

LOCKE STREET MARKER PUBLIC ART PROJECT



JURY REPORT

October 04, 2022

BACKGROUND

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the citizen jury that met on the evening of Monday October 3, 2022 to determine which of the four short-listed artists' proposals would be selected by the City of Hamilton for commission. Submissions were reviewed for meeting technical requirements, their artistic excellence, and their response to the community's goal and themes for the work. The citizen jury carefully considered public feedback, solicited through a survey, against all these criteria.

The goal of the piece was that;

“The Public Art work should be a landmark in keeping with Locke Street’s pedestrian character and celebrating the neighbourhood’s collaborative and welcoming spirit.”

Artists' proposals were also asked to address at least one of the following themes:

- Reflect and enhance the neighbourhood spirit of local collaboration
- Encourage discovery and interactivity for all ages
- Celebrate the unique natural topography and escarpment green space

AWARD

After discussing the various aspects of the short-listed proposals the jury gave the highest overall score to the proposal **Haven** by **Kyle Thornley**. The commission for the work will therefore be awarded to Kyle Thornley.

JURY COMMENTS

The jury members applauded the efforts of all 22 Artists who made submissions to the competition. There were many excellent proposals. The jury extended thanks to all the Artists who shared their ideas by submitting to this competition, especially the four short-listed Artists whose proposals were presented for public comment. Jury members noted

that the four short-listed proposals made the process very competitive and that it was a difficult decision to select the winning proposal. All Artists are commended for their hard work and courage in submitting to the Call for Artists.

The jury also shared their appreciation for all 524 people who took the time to review the short-listed submissions, select their preferred proposal and provide comments. There were more than 40 pages of comments which helped to inform the jury's decision. Moreover, the public consultation offered important insight into public reaction to all of the proposals. While there was enthusiastic support for each of the four proposals, the prevailing preference was for 'Haven'. The many perceptive comments in support of this proposal supported the jury in making their decision to award this proposal the highest score.

Jury comments on each proposal are as follows:

Haven, Artist: Kyle Thornley

The jury felt that Haven had the strongest connection to the goals and themes of the Call, and most reflected the Locke Street community. Haven was praised for having a strong presence, with an impressive 12' height, a colourful presentation along with striking visual interest from both far away (tree) and up close (individual butterflies). The Artist proposed that the butterflies have the potential of growing along the streetscape by being installed on local businesses, an idea which was embraced by the jury and could be further initiated by the community in the future outside of the scope of the Public Art project. As well as jury member support, public consultation included many favourable comments to recommend award of the public art call to Haven, by Kyle Thornley. Jury members commented that "Haven always stood out as a front runner conceptually. The Artist portfolio suggests high quality. The concept ties to Locke St. escarpment and history and the public seems to share this opinion."

All Ears, Artist: David Constantino Salazar X STEPS

The jury praised All Ears by Artist David Constantino Salazar as a playful and whimsical art work showing impressive artistic skill. Jury members enjoyed the initial presentation of the work as two distinct art works flanking the street and, although budget would not allow for the installation of two art works, felt that the submission would be best realized as bookends on the streetscape rather than one distinct piece. Jury members felt that the work may not have staying power in the long term with a lack of clear meaning for the community. The work was praised for its ability to provoke curiosity and discovery for all ages, with playfulness being stated as a strong positive aspect of the work.

Hear Here, Artist: Tony Viera

The jury appreciated the proposal Hear Here, by Artist Tony Viera for its intention towards interactivity. While the concept of reflecting the sounds of the community was appreciated, jury members felt that the location of the proposed work was too far away from the central bustle of the community to fully reflect the sounds of Locke Street. The well thought out fabrication plan was praised by jury members as showing a great effort. The jury felt that the work reflected other completed public art pieces and may not be as unique. The work reflected the fun of a playground. The strong concept description of the Artist was

celebrated by the jury, with one member remarking that the concept had a feeling of a “New Orleans Jazz band going down the street”. Public comments praised the potential of the art work to promote listening in the community which was also celebrated by jury members.

Bearing Sharing, Artists: C. Wells X Cobalt Connects

The jury felt that Bearing Sharing by Artist C. Wells was a very thoughtful, clever, smart and educational proposal. While being extremely tied to the location, as physically representing the coordinates of Locke Street, the concept did not reflect the community spirit from an emotional stand point as well as some of the other submissions. The work was praised for its function, with its ability to provide seating for the streetscape.

THE JURY

Rose Senat *	Local Resident
Gordon Leverton*	Local Artist
John Terpstra	Local Author
Jennifer Fraser	Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association
Mario Patitucci	Local Landscape Architect – Adesso Design Inc.
Monika Ciolek	Arts Advisory Commission
Robyn Allan	Locke Street BIA
Sherry Phillips	Local Conservator

*Partial attendance – Stage One in person jury only

Jury Facilitation:

Jeff Erbach, City of Hamilton, Manager, Placemaking, Public Art & Projects (Facilitator)
Meredith Plant, City of Hamilton, Sr. Landscape Architect, Placemaking, Public Art & Projects
Lauren Anastasi, City of Hamilton, Administrative Secretary, Placemaking, Public Art and Projects