

MEETING DATE: MARCH 16, 2026 **AGENDA ITEM:** V.a.
PROJECT NAME: FIRE STATION #26
ACTION ITEM: Approve Selection of Conceptual Design Proposal by In House Media, and alternate Conceptual Design Proposal by artist Ariel Davis for Fire Station #26, to be located at 4915 W. South Drive, 76132 (Council District 6, Commissioner Turner)

PROJECT SUMMARY

- The first Project Outline for Fire Station #26 was approved on March 20, 2019. After building relocation, significant architectural changes, and sharp cost increases, the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) approved a New Public Art Project Outline for Fire Station #26 on August 19, 2024. This new outline included a conceptual design proposal selection process.
- Artist Selection Panel Meeting #1 occurred on October 6, 2025, resulting in the selection of two finalists including In House Media (Demarcus McGaughey) and Ariel Davis, and alternate Timothy Harding. Per the new outline, originally selected artist Julie Lazarus joined McGaughey and Davis as an automatic third finalist.
- Artists were placed under Conceptual Proposals Agreements prior to the Finalist Orientation on December 15 and 16, 2025.
- The Artist Selection Panel # 2 meeting occurred on February 25, 2026, resulting in the recommendation of In House Media (Demarcus McGaughey), and alternate artist Ariel Davis, based on their conceptual proposals.

SELECTION SUMMARY

Each artist was given up to thirty minutes to discuss their past work and present their Conceptual Design Proposal, addressing their approach to the project goals. Following the conclusion of all artists’ presentations, Panelists agreed that Demarcus McGaughey’s design was very strong and would resonate with both community members and firefighters alike. They felt his design would be identifiable, approachable, and inclusive on a personal level given the design’s planned participatory element. Further, his use of a quilt motif to archive, preserve, and figuratively “wrap someone in love” resonated with all the panelists.

Panelists were intrigued by Ariel Davis’s design, though it was more conceptual and therefore less visually connected to the fire department. Julie Lazarus’s proposal, though colorful and large in scale, left panelists concerned the concept would be illegible to many viewers.

The panel voted by email ballot with the following outcome:

<u>Ballot #1 Results:</u>	<u>Votes</u>
1. Demarcus McGaughey	7
2. Ariel Davis	0
3. Julie Lazarus	0

<u>Ballot #2 (Alternate) Results:</u>	<u>Votes</u>
1. Ariel Davis	6
2. Julie Lazarus	1

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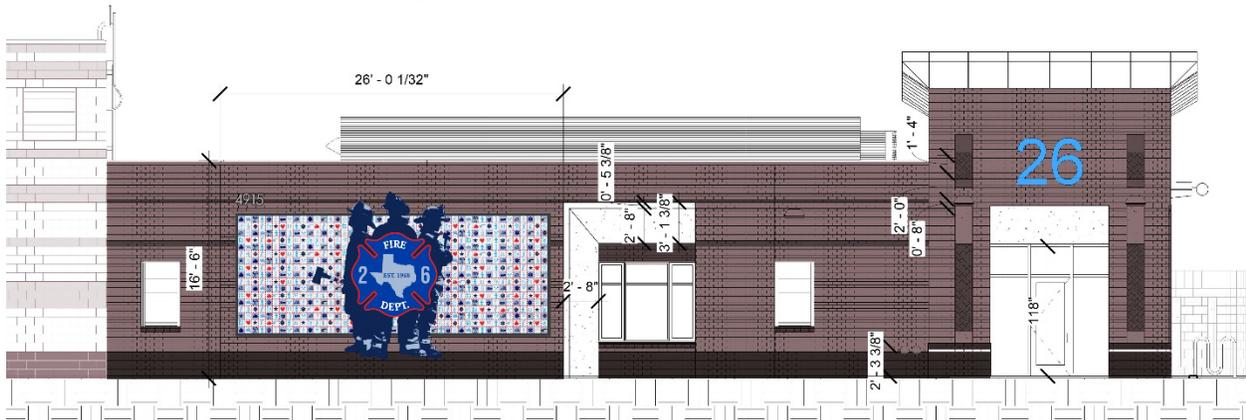
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Recommended Artist: Demarcus McGaughey, In House Media



Quilting is a practice of care, preservation, and shared history; these creations are often passed down from generation to generation, preserving stories. *Stitched In Service* utilizes this historic medium to create civic unity while conceptually “wrapping” Fire Station #26 protectively. Twelve artist-designed icons will populate the quilt, to be completed by community members and “stitched” together, a symbol of the connection between firefighters and the community they serve. Centered in the quilt are three firefighters, representative of the three Cs of Ventilation (communication, coordination and control), along with a Maltese Cross. The design is intended to celebrate connection and create a vibrant, inclusive artwork.

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that this Notice of Meeting was posted on the City of Fort Worth official bulletin board, places convenient and readily accessible to the general public at all times and said Notice was stamped on the following date and time Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 10:30 A.M. and remained so posted continuously for at least 3 business days preceding the scheduled date of said meeting.

Jannet S. Roscoe
City Secretary for the City of Fort Worth, Texas

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Alternate Artist: Ariel Davis



The Best in Me is a conceptual design that honors the shared values connecting firefighters and the broader Fort Worth community. The work creates an atmosphere that reflects resolve, integrity, and the commitment to bring forward one's best self in moments of urgency and in everyday life. The design draws inspiration from iconic imagery of silhouetted firefighters emerging from steam and smoke, replacing the figure with aspirational words from the widely known Fireman's Prayer, "the best in me." The work is intended to create a space where the viewer sees themselves reflected in the message. Lastly, the ladder serves as a grounding motif, providing both symbolic meaning and visual rhythm.

MEETING DATE: March 16, 2026 **AGENDA ITEM:** V.b
PROJECT NAME: Riverside Park
ACTION: Approve Revised Final Design by Ball-Nogues Design Studio for Riverside Park, 501 Oakhurst Scenic Drive, 76111 (Council District 11, Commissioner Adler)

Riverside Park Public Art Project

- On July 17, 2023, the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) approved the Final Design for the artwork.
- On March 26, 2025, Ball-Nogues Design Studio entered a Commission Agreement (CSC No. 63020)
- On February 16, 2026, Staff updated FWAC on modest design changes

Final Design Summary

The Riverside Park project honors the agricultural heritage of the area and highlights the remaining grove of pecan trees with a grand-scaled artwork visible throughout the entire park and to drivers on Oakhurst Scenic Drive. The artwork, entitled “The Secret Language of Trees” by Ball-Nogues Studio, acknowledges the trees in the park by making an abstract representation of their root systems. Where roots fan out below the existing concrete path, a multi-hued radial pattern, suggestive of roots, will be applied in a durable coating. The artists’ aim is to call upon the cultural and natural histories of the Trinity River site; however, the artwork will also delight the eyes with color and patterns that can be appreciated by all people regardless of their historical knowledge.

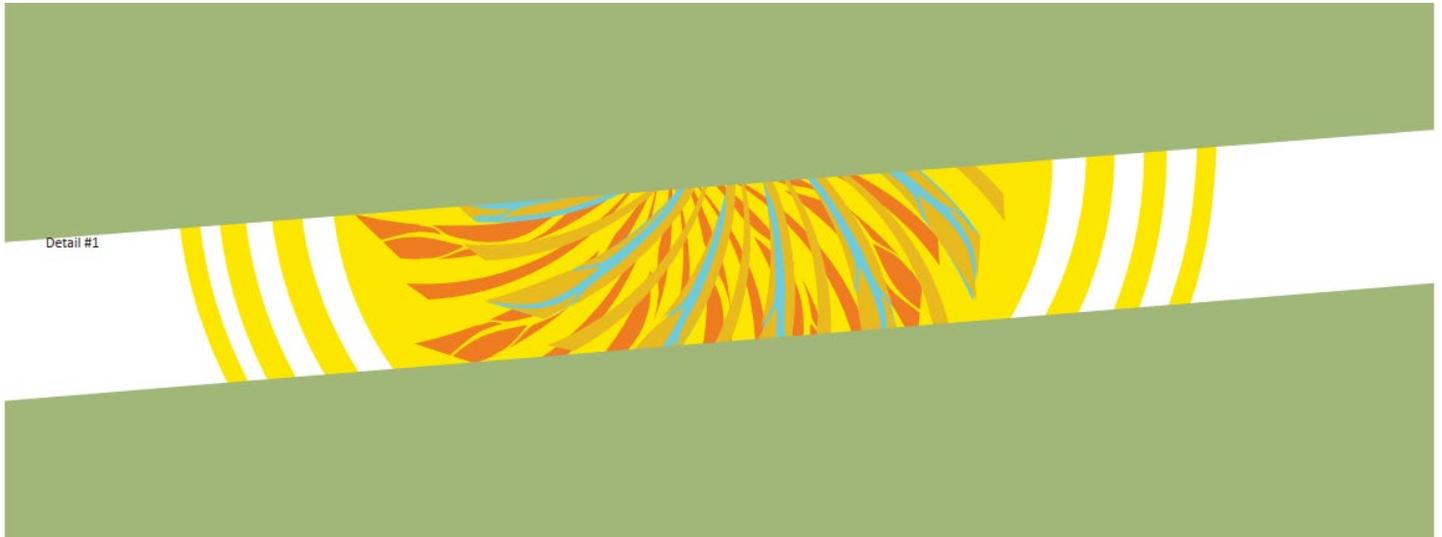
Original Approved Final Design (Detail): The artwork commission contract was based on the approved final design, with the understanding that some design modifications might be required as the artist team tested application at full-scale, creating templates and testing approaches to stenciling with the coating material.



Modified Final Design presented to FWAC on February 16, 2026 (Detail): During tests of the coating, it was determined that a primer is needed for the best adhesion, and that a solid covering of primer rather than an open-pattern stenciled application was more efficient. As such, Ball-Nogues slightly revised the patterning to allow for a solid application of

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primer beneath the stenciled topcoat. This revised design still reflected a root pattern and was in keeping with the approved design, thus not requiring FWAC approval.



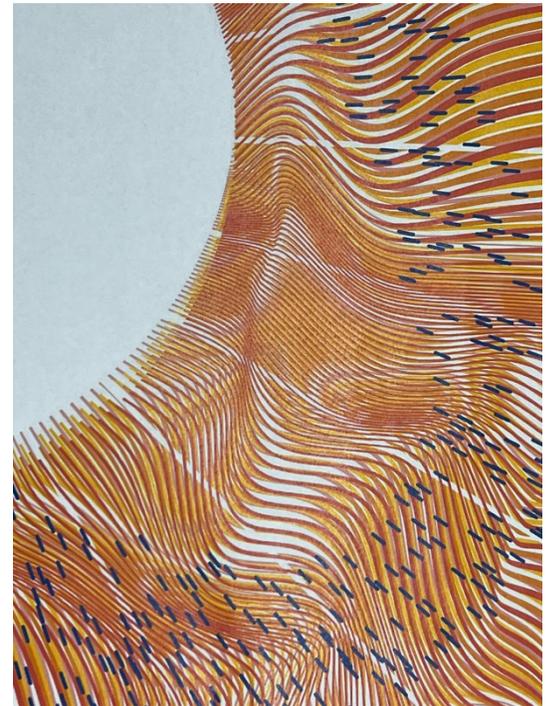
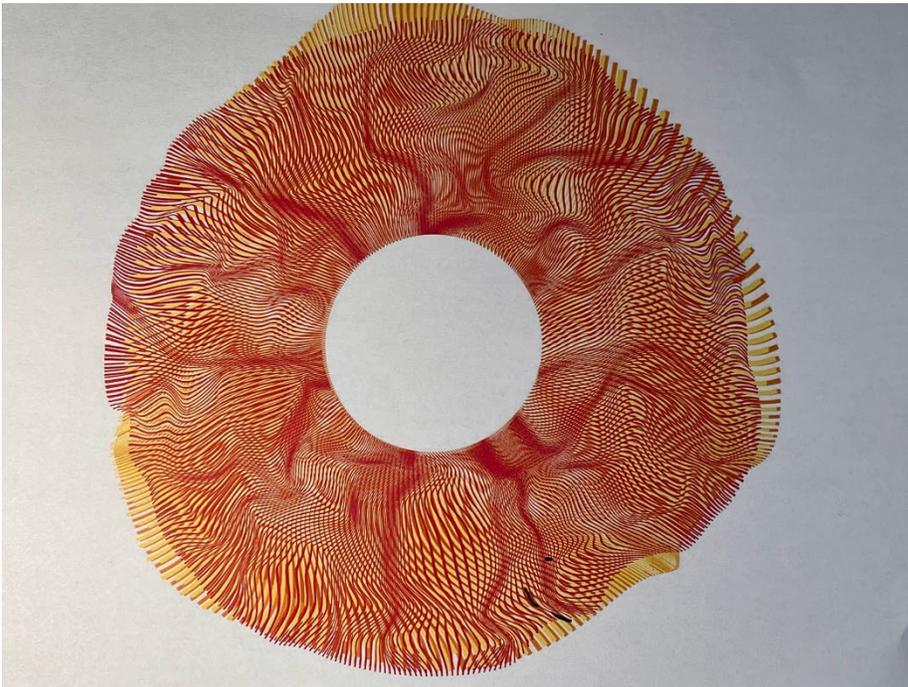
Revised Final Design being presented to FWAC on March 16, 2026

(Detail): In further testing of the modified design, Ball-Nogues Studio was unhappy with the “caricatured” nature of the original approved design. This was due to the elements at full scale appearing circus-like and overly literal. The artists felt the original and modified designs looked good in renderings and supported the concept of tree roots but were clunky at actual size when created in the studio.

As such, the artist team revised the shapes in the design to feel more intricate, detailed, and biological. They scaled the elements for appreciation close-up by the viewer. The shapes are now more sophisticated, adding elements that suggest the unseen, energetic connections between trees.



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Next Steps:

Upon Art Commission approval of the Revised Final Design, Ball-Nogues Studio will continue to fabricate templates for application and install the artwork in spring of 2026.