



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager
Date: November 19, 2015
Subject: City Hall Photography Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

For Council to adopt the recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission to approve the suite of photos as recommended by the City Hall Art Committee, and also to empower the City Hall Art Committee to curate comparable images by the chosen artist, Maria Meneses, as scale, budget and site design may dictate. It is recommended that the photography be approved through adoption of the consent calendar.

BACKGROUND AND SELECTION PROCESS

Based upon the total construction cost for the City Hall renovation, \$70,000 was allocated for permanent art. Staff retained Perri Howard, VMG, to oversee the art curation for a total of \$6,500 and formed a City Hall Art Committee (Committee) of six, comprised of Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) members and City Hall staff representing several departments that will be located in City Hall. The Committee met several times in July and August to determine the types of art and art piece locations at City Hall. There was consensus among Committee members and also the City Hall Steering Committee and Cultural Arts Commission that both photographic and metal art be incorporated in the renovated space.

Following a call for artists and Committee and CAC consideration of several photographers who submitted images, Maria Olga Meneses was retained for the photographic art.

Maria Meneses completed her residency over the course of eight weeks, September-October, 2015. She photographed scenes and settings in Kirkland during daylight and evening hours and various weather conditions.

Ms. Meneses was asked to respond to the following criteria during her residency:

- The importance of transparency in government
- The unique character of Kirkland
- Local landscapes including open space, the waterfront, and neighborhoods
- The significant and diverse work that is accomplished by City employees and elected officials on the community's behalf

Ms. Meneses was compensated \$10,000 for her field work and photographs. A selection of 162 images was delivered to the curator, Perri Howard, on November, 06, 2015. Seventy-five of the strongest works were presented to the Committee on November, 09, 2015. The Committee selected 39 of the 75 images via a consensus-based process to be considered for the graphic glass inclusion. (Attachment A)

On Nov 18, 2015 the CAC met and voted to support the Committee recommendation and make a final recommendation to City Council to approve the suite of photos as recommended by the City Hall steering committee but with the caveat that the Committee be empowered to curate comparable images as scale, budget and site design may dictate.

These photographs will be integrated as graphic glass features to enhance the visitor experience and staff work environment within Kirkland City Hall. A welcoming and delightful aspect of the new renovations, the graphic glass will provide wayfinding assistance, add color and vibrancy to the décor, and offer screening and separation by adding frosted interlayers to the graphic glass in high traffic areas.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next few months the project team consisting of the Architect, Designer, Project Manager, Fabricators, Staff to the Cultural Arts Commission, and Curator along with the Committee will:

- Verify the project schedule to stay on building completion schedule
- Meet with architect and designer to identify locations and discuss cost sharing.
- Formalize budget for the graphic glass.
- Select images to be included in graphic glass, verify size, resolution, and scale.
- Present selected images in situ to the Committee.
- The Committee will vote to accept proposed images and locations, or ask for changes.
- Prototypes will be presented for review by the Committee and Cultural Arts Commission prior to fabrication

In the unlikely event of vandalism, files will be kept at full resolution to be reprinted. If shattered, glass is held in place by an adhesive inter-laminate layer.

If the City wants to use any of the images not chosen for City Hall, an additional scope of work should be created that establishes a licensed usage agreement with the artist.

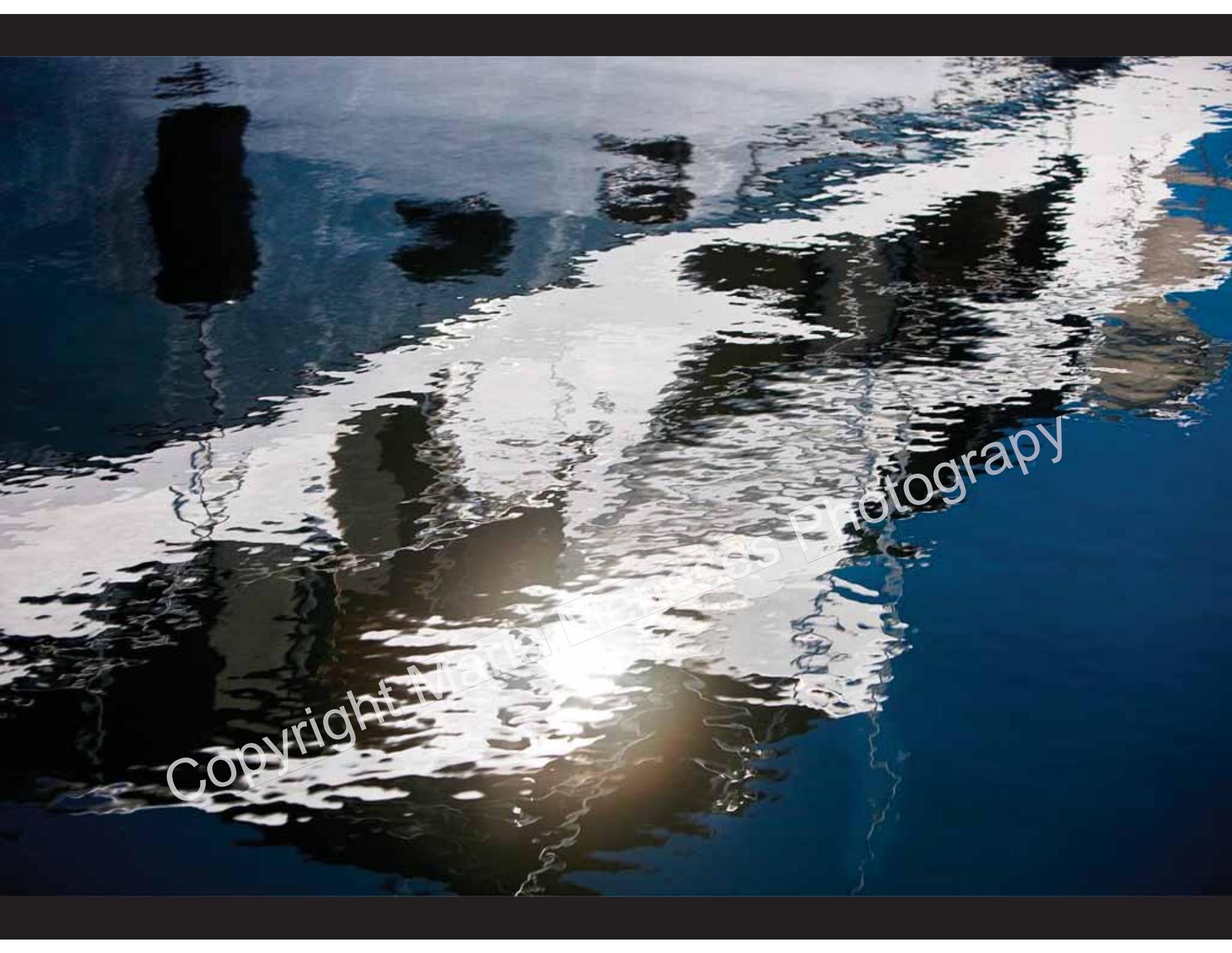


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An aerial photograph of a forest floor. The ground is covered in a dense layer of green vegetation, likely moss or ferns. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a complex pattern of bright, golden-yellow light and deep, dark shadows. The overall effect is a textured, almost abstract landscape of light and shadow. A diagonal watermark is overlaid on the image.

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The image is a highly blurred, abstract photograph. It features vibrant, streaky colors in shades of red, orange, and pink, set against a dark, almost black background. The motion blur creates a sense of dynamic energy and movement. A diagonal watermark is superimposed over the lower half of the image.

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A ballerina in a white tutu is captured in a dynamic pose, performing a pirouette on a stage. The background is a solid, deep blue color. The ballerina's hair and the layers of her tutu are blurred, conveying a sense of motion. A diagonal watermark is overlaid across the center of the image.

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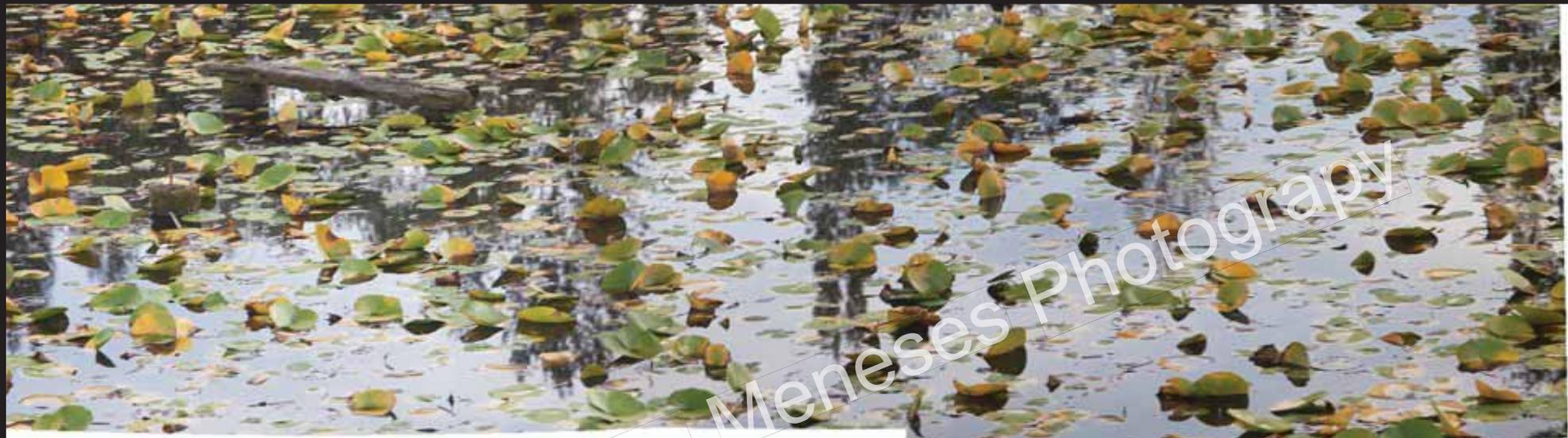
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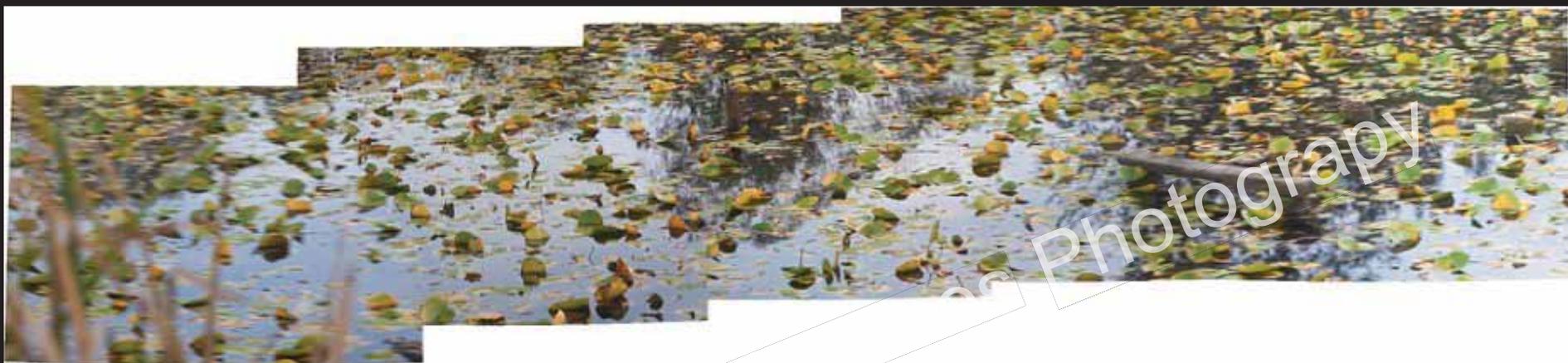
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