



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of October 15, 2011**

DATE: September 12, 2011

SUBJECT: Approval of Award of Contract to Artist Richard Deutsch for fabrication and installation of artwork for Penrose Square.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the Award of a Contract in the amount of \$425,000 to Richard Deutsch.
2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute the contract documents, after the review and approval of such documents by the County Attorney.

ISSUES: The County Board is being requested to approve the Award of a Contract to artist Richard Deutsch to fabricate and install the artwork *Echo*, designed for Penrose Square. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: Penrose Square is the first and largest of three squares that will create a system of new public spaces in the Columbia Pike Corridor. County policies, including Columbia Pike's Form-Based Code and the County's Public Art Master Plan, call for the inclusion of public art in these squares and for involving artists in design-team approaches to the development of the new squares along Columbia Pike. Artist Richard Deutsch was part of a design team contracted by the County to develop a master plan for the square, including a design for integrated public art. The artwork will help create a vibrant, public square that serves as a meeting and gathering spot in the Corridor's new urban fabric.

BACKGROUND: Richard Deutsch was the artist on the Oculus design team that Arlington County contracted with to provide design and engineering services for Penrose Square and to develop a Master Plan for the square that included a design for integrated public art. One consideration that played a role in the County's selection of the Oculus design team was Richard Deutsch's significant experience creating art for public spaces and working collaboratively as part of a design team. Richard Deutsch was approved as the artist for Penrose Square by the Arlington Arts Commission's Public Art Committee (PAC). His design for the artwork *Echo* was approved by the Public Art Committee, Arlington Arts Commission, and Penrose Square Working Group on May 13, 2008. Deutsch presented a refined design for *Echo* at the June 1, 2011, PAC meeting. The Board is now being asked to approve a sole-source contract with

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

BRC

[Signature]

28. B.

Staff: Aliza Schiff, Public Art Program Coordinator, PRCR

Richard Deutsch for the fabrication, transportation to the site, and installation of the public art he has designed for Penrose Square.

DISCUSSION: The artwork consists of two granite monoliths, placed 30' apart. Each will have a parabola carved into it; when someone speaks into one sculpture, listeners standing at the other will hear the voice clearly and can have a conversation. The artwork is inspired by the significant role that Arlington's Three Sisters Radio Towers, formerly located on the nearby Navy Annex property, played in the development of the nation's trans-Atlantic communication capabilities.

Fabrication of the artwork is expected to begin in November 2011 and will take about six months to complete and install. The installation of *Echo* will be coordinated with the overall construction of Penrose Square. Both pieces of *Echo* (2 granite monoliths) will be built as Phase 1 of Penrose Square.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this Art and Engineering Design Services Contract was authorized from the FY2011 to FY2016 CIP in the Community Conservation category and identified in the COLUMBIA PIKE INITIATIVE A REVITALIZATION PLAN-UPDATE 2005 and the Public Art Master Plan.

The funds are available in the account numbered: 313.438200.72106.PSP.0000.0000.

