



Agenda Item #: 2

Project Title: SUBSTITUTE - Approving the initial concept design and authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute an agreement for design, fabrication, and installation between the City of Madison and (NAME) Jenie Gao to create a site-specific public art feature for the Metro Transit Maintenance Facility at 1101 E. Washington Ave.

Legistar File ID #: [74136](#)

Members Present: Cliff Goodhart, Chair; Lois Braun-Oddo, Christian Harper, Russell Knudson, Amanda Arnold, Jessica Klehr, and Shane Bernau

Prepared By: Jessica Vaughn, AICP, UDC Secretary

Summary

At its meeting of October 26, 2022, the Urban Design Commission **RETURNED TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMON COUNCIL TO ADOPT** the resolution approving Jenie Gao's initial concept design for the public art feature at the Metro Transit Maintenance Facility at 1101 E Washington Avenue. Registered in support and wishing to speak was Jenie Gao.

Karin Wolf, Planning Division, provided background information on the City's Percent for Art ordinance and the public art proposal by Jenie Gao that the Madison Arts Commission recommended for the Metro Transit Maintenance Facility.

Jenie Gao presented on her proposed artwork, *The Time is Ours*.

The Commission discussed the following:

- How might your work change with the restoration of brick and windows in the area of the saw tooth roof?
 - The restoration had previously been planned for the opposite end, so I've talked with City Engineering to shift the design far enough down that the windows can be restored.
- The design would be just as effective if it wrapped around the corner. The piece would not be complete if it didn't have all four seasons, so I hope you won't remove any seasons.
- On the west portion, it looks like the art is going from the top of the roof down to the ground, so the art isn't framed by the building like on the older historic part. It would be cool if it had a frame—are you going to look at how to put a frame around the art?
 - We're talking about possible options. One option is to add a frame along the top to provide lighting. The logistics all need to be worked out with City Engineering, so we need to have a conversation about what can be installed on the building, particularly with the renovations.
- Beautiful concept. My only concern is that it doesn't have a frame; it starts to look like a wall without a building behind it. Wondering if it would be better to show a bit of the building rather than running through the seasons, they could be more separated with a bit of the building showing. Even though the building isn't as attractive, it would be more powerful if it didn't look like one continuously running piece in front of a building. As proposed, it becomes part of the building.
- Thumbs up. Excited to see this project on a big stretch of visual blight. Initially I thought there was too much going on with how much imagery and messages are being combined and I wasn't sure if people would pick up on the imagery of the bus riders because of how much is going on. The seasonal aspect is easy to grasp. The more I've looked at it and read the proposal and interviews, I think Jenie has pulled it off. There is a lot going on,

but she's nailed it. I appreciate the interesting 2D and slight 3-dimensionality of the aluminum cutouts. I like the seasonal theme, which is a nice, non-typical portrayal of the four seasons. I have concerns about spacing and framing as others have said. The applied banner could be finessed a bit better. I would not be averse to a slight change of position. In respect to the trees, some are ash trees that might not be long for this world. I wouldn't put too much long-term emphasis on placement and spacing due to the trees. All in all, fantastic project. This stretch of E Washington Ave is shaping up, and this is a nice part of it.

Action

On a motion by Klehr, seconded by Arnold, the Urban Design Commission **RETURNED TO LEAD WITH THE RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMON COUNCIL TO ADOPT**. The motion was passed on a vote of (6-0).