PROJECT UPDATE

Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou
San Francisco Library, Main Branch

Library Commission Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 2019
Project Overview

- In October 2018, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution entitled “Affirming San Francisco’s Commitment to 30% Female Representation in the Public Realm by the year 2020.”

- The Resolution urges San Francisco to meet and exceed the minimum threshold of female representation by recognizing the contribution that women have made to San Francisco and the world, and urges City departments to endeavor to achieve at least 30% non-fiction representation in the public realm through works of art on City property, names of streets and right-of-ways, parks, public buildings, and department websites and publications.
world. When women represent just 30 percent of the senior leadership team or board, organizations start to experience a positive shift, not only in performance, but also in market share that creates competitive advantages. Research further suggests that 30 percent is the proportion when critical mass is reached and in a group setting, the voices of the minority group become heard in their own right, rather than simply representing the minority.

(d) Dr. Maya Angelou's many accomplishments include breaking the color and gender barrier by becoming San Francisco's first African American female streetcar conductor, an award-winning author and poet, a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and civil rights leader.

Section 3. Artistic Depiction of Maya Angelou Statue at the Main Library.

(a) By no later than December 31, 2020, the Arts Commission shall erect a work of art depicting a statue of Dr. Maya Angelou at the Main Library. The Arts Commission shall determine the design of the statue artwork and the specific location at the Main Library, provided that the artwork shall include a significant figurative representation of Maya Angelou. The statue artwork shall be appropriately scaled for its location, shall not create an adverse impact on the use of the Library, and shall be physically accessible to members of the public with mobility-related disabilities. The Arts Commission shall also select an artist to create the statue artwork. 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 statue artwork, the Commission shall solicit input from the Library Commission and the City Librarian, or his or her designee. By no later than December 31, 2020, the statue artwork shall be completed and placed at the approved location.
Project Goals

- The artwork will honor Dr. Maya Angelou, and include a significant figurative representation of Dr. Angelou as part of its design.

- By honoring one of the most important literary artists and activists of our time, the artwork will be an ever-present role model and inspiration to girls and young women.

- Recognizing and honoring Dr. Angelou’s contribution is a means of expressing the value the City places on the contributions and achievements of all women.

- While most of the sculptures in the City’s collection that honor individuals recognize white men, the sculpture of Dr. Angelou will redress this gender imbalance by not only honoring a woman, but a woman of color.
Proposed Site for the Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou
San Francisco Library, Main Branch
## Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou Artist Selection Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 1, 2018</td>
<td>Request for Qualifications Issued</td>
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<td>January 27, 2019</td>
<td>Request for Qualifications Deadline</td>
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<td>February 6</td>
<td>Artist Qualification Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Artist Selection Panel One</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>Visual Arts Committee approval of finalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>Full Commission approval of finalists</td>
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Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou
Artist Qualification Panel

ARTIST QUALIFICATION PANELISTS

1. Indira Allegra, Artist and independent curator
2. Angela Hennessy, Artist and Associate Professor of Fine Arts, CCA
3. Susan Pontious, Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director, San Francisco Arts Commission Arts

PROCESS

• A Request for Qualifications was issued November 1, 2018 – January 27, 2019 for visual artists residing in the United States. The Arts Commission received 111 submissions total.

• The panel reviewed the qualifications of each applicant and scored them using the following criteria

  ✓ Artistic Excellence
  ✓ The artist’s work is judged to be appropriate to the goals of the civic art collection/project.
  ✓ Professional Experience

• 13 applicants scored within a competitive range to be considered for the Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou at the San Francisco Main Library Wall Public Art Opportunity.
**Artwork Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou**  
**Artist Selection Panel One**

**VOTING ARTIST SELECTION PANELISTS**

1. Indira Allegra, Artist and Independent Curator  
2. JD Beltran, Commissioner, San Francisco Arts Commission  
3. Angela Hennessy, Artist and Associate Professor of Fine Arts, CCA  
4. Naomi Jelks, Program Manager, African American Center, San Francisco Public Library  
5. Guy Johnson, Caged Bird Legacy  
6. Susan Mall, Commissioner, San Francisco Library Commission  
7. Ellen Oh, Director of Programs, Office of the Vice President for the Arts, Stanford University  
8. Andrea Shorter, Commissioner, Commission on the Status of Women

**PROCESS**

- Arts Commission staff presented the qualifications of 13 artists selected from the Sculpture Honoring Dr. Maya Angelou Public Art Project Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

- The Artist Selection Panel reviewed, discussed, and scored the qualifications of the semi-finalists and scored each artist on the following criteria:
  - ✔ Artistic Excellence
  - ✔ Appropriate to Project Goals

- 3 finalists were selected for recommendation to the Arts Commission.
Jules R. Arthur

Manhattan, New York

Jules R. Arthur

*James Baldwin* (2018)
Bronzed patina on plaster cast

Jules R. Arthur

*Obama* (2018)
Conti pencil on drafting mylar
Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle
Berkeley, California

Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle
*The Arrival* (2016)
Yupo Paper, cotton paper, and acrylic paint, panel

Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle
*The Evanesced #8* (2016)
India ink and watercolor on recycled, acid-free paper
Lava Thomas

Berkeley, California

Lava Thomas
Looking Back and Seeing Now (2015)
Tambourines, lambskin, leather, acrylic mirrors, digital prints, glue, monofilament wire, s-hooks, wood, steel.

Lava Thomas
Looking Back 2 (2015)
Graphite, conté pencil, charcoal, and watercolor
## Next Steps

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<tr>
<td>July 17 – July 31</td>
<td>Display of finalist proposals at San Francisco Public Library and on SFAC website for public comment</td>
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<td>Week of August 5th</td>
<td>Final Artist Selection Panel</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
<td>Visual Arts Committee approval of selected artist</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td>Full Commission approval of selected artist</td>
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https://www.sfartscommission.org/calendar