



CITY OF  
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## City of Palo Alto Staff Report to Public Art Commission

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**January 11, 2018**

### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Public Art Commission re-allocate the \$10,000 in funds earmarked under the Public Art Master Plan Social Practice Artist Engagement line to support a social practice artist to engage the public and help inform the Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan public art elements.

### **Discussion:**

The Public Art Master Plan identified the creation of a public art plan for the Embarcadero corridor east of the 101 as a short term priority (1-2 years after adoption). Shortly after the approval of the Public Art Master Plan, Public Art staff became aware of an upcoming opportunity through Parks & Open Space to participate in the development of the Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan (BCCP).

The BCCP is:

- A comprehensive plan for holistically managing the City of Palo Alto's 1,976.5 acre Baylands Preserve for the next 15 years and beyond;
- An ecosystem-based approach that strives to balance resource protection, environmental education, and passive and active recreational use;
- Takes future projects and current trends such as sea level rise and climate change into account;
- Includes site-specific planning aspects for the former ITT property and Byxbee Park.

Public Art staff and Parks & Open Space staff collaborated on language for the call for consultants to create the Baylands Comprehensive Conservation Plan (BCCP) to include the identification of placement and types of public art engagement that might be appropriate in the Baylands, thus preventing two separate planning initiatives engaging the Baylands stakeholders. Parks staff launched a call for consultants in 2016 to create the BCCP, and identified AECOM as the consultant for the project.

Public Art staff wishes to engage an artist or artist team to work with the community and stakeholders at the Baylands to:

- 1- Help broaden Baylands stakeholders' and the public's understanding of the definitions of public art, especially through a social practice / environmental focus.
- 2- Engage the public in a temporary artmaking process that is aligned with the programming and educational initiatives of the Baylands.

- 3- Collaborate with AECOM and City staff to gather appropriate input and feedback at these engagement events with the community to ensure that the public art element of the BCCP captures the feedback from the stakeholders and adequately explored the many options available throughout the site.

**Timeline:**

The BCCP stakeholder group has had two of their three community workshops so far. One more community workshop is planned, along with presentations of the draft and final BCCP to stakeholders and city commissions (Parks and Recreation, Public Art), and the City Council. The planning team also has set up a website to inform interested parties about the planning process and provide a venue for participating outside of community workshops.

Staff would like to reach out to local social practice artists specializing in environmentally focused projects to initiate the selection process and initiate community engagement this spring or early summer. The selected artist(s) will participate in the public outreach aspect of the BCCP. The BCCP is expected to be complete in December of 2018.