

Dan Cheetham and Michelle Tarsney Selected for East Regional Library Public Art Project



Artist's Rendering of *Wildflower*

After a thorough selection process, artist team Fyooq, comprised of Dan Cheetham and Michelle Tarsney, has been chosen for the East Regional Library Public Art Project based on their proposal, *Wildflower*. Dan and Michelle have collaborated on various architectural projects and art installations for over twenty years. They share a passion for the transformation of the public realm through sculptural interventions of space, building, and public art.

The initial artist selection process also selected Fyooq for this public art project, but after multiple community presentations of the proposed artwork and some slight design modifications, community support for *Wildflower* was divided, and a consensus could not be achieved. As such, Council Member Cary Moon recommended a new artist selection process be initiated, which the Fort Worth Art Commission approved. As a result, a second artist selection process was conducted, with the *Wildflower* proposal considered as an automatic finalist in the process.

The second selection panel reviewed two additional proposals by other artists, and ultimately selected Cheetham and Tarsney based on their revised *Wildflower* proposal. Per the Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan, artist selection panels are composed of a mix of arts professionals and community members appointed by Council Member Moon. Community representatives from the Ryanwood, Woodhaven, Eastern Hills, White Lake Hills, Riverbend, Handley, and Central Meadowbrook Neighborhood and Homeowners' Associations served on the selection panel. Also involved in the process were Library Department staff, Bette Robinson with Patrons of the East Regional Library, and members of the Eastside Blossoms group, who are generously planting 15 flowering trees at the East Regional Library.



Site Plan

The selection panel's recommendation was approved by the Art Commission at their August 13th meeting.

The artwork is an abstraction of a field of wildflowers inspired by the annual bloom of brightly colored wildflowers along Texas interstate highways. Comprised of a multitude of colorful vertical elements, the artwork creates visual impact from Interstate 30 and reflects the diverse nature of the surrounding community. Taking color palette inspiration from Texas wildflowers and Crepe Myrtle species, the design features approximately ninety verticals that will be painted in various shades of pink, orange, and red.



Library visitors and pedestrians can explore the artwork up close and find quotes suggested by the community that are inscribed into some of the pieces, including a Fredrick Douglas quote that the artists feel resonates with the ideals of public libraries: "Once you learn to read, you will forever be free."

For more information please visit www.fwpublicart.org

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