

MEETING DATE: April 20, 2026 **AGENDA ITEM:** V.a.

PROJECT NAME: MLK JR. COMMUNITY AND AQUATICS CENTER

ACTION ITEM: a. Approve Artist Selection Panel’s Recommendation of artist team Kelsha Reese and Brian Dickson Jr. and alternate artist Agustina Rodriguez for MLK Jr. Community and Aquatic Center, to be located at Avenue G and Liberty Street, 76112, (Council District 5, Commissioner Turner)

MLK Jr. Community and Aquatic Center Public Art Project



MLK Jr. Community Center Replacement and Aquatics Center | Public Art



BACKGROUND

- Artist Selection Panel meet for the first time December 10, 2025, and reviewed the qualifications of 9 artists from the Emerging and Prequalified Artists Lists and chose to move forward with 5 artists plus 3 additional artists from the community at the suggestion of the Project Core Team
- Artist Selection Panel meet for the second time on February 11, 2026, and reviewed the qualifications of the 5 artists from the Emerging and Prequalified Artists Lists and the 3 artists from the community (two of whom chose to work as a team), and recommended Karen Anderson, artist team of Kelsha Reese and Brian Dickson Jr., and Agustina Rodriguez as finalists and Roberto Delgado as alternate
- On March 6, 2026, the Artist Finalists and Project Core Team members, Councilmember Peoples, stakeholders, City design consultants and City staff met to provide an orientation on the project and answer artists’ questions
- On March 26, 2026, the Artist Selection Panel met for a final time and interviewed the three artist finalists, who each made presentations of their work and qualifications (in alphabetical order); Karen Anderson, artist team of Kelsha Reese and Brian Dickson Jr., and Agustina Rodriguez.

ARTIST SELECTION PANEL *(Voting)*

1. Council Member Deborah Peoples, District 5, or designee
2. Dante Williams, Elected Project Core Team Member
3. Denise Turner, Fort Worth Art Commissioner

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4. Sedrick Huckaby, Artist or Arts Professional
5. Shreya Patel, Harrison Kornberg, Architectural Consultants

ADVISORS (Non-voting)

1. Celina Vasquez, District 5, Director
2. Robert Bauge, Project Manager, Park and Recreation Department (PARC), City of Fort Worth *
3. Monique Hill, City of Fort Worth
4. Delana Jones, District Superintendent
5. Nikita Watts, Property Management, City of Fort Worth*
6. Other Project Core Team Members
7. Others, as may be appropriate

PROJECT CORE TEAM

- Jonathan Morrison (Community Advocate) (elected Alternate Voting Core Team member)*
- Dr. Gwen Morrison (Community Advocate*)
- Sharon Armstrong (Community Advocate)*
- Melinda Hamilton – Park Advisory Board Member, CD 5
- Dante Williams (Community Frontline) (elected Voting Core Team member)
- Rev. Bruce Datcher (Community Advocate)*
- Jerome Johnson (Community Advocate)*

* Unable to attend Artist Selection Panel on March 26, 2026

After all artists had completed their presentations and left the meeting, Facilitator Anne Allen invited each participant to share which artist they thought was the best fit for the project. Voting panelists, Core Team members and Advisors were each invited to offer their comments, and everyone participated in the discussion. The first round of voting by email ballot yielded a tie between finalists Agustina Rodriguez and the team of Kelsha Reese and Brian Dickson Jr.

After further discussion, a second email ballot was circulated and the vote yielded the team of Kelsha Reese and Brian Dickson Jr. as recommended artist and Agustina Rodriguez as alternate artist.

Participants agreed that all three finalists were very strong and any of them would commit to delivering a great project, giving it their very best effort. The panel liked that Reese and Dickson are rooted in the community and could bring a truly unique perspective to the project. All three artists were admired for their strong community engagement processes and experience. The panel noted similar strengths in the work of team Reese/Dickson and Anderson in their bold graphics and use of color and figuration. The panel admired how Rodriguez’s work thoughtfully uses color and material as metaphor.

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Ballot #1

- 1. Karen Anderson 1
- 2. Kelsha Reese & Brian Dickson Jr. 2
- 3. Agustina Rodriguez 2

Ballot #2

- 1. Kelsha Reese & Brian Dickson Jr. 3
- 2. Agustina Rodriguez 2

Results: Kelsha Reese and Brian Dickson Jr. as recommended artist and Agustina Rodriguez as alternate artist

Recommended Artist Team Kelsha Reese and Brian Dickson Jr.

THE NEW HEIGHTS MURAL

The process of creating a collaborative mural for New Heights Academy

When collaborating on the New Heights Mural, Brian and Kelsha worked closely with the employees and students at the school, developing authentic relationships built on trust, care, and collaboration. They recognized that highlighting the community was deeply important to those who use the space, as well as to the school’s stakeholders. Through multiple meetings and check-ins with the principal and other community members, they created a design mockup, gathered feedback, and refined it to ensure that the final mural embodied the vision of the New Heights community and honored the legacy of strong educational leaders in Stop Six.

PHOTO: KELSHA AND BRIAN ON SIGHT AT NEW HEIGHTS ACADEMY WORKING ON THE SCHOOL MURAL. (2024)

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Alternate Agustina Rodriguez

MLK Jr. Community and Aquatics Center • Everwhen

Community Engagement



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project	location	date	image
Everwhen	Austin TX	2021	3 of 20

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MEETING DATE: APRIL 20, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: VI.a.

PROJECT NAME: OAK GROVE PARK

ACTION ITEM:

Approve Jessica Bell’s Final Design for Oak Grove Park, to be located near the intersection of Everman Parkway and Michael Drive, 76140 (Council District 8; Commissioner Newburn)

PROJECT SUMMARY

- Jessica Bell’s Preliminary Design was approved by the Fort Worth Art Commission on October 20, 2025.
- Jessica Bell entered the Final Design addendum on November 18, 2025 (CSC #63392-AD1)
- The Park and Recreation Department completed a safety review on April 7, 2026.

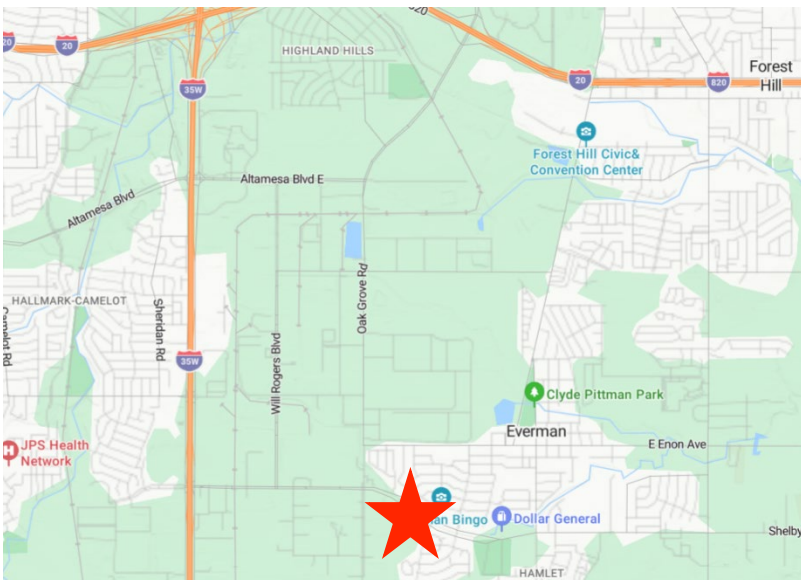
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed the Final Design Deliverables and recommends approval of the Final Design. The public art project manager (listed below) is available to answer questions prior to and during the meeting.

NEXT STEPS

Upon the Art Commission’s approval of the Final Design, the design will be presented to City Council for authorization of commission.

SITE MAPS



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FINAL DESIGN PREVIEW



The Final Design for Oak Grove Park creates a whimsical, interactive experience for park goers with a series of five (5) sculptures. Inspired by nature, the stylized art forms will be hand-cut to give them a unique “drawn” quality. Standing up to sixteen feet (16’) in height, the sculptures’ reach will add verticality to the majority prairieland park. They will be rich shades of green, pink, coral and yellow. Utilizing paint and translucent acrylic, sunlight will cast vibrant, ever-changing colors and shadows that playfully overlap on the unstained concrete below.

The sculptural series will be arranged in distinct groupings to form three (3) “islands” which are connected by an organic, ADA accessible pathway that mimics the park’s curved design. The artist intentionally offers one entry and exit point, inviting viewers to slow down and observe the work and the nature that surrounds them. The experiential artwork is expected to be sited in proximity to the parking lot, between the playground and pavilion planned for the park, offering an amenity that moves at a different pace.

The artist will share further details during the Final Design presentation at the Fort Worth Art Commission meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026.

MEETING DATE:	APRIL 20, 2026	AGENDA ITEM: VI. b.
PROJECT NAME:	CHAPEL CREEK CORRIDOR	
DISCUSSION:	Approve Brenda Ciardiello and SV Randal's Final Design for Chapel Creek Corridor, in George Markos Park, 400 Academy Blvd, 76108 (Council District, former Commissioner Contreras)	

Chapel Creek Corridor Public Art Project

Background

- On February 2, 2023, the artists met with the Project Core Team for input prior to beginning design work
- Due to underground utilities making footings problematic, the artists developed a design utilizing the existing streetlight poles in the median along Chapel Creek, as preliminary engineer testing of three poles indicated they were viable supports
- On November 13, 2023, the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) approved the Preliminary Design
- After approval of Preliminary Design, the artists subcontracted an engineer to test all streetlight poles identified as artwork supports and learned they lacked sufficient structural integrity to support the artwork designs
- Artists subsequently identified adjacent George Markos Park as an alternative location for siting the artwork, and coordinated with Parks Department staff to site the artwork elements adjacent to existing paved paths, avoiding utilities and meeting requirements for use of the Bond funding associated with Chapel Creek Boulevard
- On November 17, 2025, the artist team provided an update on the project design and new location to the FWAC

Final Design

Ciardiello and Randall's goal is to create engaging and beautiful pieces of sculptural artwork to captivate the interest of the Chapel Creek area residents and users of George Markos Park. They conceptualized the artwork based on two main perspectives:

1. The feedback and values shared by the Project Core Team, which included an interest in the area as part of the North Texas prairie, along with other natural elements such as the beauty of the skies, storms, sunset, and native plants in the area.
2. The artists' own interdisciplinary practices and interests. Ciardiello's work is engaged in depicting native plants to explore the concept of what "home" is. Randal's work responds to the environment and explores the beauty of daily structures and patterns.

The artist team's final designs combine three important natural elements of the area suggested by residents: native flora, dramatic skies, and remarkable storms. Designed to be engaging and viewed from multiple angles, the unique sculptures exist in a playful space between abstraction and representation.

The artists will fabricate and install up to ten unique sculptures (the artwork) within the available budget. Sculptures will be ten feet off the ground on slim steel poles, fabricated in aluminum and painted with automotive paint to achieve a watercolor-like effect. Each will have an 18" diameter circular footing that will also act as a buffer for mowers. The artists have selected Ion Art, Austin, Texas, for fabrication and installation. The sculptures will be sprinkled at the western end of the park closest to the roadway and adjacent to the existing paved park pathways.

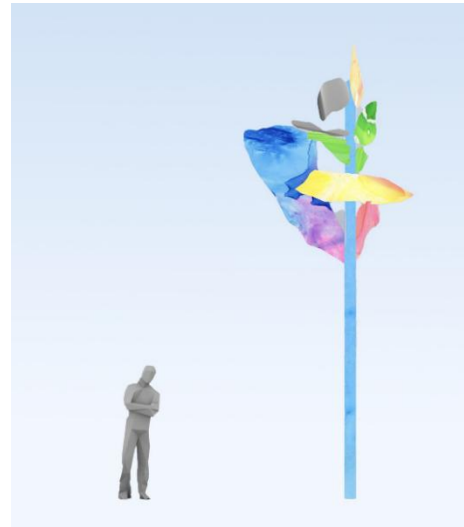
The artists are presenting their ten sculpture designs with detailed engineering for the three most complex designs, for approval at the April 20, 2026, FWAC meeting.

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Final Design Preview



Next Steps:

Staff recommend approval of Final Design. Upon Art Commission approval of Final Design an M&C will be taken to City Council to authorize entering into a Commission Contract. The artist team will have their fabricator complete engineering for the final seven sculptures and then fabricate and install all ten sculptures in coordination with the City’s Park and Recreation Department.

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, April 14, 2026 at 10:45 A.M.** and remained so posted continuously for at least 3 business days preceding the scheduled date of said meeting.

Jannett S. Hoover
 City Secretary for the City of Fort Worth, Texas