GORE PARK BEACONS PUBLIC ART PROJECT

JURY REPORT

April 10, 2017

BACKGROUND

This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the volunteer citizen jury which met at the Lister Building on Wednesday March 29, 2017. The Jury reviewed the three short-listed artist proposals to determine which artist should be awarded the commission to provide art work to be installed by the City in the 2 new nine metre tall Gore Park beacon features. Jury members evaluated the proposals for artistic excellence, response to competition goals and context, appropriateness for the site and technical issues based on their review of the submission information and review of over 280 public comments.

Artists were asked to address the following vision and themes.

“The Gore is an urban oasis at the City’s crossroads. People gather to share their heritage, participate in leisure and entertainment, and enjoy diverse shopping and dining. It is a cultural gem and a safe, inviting and accessible public destination where people meet before moving on, or stay to interact. “Meet me at the Gore” can be heard throughout the City as people make their daily plans.”

Themes:
History and Heritage
Recognize and reflect the rich and unique history of the area

Inclusiveness and Community
The work should express a sense of community, be accessible to people of all ages, recognize the pedestrian focus of the area and encourage gathering.

AWARD

After discussing the various aspects of the short-listed proposals and the competition requirements, the jury assigned the highest score to the proposal by artist Dave Kuruc entitled “Music City Markers”. The commission for the work will therefore be awarded to Dave Kuruc.
JURY COMMENTS

The jury noted that each of three short-listed artists provided very different but equally excellent responses to the project vision and themes. This made the selection of the winning proposal very difficult and meant that they had to work hard together and in some cases compromise their initial thoughts to arrive at a collective decision.

In the case of those artists that were not short-listed the jury recognized that for many this was the first time they had made a submission to a public art call and wanted to congratulate them on their efforts. Many proposals demonstrated a great deal of skill but their proposals did not provide as complex a response to the project vision and themes as the short-listed proposals.

Dave Kuruc:

The jury felt that Dave Kuruc’s proposal addressed all of the major ideas of the vision and themes for the project in a very effective but unusual way. It proposed a unique connection to the Hamilton community through the stories of its musicians. It will be a bright and colourful graphic landmark in the park recalling the posters that are part of any vibrant urban place. The work is also a type of poetry asking the viewer to contemplate the words and phrases in context of their own thoughts and that of the park setting. The jury did recognize that for those new to the English language there may be a barrier to access some aspects of the work but noted that the work was accessible on several different levels and could also work as a kind of tool to access some very interesting and meaning stories about Hamilton.

Paul Elia:

The Jury noted that Paul Elia’s proposal was the best executed and expressed the unique architectural culture of the city very well. However some members of the jury noted that the selection of works presented, while very effective in showing the architecture, did not illustrate a sense of community or gathering as well as the other proposals.

Jihee Min:

The Jury felt that Jihee Min’s proposal best expressed the more universal themes of the gathering and community. However they felt that the work did not have as strong a connection to Hamilton as the other proposals.
THE JURY

Kerry Jarvi  Executive Director Downtown Hamilton BIA
Tyler Cowie  Downtown Business Owner, Graphic Designer
Alissa Denham-Robinson  Architectural Consultant, Gore Park Master Plan Public Stakeholder Committee Member, Chair- Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee
Ray Rivers  Arts Advisory Commission
Laura Marotta  Artist

Advisors to the Jury:
Meghan Stewart  City of Hamilton Landscape Architect
Ken Coit (Facilitator)  City of Hamilton Manager of Public Art and Projects, Tourism and Culture