting.
- We are known for being a community set apart for intellect and creativity and beauty. This is a perfect project for our beautiful town!
- Sounds like this art would really beautify the tunnel and represent our town well.
- This is incredible! Very representative of Los Alamos but not in a heavy-handed way.
- I love the combination of nature with the super collider concept. I say GO FOR IT!
- Very creative—blended aspects of significance to LA. WOW
- I think Evelyn Rosenberg's designs are perfect—they will beautify the space and represent our community well.
- This county is presumably at the cutting edge of innovation, so the work of an artist engaged in the very unusual art form of detonography seems to be just right.

Several people emphasized their desire for the artwork's imagery to stay balanced between the natural and technological aspects mentioned in the proposal, and six comments based their support primarily on appreciation of examples of her previous work.

Full Comments, organized by date/source

8/17/18—LAC Summer Concert Booth (8 comments)

1. I really like the science and organic themes in the work by Evelyn Rosenberg. I think it will look beautiful!
2. Cool cool cool project! We are known for being a community set apart for intellect and creativity and beauty. This is a perfect project for our beautiful town!
3. Evelyn Rosenberg is great and should be the artist to work in the tunnel on the way into town.
4. Let's do it.
5. I support the development of art to be used in the pedestrian underpass on the Canyon Rim Trail.
6. Sounds expensive. Will be another 'top notch' attraction in Los Alamos. Hoping to be able to see it when complete.
7. Her artwork is wonderful, however it would be damaged in a transportation facility in Los Alamos County.
8. The project is a great idea to attract visitors and bring the local community together. Los Alamos is already rich in natural attractions; such art in public would be a brilliant addition to the town.

8/30/18 – Farmer's Market (26 comments)

9. Sounds like a great project—definitely a proponent.
10. Looks/sounds like a great idea
11. Evelyn's work is always fabulous. I love the preliminary work I have seen.
12. Like the idea. Want the combination of work at the lab and beauty surrounding Los Alamos.
13. The proposal looks great! I'm all for it!
14. Great idea! It will be [unreadable] and very beautiful

15. Sounds cool! Be sure to include things besides just atomic science in the artwork (though that's cool too). I like the tree.
16. Sounds like this art would really beautify the tunnel and represent our town well.
17. Sounds like an awesome idea! I say go for it! I'd hike through that tunnel!
18. Wow! It sounds like a brilliant idea—I love that the proposed project is designed for Los Alamos—science and nature. I also like that the artist has thought ahead to vandalism etc. PS We will need a camera to catch those vandals.
19. I think the plan suggested by E. Rosenberg would be very appropriate for Los Alamos. It would also contribute to the value of art in LA public places that LA is already known for.
20. What an excellent idea! Please do this! Don't let the cost stop you—I think it's reasonable.
21. This is a terrific project! We are so fortunate to have an artist of this caliber to take on this challenge—and come up with the amazing design—super cool for our town! Don't pass up this opportunity.
22. Great idea—we need more art in our community.
23. This looks interesting and would make using the tunnel a joy. But keep costs (including maintenance) and time to opening the tunnel in mind.
24. This looks like a potentially stunning project, and Rosenberg's design and technique both seem uniquely appropriate for Los Alamos. In addition to the tunnel being an excellent idea for safety, the art itself could be an excellent tourist draw, especially situated right at the top of Main Hill Road on the way into town. The project would definitely make me more likely to visit the co-op and the trail.
25. This is incredible! Very representative of Los Alamos but not in a heavy-handed way. Beautiful artwork—would love to see this happen!
26. Evelyn Rosenberg's proposal looks awesome!
27. Evelyn Rosenberg's work is amazing! I can't wait to see what she does with the tunnel.
28. I like the concept of the tunnel! Beautifying it appeals to me. Please incorporate nature into the design along with 'where discoveries are made.'

29. Yes. Spruce up portions which are not easy to make 'pretty.'
30. I visited the APP tent today and the proposal seems to be EXCELLENT! I love the combination of nature with the super collider concept. I say GO FOR IT!
31. Great idea! Looks like a good fit. I would be very supportive if cost reasonable.
32. I can't wait to see and use the tunnel! I want to see stars in the floor.
33. Love it!
34. Use only durable materials, ceramic, nothing that degrades in time.

8/31/18 – LAC Summer Concert Booth (13 comments)

35. Love this idea! Art and science together in an outdoor setting. This is a great combo for Los Alamos that its citizens, visitors, and tourists can enjoy. I highly recommend this project!
36. Having a pleasant and unique experience within the tunnel would be a lovely addition.
37. I love this idea. I think Evelyn Rosenberg's designs are perfect—they will beautify the space and represent our community well.
38. Seems like a good use of the art money.
39. At first glance, the artist's art is very intriguing and beautiful. Love the idea for a nice and artful underpass. Go for it!
40. Very creative—blended aspects of significance to LA. WOW
41. Very interesting—not sure I like everything but definitely like the idea of “decorating” ugly concrete.
42. I really like the concept. The details and very creative diverse aspects will be a perfect addition to this tunnel.
43. Love the metal work!
44. I think the project is great and needed. ^{Attachment D} The proposal art is fantastic

45. Do it!

46. This is a lovely idea that blends science and art beautifully!

47. Do it.

Emails (4 comments)

Comment #48

7/29/18

Please accept his email as public comment or let me know how it needs to be submitted.

Thanks for all of your support to the Board. I know how much work it can be!

It was interesting to hear about the proposed art for the underpass. The underpass itself was news to me. I am concerned about spending a big chunk of the budget at a relatively remote location. It is like putting most of your eggs in one basket at a remote location without any protection. What would be done to prevent or deter vandalism?

Thanks for considering my comments.

Comment #49

8/31/18

Hi,

I just visited Evelyn Rosenberg's web site. Her body of work is quite impressive, with pieces in so many cities, even outside of New Mexico.

The planned theme for the tunnel, as it was explained to me during my visit to the Farmers' Market, seems so very appropriate for Los Alamos, with the TA-53 accelerator essentially visible from the tunnel location and so much associated research happening here.

I think this would be a wonderful addition to the public art in the county, with a well-known artist and a relevant topic. Also, much thought seems to have gone into the piece's construction already, including concerning lighting and steps to defend against vandalism. Very impressive.

This county is presumably at the cutting edge of innovation, so the work of an artist engaged in the very unusual art form of detonography seems to be just right. I can't wait to see this tunnel and the art in it.

Comment #50

8/31/18

APPB Board,

In reference to your request for public comment on the proposed artwork for the tunnel connecting the Canyon Rim Trail, we have some considerations for you. It is our understanding that this is a Los Alamos County project and not a state- wide project. That being said, we viewed a news story on KRQE channel 13 Thursday, August 30th, asking the public to send in their comments and suggestions for the tunnel artwork. We are not sure why the rest of the state should have a say in what is the proposed artwork for our county. We do not recall Albuquerque, Santa Fe or any other city asking for our input on their art projects in their city or county. If Los Alamos County Public Works Department is soliciting recommendations for artwork from our Los Alamos Arts in Public Places Advisory Board we strongly believe, as county residents, we should be the only ones to be giving suggestions.

As far as the artist's work, it appears to be interesting if not a little dark for a tunnel project. Our concern would be the expense for the artwork from a "nationally recognized artist" when we have so much local art talent right here in town. Remember-"buy local", a phrase often used here but seldom applied by our county government and laboratory officials.

Our other concern is vandalism and the expense to correct it. We understand the measures being taken to deter that but are sure it is a very real possibility, sadly in our day and age.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project and look forward to hearing your response.

[Note: APPB did not attempt to gather public comment outside of Los Alamos County. We published an article in the LA Daily Post inviting public comment, but we are not sure how the KQRE website picked up the story. We agree that people who live here and have close ties to the County should guide the decision-making process. The vast majority of feedback was provided in person at events in LAC, and we have documented the source of each public comment.]

Comment #51

8/31/18

Hello,

Thanks for soliciting public comment on the proposed artwork for the 502 underpass. What an excellent idea to add artwork there!

I would love to see Los Alamos give a nod to the Native American people who were here before any of the rest of us, and who have long honored this beautiful spot on the planet. I think it would be a gracious act to extend an invitation to any one of the surrounding pueblos (or to all of them jointly) to see if they might be interested in this project. As you know, they are extremely gifted artists of several genres.

I think the simple beauty of Native art is very complementary to large projects like this one and would enhance, not only the aesthetics of the area, but would also serve to continue building positive cross-cultural relationships. Our town seems to be sparsely graced by Native art so this might be an opportune way to adjust that margin.

Thank you so much for considering these idea