



Commerce City Public Art Program  
Eagle Pointe Recreation Center  
Artist Proposals for Interior and Exterior Art Projects

## MEETING SUMMARY

March 3, 2018

Selection Committee Members in Attendance: Deborah Bullock (Cultural Council Representative), Susan Carabajal (Cultural Council Representative), Carole Harvell (Resident), Chris Story (Resident)

Staff Members and Non-Voting Members in Attendance, Courtney Smith (Program Controls Manager), Alyssa Tharett (Essenza Architecture), Daniela Villareal (Commerce City) and Kendall Peterson (Art Consultant).

Unable to Attend: Sarah Lawry (CC Parks and Recreation), Debbie Varela (Resident),

The focus of this meeting of the Eagle Pointe Recreation Center Art Selection Committee was to review the proposals developed by artists for this site and interview each semifinalist. The public art budget for the site was divided into two distinct projects: an interior work of art for the reception area (Project Budget : \$70,000-75,000) and an exterior work of art (Project Budget: \$20,000-\$25,000) Each semifinalist came to Eagle Pointe for a site visit with the architects on February and received a honorarium of \$1,000 for their time, materials and travel. A quorum was present at the selection meeting and there were no apparent conflicts of interest.

Initial briefing covered the agenda, re-iteration of criteria established in the Request for Qualifications (see attached) and the process for deliberation and voting. Artists were invited to present for a total of 30 minutes, during which time the selection committee could ask questions and conduct their interview. The following is a short synopsis of the presentations given by each artist.

### INTERIOR ARTWORK SELECTION

Annette Coleman selected feathers as the theme for her proposal. She proposed a woven metal “nest” that would be suspended and from the nest, colorful glass and ceramic feathers would be suspended. The feathers would flutter and catch the light. Coleman also proposed tile mosaic components in the floor, which would be inlaid to look like feathers had actually dropped to the floor. A component for Annette’s artwork was two “community workshops” where kids and adults would help make clay feather designs that would then be fired in her studio, and community participation in the creation of the floor mosaics.

Committee comments:

- PRO: The group responded very positively to Annette’s proposal over all. They appreciated her artistry and movement and color and particularly the community participation component. They liked the link of her proposal to the Eagle Pointe

name.

- CON: The project team and architect wondered whether there was time in the schedule for inserting the floor mosaics. Also, in comparison to the winging proposal, this artwork covered less area.

**Reven Swanson** proposed a similar suspended work of art which was focused on fused glass bird forms. The forms are abstracted and multi-colored and will be suspended all the way from one corner of the running track area to the diagonal corner, “swooping down lower in the central reception area. The birds will also be formed into three “bird spheres” which will be comprised of many smaller birds and will move slowly on a motor. Swanson also proposed a community component for this project and proposed two “workshops” to involve adults and children in the process; details to be determined.

Committee comments:

- PROS: This project would create colorful, kinetic works that fully fill the space and references the Eagle Pointe name.
- CONS: There was a desire to make sure that a few of the bird shapes are more “eagle-like”

**Michael Shields** proposed a project with many suspended colored glass circles or “wheel” components suspended from the reception area. Some components would be made from bike rims; others would be larger circular shapes made of polycarbonate. The artist spoke of the interaction of color and refracted light that would come from the artwork (like stained glass) and even suggested switching to a translucent material on one of the yoga suite walls so that the colors could be visible from inside.

Committee comments:

- PROS: The group appreciated the color and shapes.
- CONS: The group felt like the concept was a bit abstract and that the reflection of color into the yoga studio might not be possible.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the Committee reviewed all the proposals again. However, the Committee voted to remove from further consideration the proposal offered by Michael Shields. In discussing the remaining two proposals, the group mentioned that they liked both Reven and Annette’s thoughtful proposals but there was a preference for the Reven Swanson’s scope and movement through the whole space as well as the movement of the “bird spheres.”

**Results:** At the conclusion of the discussion, each member of the Committee ranked the proposals and made final comments. After the voting, the ranking was very clear; the committee unanimously ranked the artists as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Reven Swanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annette Coleman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Michael Shields. Comments were given to artist Reven Swanson that they would like her to make sure that there is an eagle silhouette that will be among the bird forms, and that they hope to see the full scope and size of the project she has proposed and that it not be scaled back in any way.



## EXTERIOR ARTWORK SELECTION

**Jodie Bliss** is an ironworker who proposed a 10-foot high sculpture, titled “Pathway to Vitality.” The sculpture depicts a female figure of two ¼” pieces of steel, arms lifted, holding a large eagle. The figure would have a large headdress, and would be “wrapped” with Jodie’s distinctive hand-forged intricate iron work. The large sculpture would be placed near the drop-off area of the recreation center, and is meant to encourage viewers to “reach for the sky in their own wellness goals.”

Committee comments:

- PRO: The group really admired Jodie’s proposal and her work over all.
- CON: There were not many complaints except that the committee also wanted just the eagle part of the sculpture; they would like to fund-raise for the sculpture in the future

**Lisa Russell** proposed a stainless steel wall sculpture depicting three eagles in flight to be placed on the exterior wall near the pool. The sculpture would be made of several different laser-cut pieces of 10-gauge steel and backlit for maximum nighttime effect. The sculpture would have a three-dimensional effect, and be visible as a prominent “marker” for the newly renovated center.

Committee comments:

- PROS: It was pointed out that three eagles for the thirty years of the recreation center was perfect for the site; everyone liked the high visibility it had from all around the area, as well as the fact that it could be lit at night, when many clients are coming to the center.
- CONS: There were very few cons for the artwork.

**Tina Murano** proposed two large exterior circular tile glass mosaics for the exterior wall by the pool. One was a traditional seal, depicting the name of the Eagle Pointe Rec Center, EST. date and an eagle in flight. The other mosaic had text stating “What if I should fall? Oh my darling, What if I should Soar? The mosaics were colorful and visible from many angles.

Committee comments:

- PROS: The group appreciated the color and shapes and the symmetry.
- CONS: There was a feeling that the seal looked a bit like a school seal, and there were concerns about the mosaic tiles popping out because of the extreme temperatures on a south-facing wall in winter.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the Committee reviewed all the proposals again. However, the Committee voted to remove from further consideration the proposal offered by Tina Murano. In discussing the remaining two proposals, the group mentioned that they liked both Lisa Russell’s wall sculpture and the sculpture of Jodie Bliss, but there was a preference for the for Lisa’s wall sculpture and its visibility and that it would



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become a marker for the center. There was discussion that perhaps there could be separate fundraising to acquire Jodie's sculpture as well, or to commission just the eagle portion of the sculpture.

Results: At the conclusion of the discussion, each member of the Committee ranked the proposals and made final comments. After the voting, the ranking was very clear; the committee unanimously ranked the artist as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Lisa Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jodie Bliss, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tina Murano.

RECOMMENDATION FROM EAGLE POINTE RECREATION CENTER ART COMMITTEE:

**Reven Swanson, Denver, CO** shall to receive a commission of **\$70,000** for interior suspended works of art at the Recreation Center.

**Lisa Russell, Fort Collins, CO** shall receive a commission of **\$25,000** for an exterior wall sculpture for the Recreation Center.

Next Steps

- The Cultural Council shall review this selection process on March 13, 2018 and make their subsequent recommendation for City Council.
- City Council will review and make their recommendation on April 2, 2018
- Art Consultant will contact the finalists once the review process is complete. At that point the contracts for the commissions will be drafted.

Kendall Peterson  
Public Art Consultant  
3/8/18