

April 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Community Economic Development Committee
From: Asha Venkataraman, Analyst
Subject: CB 120037: AIDS Memorial Pathway Easement Acceptance

On April 20, 2021, the Community Economic Development Committee will discuss and possibly vote on [Council Bill \(CB\) 120037](#). This legislation would authorize the Director of the Office of Arts and Culture (“ARTS”) to accept a license agreement to install and maintain artwork in *The AMP: the AIDS Memorial Pathway Project* (“AMP Project”). The AMP Project is part of the City’s public art program and CB 120037 would allow ARTS to install and conduct ongoing maintenance on the AMP Project artwork at the Capitol Hill Link light rail transit-oriented development. This memorandum provides background on the AMP Project and describes CB 120037.

Background

In 2015, a variety of stakeholders involved in the AIDS crisis agreed that the history of the AIDS epidemic in Seattle had not been collectively and comprehensively told, and they agreed that the city needed a legacy or memorial project with a call to civic action. The 2016 Adopted Budget included \$75,000 in [Green Sheet 54-1-A-2-2015](#) to fund an AIDS Legacy/Memorial Planning process to memorialize the historic and current efforts of activists and advocates working to end AIDS and AIDS-based discrimination in Seattle. The green sheet intended the funding as a match for funds from the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI), so that MOHAI could lead creation of a proposal to define the scope, scale, location, and timeline for the project.

In 2017, Council adopted [Resolution 31783](#) to continue the City’s support for and participation in the AIDS Legacy Memorial Project and requested that ARTS convene an interdepartmental team with City departments, project managers, developers, and the landscape architect consultant. The City partnered with the AMP Project organization in 2017. The planning stakeholders selected the northern end of Cal Anderson Park, the public plaza of the Capitol Hill Link Light Rail Station, and a connecting street block on East Denny Way for the memorial. As part of the [2018-2023 Capital Improvement Program Budget](#), the City allocated \$200,000 as part a joint effort between ARTS and Seattle Parks and Recreation to enhance the landscape area at Cal Anderson Park as a part of the AMP Project.

In 2019, [The AMP: AIDS Memorial Pathway Master Art Plan](#) laid out the vision, guiding principles, the segments of the AMP Project, and the layout and location of the public art projects. A panel of artists, community stakeholders, and City of Seattle department staff then

convened as part of the City's regular process to commission works for the public art program to choose artists to design, create, and fabricate these specific artworks for installation. On March 9, 2020, the Council passed [Ordinance 126054](#), allowing the City to accept a donation from the AMP Project organization and its fiscal sponsor, the Seattle Parks Foundation. ARTS used the funds to contract with three artists to design and install permanent artwork. The City's acceptance of the funds and execution of contracts implemented the art plan's vision and included the artwork in the City's Civic Art collection. Becoming a part of the City's Civic Art collection means that the City would take responsibility for coordinated conservation activities, which include inspections, major restorative work, and routine maintenance. ARTS and the Seattle Parks Foundation entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in March 2020 to govern how the funds that the Seattle Parks Foundation raised from donations to support maintenance would be transmitted to the City. The MOA also described how the City would handle contingencies and cost overruns. The MOA as signed in 2020 is Attachment A to this memo. Please note that the payment schedule has been updated since that time because of COVID-19 related delays.

CB 120027

This legislation would authorize the City to install and maintain two of the three artworks that are part of the AMP Project on the Capitol Hill Link Light Rail transit-oriented development:

1. "andimgonnamisseverybody" by Chris Paul Jordan; and
2. "We're Already Here" by Civilization.

CB 120027 would authorize the Director of ARTS to enter into the license agreement (as reflected in [Attachment 1](#) to the legislation) with Sound Transit (the property owner) and MEPT Capitol Hill Station Joint Venture, LLC (the property's leaseholder). The agreement would grant the City a public artwork installation license and indemnity. CB 120027 also makes clear that the responsibility for maintenance of the project lies with the Public Art Program within ARTS. The MOA previously referenced covers the costs and contingencies associated with the Public Art Program's responsibility for maintenance.

Next Steps

If the Committee recommends the legislation be passed, the City Council will likely vote on CB 120037 on Monday, April 26, 2021.

cc: Dan Eder, Interim Director
Aly Pennucci, Policy and Budget Manager