



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

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 14, 2019
To: San Francisco Library Commission
From: Michael Lambert, Acting 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.

Following the Boards' action, on November 1, 2018, the San Francisco Arts Commission issued a public RFQ for artists who would like to be considered for this public art commission. Artists' applications must be submitted by January 25, 2019. Following the application deadline, the Arts Commission staff will establish an artist qualification panel consisting of two arts professionals and one Arts Commission staff member to screen the applicants to 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 then be presented to the Dr. Maya Angelou Artwork Project Selection 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 selection panel will reconvene to consider the finalists' proposals in an interview format and will select one artist and an alternate for the project for recommendation to the Arts Commission.

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 selection 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 Selection Panel. The panel is expected to convene by March 2019 with the committee's selection of the artist and alternate by July 2019. The artist selection panel's recommendation will be submitted first to the Visual Arts Committee, a subcommittee of the Arts Commission, and then to the full Arts Commission for approval, which is expected by August 2019.

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 selection committee for the artist who will create the sculpture honoring Dr. Maya Angelou at the San Francisco Main Library.