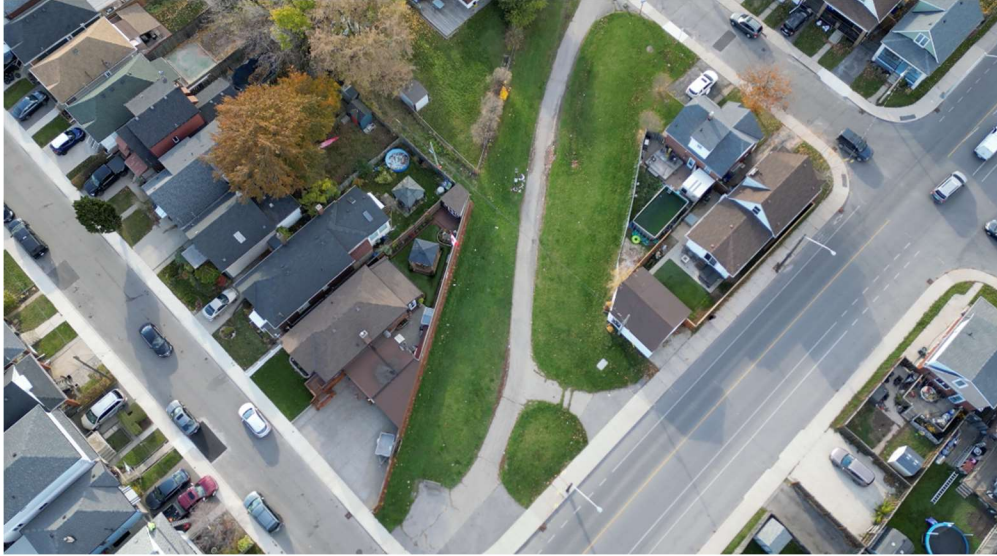


PIPELINE TRAIL PUBLIC ART PROJECT



SELECTION PANEL REPORT

July 17, 2024

BACKGROUND

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the Selection Panel – composed of professional artists and community members - which met on the afternoon of July 17, 2024. The Selection Panel met to determine which of the four short-listed artist/artist teams' proposals for a permanent public artwork would be selected by the City of Hamilton for commission to be installed south of Cannon Street East between Crosthwaite and Garside Avenue North, in the grass area just south of the Pipeline Trail multi-use path. Submissions were reviewed for their response to competition goals, artistic excellence and technical requirements. The Selection Panel carefully considered public feedback, solicited through a survey on the City's Engage platform, against the above-mentioned criteria.

Project Goal:

That the proposed public artwork(s) reflect the history and significance of the Pipeline Trail. It should contribute to an urban trail that reflects the spirit, history, and nature of the community where it resides. Additionally, the proposed public artwork(s) should invite visitors into the Pipeline Trail, create a strong sense of place and celebrate and express the Pipeline Trail as a community resource. The artwork(s) should be functional in nature and must serve one or all of the following purposes: seating, shade, wayfinding.

Project Themes:

The City of Hamilton, in consultation with the community through the Pipeline Trail Master Plan, identified the themes of **water innovation** and **infrastructure** for this public artwork.

AWARD

After discussing each of the four short-listed proposals, the Selection Panel gave the highest overall score to the proposal **“A Shared Trail” by Brandon Vickerd**. The commission for the work will therefore be awarded to Brandon Vickerd.

SELECTION PANEL COMMENTS

The Selection Panel members applauded the efforts of all 91 artists/artist teams who made submissions to the competition. There were many excellent expressions of interest from across Canada and North America. The Selection Panel extend thanks to all the artists who shared their work and reflections by submitting to this competition, especially the four short-listed artists/artist teams whose proposals were presented for public comment. All artists are commended for their hard work and vision in submitting to the Call for Artists.

The Selection Panel also shared their appreciation for the 81 people who – through public consultation – took the time to review the short-listed submissions and selected their preferred proposal and provided comments. These comments helped to inform the Panel’s decision by providing insights that were incorporated into the deliberation.

Selection Panel comments on each proposal are as follows:

“A Shared Trail” by Brandon Vickerd - SUCCESSFUL

The Selection Panel felt this proposal struck a good balance between art and design, describing the design as simple, elegant, and striking. They noted that the seating and wayfinding dimensions successfully met the functional nature of the call. Additionally, they appreciated that the proposal activates several areas on the site. The Panel felt that there was something enduring and endearing about the animal figures that are familiar to this neighbourhood that would strike a chord with residents. The animals’ size is relatable on a human scale and evoke feelings of empathy. The artwork offers a poignant opportunity for reflection about our responsibility to the natural environment and the wildlife that inhabit urban spaces. Moreover, the animal figures brought a fun and whimsical quality to the work. The Selection Panel strongly appreciated the naturalistic aspect of the bronze sculpture that feature in Vickerd’s proposal, as it shows

the hand of the artist, noting the enormous amount of labour and skill required for working in this medium. A strong connection of this medium to Hamilton's robust history of industry and metal foundries was also noted. The Panel appreciated Vickerd's incorporation of the pipe motif as part of the benches, echoing the pipeline in a subtle and integrated way.

“B Cubed” by Jill Anholt

The Selection Panel envisioned the proposed artwork being visible from a distance and providing a needed wayfinding feature. The Panel applauded the research that went into this proposal and appreciated how well thought out it was. They responded favourably to the way this proposal represented nature and praised the incorporation of a native plant garden – finding it to be an interesting and thematic way of adding value to the trail. The native plants would be useful to the wildlife that live along the corridor, as well supporting local bees, which is much needed. The Panel had some concerns about the sustainability of the native plant garden over time and the maintenance that would be required.

The Panel thought that the artwork brought a whimsical element that would appeal to families and children. However, some Panel members were concerned that the design verged on too simple and lacked complexity. They felt that the work is very design-oriented, which some Panel members appreciated, while others expressed was not ideal for the project. Additionally, while the Panel responded favourably to the idea of a continuous tube, they would have liked to have seen that form incorporate more functional elements like seating or a play structure. They felt that the work provided an opportunity for contemplation but lacked a strong interactive element. Ultimately, they felt the proposed sculpture would be better suited to another site, such as a plaza.

“Water Ways” by Germaine Koh

The Selection Panel appreciated the strong conceptual development of this proposal and the research that went into it. They saw a powerful narrative element in the circular concept of water (capturing water, sustaining the incorporated tree, which provides shade). This was echoed in the circular seating. The Panel appreciated that the proposal highlighted the idea of the resources of water and land, and praised the way the artwork showed how trees contribute to the landscape and the poetic gesture the work made in reference to water filtration. Additionally, they noted that trees are more resilient and require less maintenance than other plants.

The Panel questioned whether concrete and industrial materials would enhance this urban site which already has an abundance of concrete. Some felt the design read more as landscape architecture than public art. Additionally there were concerns about

the possibility of the concrete inviting graffiti, which is quite common in the area. While the Panel found the proposal to be well researched and skilfully addressed the site history, they ultimately felt that the materials and design were not the right fit for this project.

“Cascadia” by Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins

The Selection Panel members praised the elegant, well resolved design of this proposal, which married the themes of pipeline and water well, in a way that is immediately clear to the viewer. The proposed work was found to have a strong presence and to be pleasing to the eye. It brought elements of sophistication and was design-focused while also having a poetic quality. The Panel responded favourably to the themes of water and the metaphor of a fountain. They appreciated the image it conjured of a flow of water, a wellspring, and a life source. The Panel found the written proposal and concept inspiring, but some Panel members found that this didn't fully translate into the finished visual design.

From a functional standpoint, the Panel anticipated that the work would provide much needed seating, shade, and shelter to trail users. Additionally, the proposal would be accessible to a variety of users. However, the Panel felt that the design had some practical drawbacks, including providing trap points for garbage and insects. While some Panel members appreciated the way the proposal suggested a private space within a public space, others expressed concern that the work posed possible safety issues given the enclosed nature of the design (hiding the user from view).

THE SELECTION PANEL

Eduardo Aquino	Public Artist and Architect (National)
Brenda Jacobs	Cultural Capacity Trainer, Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
Derek Jenkins	Executive Director, Hamilton Artist Inc; Multidisciplinary Artist
Bryce Kanbara	Visual Artist and Curator/Proprietor of You Me Gallery
Briana Palmer	Associate Professor - Studio Arts, McMaster University; Print Media, Sculpture and Installation Artist

Advisors to the Jury:

Collin Zipp	Public Art Manager, STEPS Public Art
Peter Fortune	Manager, Placemaking Public Art and Projects, City of Hamilton
Jen Anisef	Cultural Projects Specialist, City of Hamilton
Margo Smith	Public Art Project Associate, STEPS Public Art