



City Council

Approval of Percival Plinth Project People's Choice Award 2015

Agenda Date: 9/22/2015
Agenda Item Number: 6.A
File Number: 15-0873

Type: decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** Passed

Title

Approval of Percival Plinth Project People's Choice Award 2015

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Move to approve the purchase of **Olympia Oyster** by Colleen R. Cotey as the 2015 People's Choice Award.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to approve the recommendation from the Arts Commission.

Report

Issue:

Voting has concluded for the 2015 Plinth Project's Peoples' Choice Award, which chooses the one sculpture among the loaned exhibition that should be purchased by the City. The City Council must approve the purchase.

Staff Contact:

Stephanie Johnson, Arts & Events Manager, Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation, 360.709.2678

Presenter(s):

Stephanie Johnson, Arts & Events Manager, Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation
Diana Fairbanks, Chair, Art in Public Places Committee, Olympia Arts Commission

Background and Analysis:

On May 26, 2015, Council approved the fifteen sculptures recommended by the Arts Commission for the fifth year-long display of loaned sculpture for the Percival Plinth Project. Associated with this exhibition is the public vote known as the Peoples' Choice Award, by which one sculpture is selected for purchase by the City. The period of voting took place from July 31 (with a public kick-off) - August 31, 2015. All loaned sculptures will be returned in spring 2016 and the popularly selected piece will be moved to City Hall for one year before being reinstalled in another Olympia location. This will leave all plinths cleared for another exhibition and competitive process.

Selected Sculpture

A total of 426 votes were received during the voting period. Of that, 278 were from Olympia proper, and 58 were from Lacey, Tumwater and Thurston County. The final 22% of the votes were received from visitors from 27 Washington cities, 11 states and 3 countries.

With 116 votes, **Olympia Oyster** by Colleen Cotey was front runner, with **Great Catch** by Marilyn Murch coming in as runner up with 57 votes, and **The Gardener** by Louise McDowell holding third with 46 votes. Comments regarding why **Olympia Oyster** appealed to voters overwhelmingly included the significance of the theme - the word "iconic" was used often. Viewers also expressed appreciation for the simplicity and elegance in the design.

An image of **Olympia Oyster** will be displayed as part of the presentation at Tuesday's Council meeting.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Public opinion was solicited through public vote.

Options:

1. Move to approve the purchase of **Olympia Oyster** by Colleen R. Cotey. This sculpture is the 2015 People's Choice Award recommendation.
2. Do not approve the People's Choice Award recommendation.

Financial Impact:

The purchase price for **Olympia Oyster** is \$2,500 and falls within the project budget (\$21,500) for sculpture honoraria, purchase and installation.