



San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 13, 2019
To: San Francisco Library Commission
From: Michael Lambert, City Librarian
RE: Maya Angelou Artwork at the Main Library

The San Francisco Public Library is bringing forth an update on the San Francisco Art Commission's artist selection process for the artwork honoring Dr. Maya Angelou at the San Francisco Main Library.

The San Francisco Arts Commission issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou Project on November 1, 2018. Following the January 25, 2019 application deadline, SF Arts Commission staff convened an artist qualification panel consisting of two arts professionals and one SF Arts Commission staff member to screen the 111 RFQ applicants, and establish a short list of artists best qualified to execute the project as evidenced by examples of past work. Review criteria included artistic excellence as evidenced by skill in portraiture, and ability to capture the spirit of the subject.

The qualification panel's short list of 13 qualified artists was then presented to the Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou Artist Selection Panel, which consisted of a representative of the Library Commission, a representative from the Commission on the Status of Women, an Arts Commissioner, three outside arts professionals, a community stakeholder representative and Dr. Angelou's son, Guy Johnson. After two rounds of voting and discussion, three finalists were selected for recommendation to the SF Arts Commission, and have been invited to develop conceptual, site-specific proposals for the project. The three artist finalists are Jules Arthur, Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle, and Lava Thomas.

On April 9th, 2019 the artist finalists attended a project orientation with the project team and key stakeholders, and are currently developing their conceptual proposals. The finalists proposals will be on display for written public comment at the San Francisco Public Library—Main Branch, and on the SF Arts Commission website for two weeks from July 17 to July 31, 2019.

The selection panel will reconvene during the week of August 5th to consider the finalists' proposals in an interview format, and will select one artist and an alternate for the project for recommendation to the SF Arts Commission. The selected artist will be presented to the SF Art Commission's Visual Arts Committee for approval on August 21, and to the Full Commission for approval on September 9.