

December 16, 2021

Los Alamos County Council  
1000 Central Avenue  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Esteemed Council Members,

**APP BOARD**

Jennifer Baker, Chair  
Abigayle Cutting Smith, Co-Chair  
Alissa Grissom, Member

The Art in Public Places Board would like to address the process of how the proposed art for the Leisure Lagoon was selected, as mentioned in the November 16, 2021, County Council meeting for the proposed art for the Leisure Lagoon agenda item. It has been understood that questions surround process and specifically process of artist and proposal selection.

October 2020

The Art in Public Places Board was approached by the Parks and Recreation Department with the design of the Leisure Lagoon and the date of completion as December of 2021, the Board was under the impression that artwork could be incorporated into the actual construction of the facility (embedded into the walls e.g.) if it were acquired in a rapid fashion. This required finding an artist capable of submitting an expedited proposal of high quality and a reputation for bringing this type of work to a successful completion.

December 2020

Member Mackey presented two potential artists for the Leisure Lagoon project, Amanda Jaffee for the interior, and Collette Marie for the exterior. After discussion amongst the Board, Member Mackey was tasked with gathering additional details from the artists and acquire rough estimates for the potential art.

January 2021

Member Mackey provided additional details of the proposed pieces. The exterior of the building would be made out of concrete formed lined pieces and proposed to go above the new windows on the pool.

The interior art was proposed to have five pieces, each sitting underneath the new windows of the pool, and would need to be sunk at least 2 inches into the wall. It was determined that both pieces would need extreme coordination with the

project manager, Steve Huebner, for feasibility in construction timeline and contractor ability in scope.

#### February 2021

A miscommunication was cleared up regarding the exterior and interior walls of the Leisure Lagoon, they were not to be form-lined, but concrete block, therefore the stamped exterior option was not a viable idea. Therefore, art for the exterior of the building was abandoned.

Per Member Mackey, Amanda Jaffee, the potential artist for the interior art, stated that the interior art was still a viable idea, however, she would need to figure out how the 2 inch thick pieces would be mounted, with potentially angle iron and adhesive. Given that they could not be sunk into the wall, as originally planned. The artist was scheduled to send samples to Art in Public Places Staff Liaison, Katherine Hudspeth.

Also during the February 2021 APP Board meeting, Staff Liaison, Katherine Hudspeth presented the Board with its current budget. Art in Public Places is funded by receiving 1% of the originally approved budget of a Los Alamos County Capital Improvement Project, and 0.5% of the originally approved Los Alamos County Roads project per [Municipal Code Chapter 20-365](#). The Art in Public Places fund was and still is adequately funded, including reoccurring expenses, to pursue the Leisure Lagoon mosaic tiles.

At this time, the Art in Public Places Board had a proposal for the interior art, that fell within the requirements of public art, per [Municipal Code Chapter 8-34](#), and was compatible with installation after the construction was completed. The Board could have back-tracked and opened this commission for a Call for Art however, it would have been a longer, more complicated process, and the board agreed that the proposal they had was more than sufficient for the space. Since the Art in Public Places board is not required to offer RFPs nor Calls for Art, [Municipal Code Chapter 8-34](#), they did not.

#### January 2021 – October 2021

During this time details regarding the potential pieces were discussed with the artist and safety concerns discussed, addressed, and resolved with the Leisure Lagoon Project Manager, Wayne Kohlrust.

#### October 2021

As required of the APP Board, they sought public comment, via a SurveyMonkey, that was advertised through the local papers, NextDoor, and regular posts and ads via Facebook and Instagram. Additional comments were gathered from these platforms to be included as public comment. Members of the Board were not able to gather comments in person, due to scheduling conflicts. Overall, the survey showed that respondents were supportive of the proposed art, except for the cost. However, there were many comments noted that different colors and mediums were desired for the given space. Taking all this into account, at the October APP meeting, that Board approved to make a recommendation to County Council.

The Art in Public Places Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Los Alamos County Council and welcomes any guidance for a positive outcome. In reflection of this process the Board agrees that while “optics” look poorly for this project, they agree that proper processes pertaining to the

acquisition of public art were followed. The Board would still like to recommend Amanda Jaffee for the five mosaic pieces for the Leisure Lagoon, however if the County Council wishes the board to proceed with a Call for Art, they are happy to do so.

Sincerely,

The Art in Public Places Board