



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of December 12, 2009

**DATE:** November 16, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Approve the Award of Contract for the fabrication and installation of Public Art by Doug Hollis for Long Bridge Park.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve the Award of Contract for \$400,000 to Doug Hollis and approve an allocation of \$60,000 as a contingency for change orders for a total contract authorization of \$460,000.
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute the contract documents, subject to review of such documents by the County Attorney.

**ISSUES:** The County Board is being requested to approve the Award of Contract to allow artist Doug Hollis to fabricate and install the artwork *Wave Arbor*, designed for Long Bridge Park. No issues have been identified.

**SUMMARY:** Long Bridge Park is a new recreational facility and park for Arlington County. Artist Doug Hollis was selected by a panel of specialists and stakeholders and his design was unanimously approved by the Public Art Committee and the Arlington Arts Commission. The artwork will create an easily recognized and iconic entrance to the sports facility, while delivering an aesthetically pleasing and functional work of art for visitors to the park.

**BACKGROUND:** Artist Doug Hollis was included in a list of eight artists with backgrounds tailored to the unique needs of Long Bridge Park, recommended to the County by its public art consultants, Via Partnership and Todd Bressi. In June of 2007, Doug Hollis was selected by a six-member art advisory panel of project stakeholders to join Long Bridge Park's design team to create a public art element for the newly proposed recreational facility. The selection of Doug Hollis was confirmed by the Public Art Committee on June 4, 2007, and a sole source contract was awarded for the design of public art for Long Bridge Park. The Board is now being asked to approve a sole source contract for the fabrication, transportation to the site, and installation of the public art as designed by Doug Hollis.

The panel's selection of artist Doug Hollis was based on his past experience of working on large-scale public art projects and his proven ability to create an art element, appropriate to the

County Manager: BMD

County Attorney: SJM

Staff: Welmoed Laanstra, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

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functional demands of Long Bridge Park. After consultation with the design team members, the artist proposed the artwork *Wave Arbor*, consisting of an array of kinetic, wing-like elements supported by a sinuous beam. Each element is mounted on a vertical mast with a pivot-bearing connection at the top that allows the wings to move in a slow, see saw-like, rocking motion as the wind flows past them. They will have a cushioned motion limiter. Collectively, this will produce a wave-like gesture along the trellis. *Wave Arbor* will be fabricated in two iterations, and located alongside two of the athletic fields, as an extension of the trellis, along the east side of Old Jefferson Davis Highway. *Wave Arbor* is located in the park to take advantage of its unique aesthetics, but will not interfere with play on the fields.

The wings will be made of a double skin of perforated aluminum over a structural armature. This double layer will create a dynamic moiré pattern when viewed against the sky, and project a moving field of shadows on the walkway below. The moving *Wave Arbor* elements vary in height from about 16' to 22' above the ground, allowing them to have a strong visual presence from within the park and from the adjacent highway, creating both a visual incentive for people to enter the park and a shade structure over the spectator areas. *Wave Arbor* will be engineered in such a way that it will be resilient enough to sustain the impact of random soccer balls, snowstorms and high winds.

To enhance its sustainable characteristics, an additional torque or solar component will be explored that may allow the inherent qualities of the *Wave Arbor* to create wind and /or solar energy.

Fabrication of the artwork will commence in January 2010 and will take about 16 months to complete. The realization of *Wave Arbor* will be coordinated with the overall construction of Long Bridge Park.

**DISCUSSION:** Planning for the new park and surrounding area began in the spring of 2001 and from the beginning public art was envisioned to be integrated into the park. The North Tract Task Force which consisted of staff, consultants and the community, developed "A Master Plan for the North Tract Park and Recreation Facilities and Surrounding Area" which was adopted by the County Board in February of 2004. The Task Force was then reconstituted as the North Tract Design Advisory Committee to guide the specific design work that would lead to construction documents. Public Art staff and a member of the Public Art Committee participated in the North Tract Design Advisory Committee. The design work for the overall park and the artwork was completed in 2008.

The Public Art component, called the *Wave Arbor*, designed and fabricated by artist Doug Hollis, will be a large-scale art element that is site specific to the park while integrated in the overall design of the facility and grounds. The artwork will consist of the installation of two, 22' tall, kinetic pergola elements centered along the playing fields, creating a visual incentive for people to enter the park, while providing functions like shade and orientation.

Construction and fabrication is expected to begin in early 2010 and conclude in the summer of 2011. Construction and fabrication of the *Wave Arbor* will run parallel to the construction process of the overall facilities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funding for this Art and Engineering Design Services Contract was authorized and identified from Park Bond funds and Public Art Developer funds.

The funds are available in the following account numbers,

2004 Park Bond funds for Long Bridge Park - \$310,000 - 324.80001.NTRK

Developer funds from North Tract Lofts- \$75,000 - T & A, Public Art- 799.91279.60X2

Developer funds from Monument View- \$75,000 - T & A, Public Art- 799.91279.60X5

