



San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 16, 2019
To: San Francisco Library Commission
From: Michael Lambert, City Librarian
RE: Maya Angelou Statue at the Main Library

The San Francisco Public Library is bringing forth an update about the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' legislative action to improve the depiction of women in the public realm and, more specifically, to create an artwork (sculpture) honoring Dr. Maya Angelou at the San Francisco Main Library.

The specific ordinance, "[Maya Angelou Artistic Representation at Main Library - City Policy Regarding Depiction of Women on City Property - Women's Recognition Public Art Fund](#)," was passed by the Board of Supervisors in October 2018 and signed by Mayor Breed. The focus of the legislation is to rectify the inequity in women's representation in elected office, leadership roles, and in the public realm.

The first selection process for this project did not result in an award of the commission to an artist. The failure to award the commission in no way reflects negatively on the excellent applications or the outstanding proposals created for the project by the finalists. Unfortunately, there was a profoundly different interpretation between the Arts Commission's and the legislative sponsors' understanding of the wording of the Board of Supervisors' resolution directing the creation of a "significant figurative representation of Dr. Angelou." It became clear after the selection process that the legislative sponsors' intent and expectation was for a more traditional figurative statue.

For this reason, the Arts Commission will be re-posting a revised RFQ. The description of the project has been revised so that the project goal more clearly aligns with the expectations of the legislative sponsors of the Board of Supervisors' resolution that created this project. The RFQ now states that the goal of the project is to honor Dr. Maya Angelou with the creation of **a 3-dimensional statue depicting Dr. Angelou**. Previous applicants for the project need not re-apply; they will automatically be considered.

As per the Arts Commission's usual process, a pre-qualification panel will establish a pool of artists best qualified to execute the project as evidenced by examples of past work. Review criteria will include artistic excellence as evidenced by skill in portraiture and ability to capture the spirit of the subject.

The list of qualified artists will be presented to the Dr. Maya Angelou Artwork Project Review Panel, which is to consist of a representative of the Library Commission, a representative from the Commission on the Status of Women, an Arts Commissioner, and three outside arts professionals. The panel will identify three finalists who will be invited to develop conceptual, site-specific proposals after attending an orientation session with the project team and key stakeholders. The review panel will reconvene to consider the finalists' proposals in an interview format and will select one artist for the project for recommendation to the Arts Commission.

Review Panel recommendations must be approved by the Arts Commission by Resolution prior to awarding the project to any recommended artist.

As outlined in the ordinance, "the Library Commission shall appoint an individual, who may be a member of the Library Commission, to serve on the Arts Commission's review committee for the artist. Additionally, in selecting the design and location, and in overseeing the construction and placement of the artwork, the Commission shall solicit input from the Library Commission and the City Librarian, or his or her designee."

This update is provided to the Commission so that it may appoint an individual to the Dr. Maya Angelou Artwork Project Review Panel.

Recommended Action: The Library Commission should appoint an individual, who may be a member of the Library Commission, to serve on the Arts Commission's review committee for the artist who will create the sculpture honoring Dr. Maya Angelou at the San Francisco Main Library.