



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager
Philippa Marsh, Special Projects Coordinator

Date: July 7, 2016

Subject: Approving Temporary CKC Art Proposal

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council approve Terra Holcomb as the Artist in Residence for a temporary art installation on the CKC. Images of her work may be found at www.terraholcomb.com.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Since the opening of the CKC Interim Trail in 2013, the Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission (KCAC) has encouraged art events and art activations on the corridor. This year, the Cultural Arts Commission budgeted \$1,600 of the \$8,000 grant from 4Culture (King County) to solicit an artist in residence through a RFP process to develop an ephemeral art installation for the Cross Kirkland Corridor. This type of art is temporary and takes into account environmental and community considerations.

If approved, the artwork will be constructed and installed on the CKC during the period of Sept 10 – Oct 8, 2016 and will be enjoyed on the CKC through mid-November.

The CKC coordinator and CKC service team have been involved in these efforts. Six artists applied for the residency and four finalists were selected to present their concepts to a Cultural Arts Commission committee and members of the CKC Steering Team. The artist selected by the panel is Terra Holcomb. Terra Holcomb's concept is a 10ft ephemeral tree sculpture made from the native Black Cottonwood leaves that are found along the trail (Attachment C). She plans to involve the community through the on-trail collection of the leaves and sorting and assembly of the leaves through elementary school involvement and community workshops. The installation will be sited near 116th Ave in the Highlands Forbes Creek Area. This ephemeral art installation is consistent with the recommendations of the CKC Art Integration Plan that is also being reviewed by the City Council at the July 19 Council meeting.

If the Council concurs with the panel recommendation, staff seeks a motion approving the selection of Terra Holcomb as the Artist in Residence for a CKC temporary art installation.

Terra Holcomb
Letter of intent- Kirkland Corridor Residency 2016

As a Kirkland resident and frequent walker on the Kirkland Corridor, I enthusiastically submit my proposal to create a 10' ephemeral tree sculpture made from the native Black cottonwood leaves that are found along the trail. I propose collaborating with local schools to collect, clean and sort leaves that will be attached to burlap in a mosaic pattern. This "blanket" will then be attached to a wooded sculpture that will be secured to the ground. Using an ombre effect, the top will be filled with green leaves that transition to yellows with browns at the bottom. As the season progresses, I anticipate that the leaves will change color along with it. Having worked with these beautiful, hearty, heart shaped leaves before I am confident that they are durable enough to withstand several months outside in inclement weather.

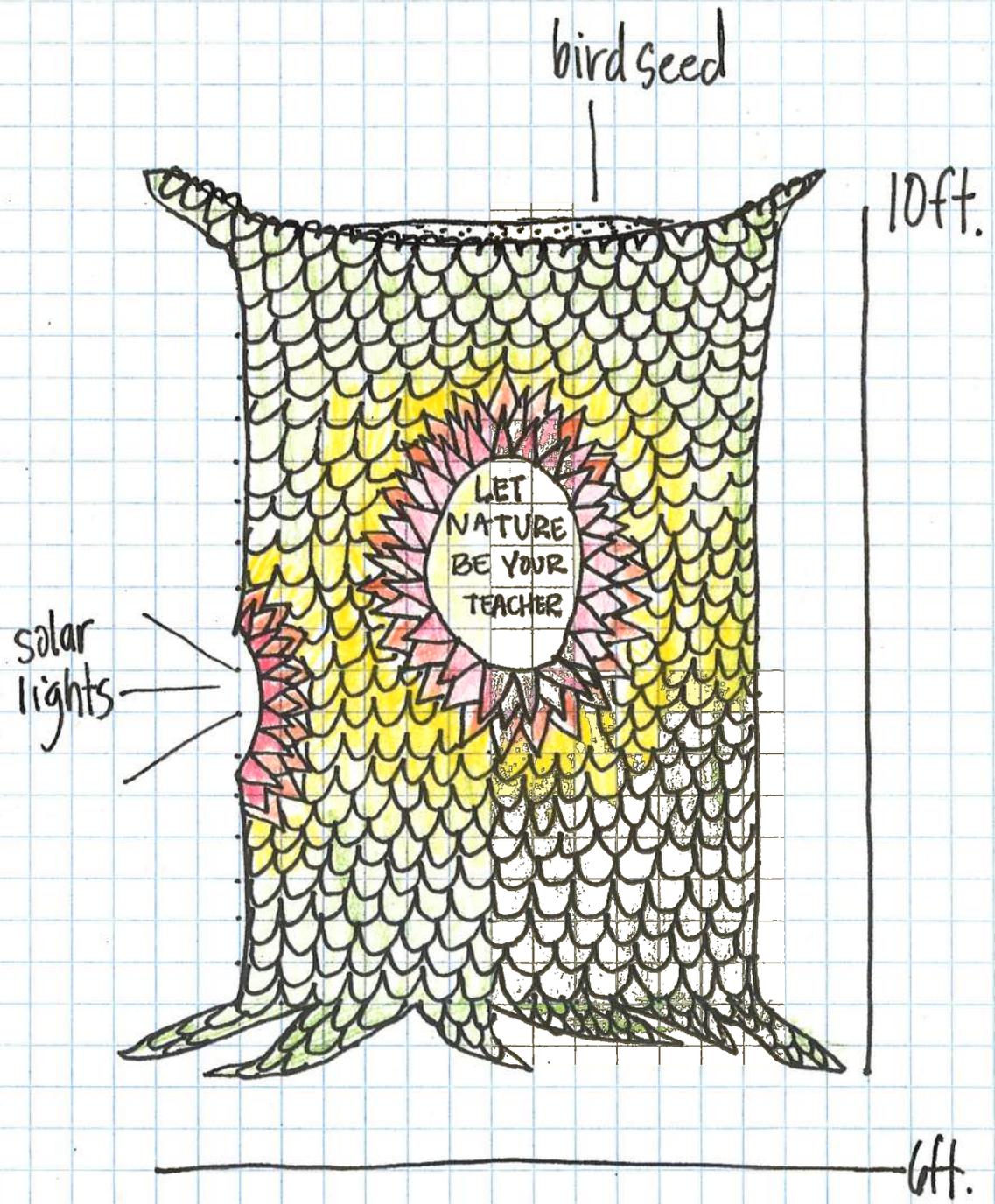
The sculpture will have several "hollows" at various heights so visitors of all sizes can peer inside. The interior will be lined with leaves that have embroidered poems or words about trails and community. Solar lights will be installed inside so the tree is visible and glows at night. Bird feeders will be incorporated at the top branches encouraging an interaction with the wildlife. Having just completed a 12' moss dress sculpture where visitors could walk inside of, I am confident in my skills to construct a beautiful, interactive, ephemeral and structurally sound piece.

A September- November residency will work perfectly as this is the time that the cottonwood trees along the corridor will begin turning yellow and dropping their leaves. Cottonwoods are native to the Northwest and are rich in history, medicinal uses and remind us that we are close to water. Salmon and trout have been spotted making their way to the lake in the creeks that run through the Corridor. Information about the sculpture will also remind visitors of the precious waterways they are sharing with wildlife.

Collaborating and educating the community about our natural resources is at the heart of my work. I have worked with kids and teens through the Seattle Art Museum, I created a 12' Phoenix piñata for a festival from fall leaves with children in Twisp, and collected over 20,000 bottle caps from Kirkland residents to create a 10' orca whale at Carkeek Park. From the Orca project, I found that the Kirkland community is hungry to participate in collaborative art projects. Over 200 individuals in Kirkland helped save, started collection drives and dropped off caps at my house. I received countless photos of families visiting the completed piece excitedly trying to locate the caps they donated. I started the collection through several "Buy Nothing" groups in Kirkland and told many that I hoped one day to make something closer to home. This would be a wonderful opportunity to do just that.

I would prefer to work along site 1 or 2/3. These are the locations that are closest to where I live/ walk and where the cottonwood is abundant. Some of the largest trees are located here and it would be easy access to three schools that I could potentially partner with.

Please visit my website for photos of works that I referenced and many of the dresses that I make and photograph myself in around the Pacific Northwest wilderness. Thank you for supporting art along the Corridor, encouraging community involvement and the ephemeral arts!



bird seed

10ft.

solar lights

LET
NATURE
BE YOUR
TEACHER

6ft.