JURY REPORT
Sept 02, 2021

BACKGROUND
This report is an overview of the discussion and decision of the volunteer citizen jury that met on the evening of Thursday Sept 2nd, 2021 to determine which of the five short-listed artists' proposals should be implemented. They reviewed the submissions in terms of technical issues, artistic excellence, response to context, public consultation results and the proposals' response to the following competition goal:

“Goal: That the proposed Public Art work(s) be an inclusive work that may be a functional or interactive piece(s) that reflect the proud local history and human stories of the GALA neighbourhood.”

The jury also reviewed submissions for how successfully they addressed one or more of the following themes identified by local residents and business owners:

Enhance a welcoming and people-oriented space;
Encourage education and learning;
Celebration of the evolving community; and
Reflect transition, growth or discovery

AWARD
After a discussion of the various aspects of the short-listed proposals the jury gave the highest overall score to the proposal Convergence by Hooman Mehdizadehjafari. The commission for the work will therefore be awarded to Hooman Mehdizadehjafari.
JURY COMMENTS

The jury members applauded the efforts of all of the 40 artists that made submissions to the competition. There were many excellent proposals. The jury extended their thanks to all of the artists that shared their ideas by submitting to this competition, especially the five short-listed artists whose proposals were presented for public comment.

The jury also shared their appreciation for all 202 people that took the time to review the short-listed submissions, select their preferred proposal and provide comments. There were nearly 14 pages of comments submitted which included many excellent ones related to the project goal and themes, which helped to inform the jury’s decision. Moreover, the public consultation offered important insight into public reaction to all of the proposals. While there was enthusiastic support for each of the five proposals, the prevailing preference was for Convergence by Hooman Mehdizadehjafari. The many perceptive comments in support of this proposal influenced the jury in making their decision to award this proposal the highest score.

Jury comments on each proposal are as follows:

**Convergence by Artist: Hooman Mehdizadehjafari**
The jury found the work to be interactive and playful with the opportunity to support multiple uses. The work was celebrated for its potential to serve multi-generational uses, from students meeting, to family and community groups of all ages interacting with the art. The materials and shape of the work were seen to integrate in a natural way, with composite wood draping as water dripping over the side of the metal base. The arrangement of the piece centers the human form to shift and be in many postures due to the undulating nature of the bench. The work feels modern and clean while also reflecting the evolving nature of the community. While the piece was noted as not being the most colourful and eye catching; the natural movement and flow, the use of natural materials, the extra seating drawing people to the center of the site and interactive potential of the piece moved the work to receive the highest overall score.

**Cascading Waterfall by Artist: Opus Art Projects Inc.**
The proposal was applauded by the jury as an important depiction of Hamilton as ‘waterfall capital’, with the piece acting as a strong testament to the importance of water to the development of culture in Hamilton on a regional scale. From our location in the heart of the great lakes region to the natural wetlands found here and the importance of waterfalls to drive mills in early industry, water has shaped our City’s culture. The work was celebrated as connecting well to natural resources due to the proposed materials. The piece was seen to offer a natural respite to urban life, ie: being surrounded by traffic. The work offers the feeling of being on a nature trail with the sun shining through the piece with dynamic potential. However, there were concerns that work did not reflect the themes related to the local neighbourhood as well as other proposals. There were also minor technical concerns about the material’s graffiti resistance the possibility of garbage collecting between the screens. This proposal therefore scored lower.
**Bond by Artist: Wynn Walters**
The jury was impressed by this clean and simple, classically beautiful sculptural work and agreed that the ‘helping hand’ helps to build a conversation about community. However, the work was not seen to be as interactive as some of the others. They questioned its ability to draw the community, especially youth, to use the space in different ways and therefore felt that it did not address the project goals and themes as successfully as some of the other proposals.

**Tangle by Artist(s): Coryn Kempster and Julia Jamrozik**
The jury enjoyed the fun, colourful, futuristic, abstract work presented in this proposal. The proposed trees were seen as a very welcome addition to the community. The work was seen as inviting and playful, beyond modern, with good potential for interaction and varied experience in the park. Although the jury found this to be an excellent art work, melding form and function, they did not see the work as clearly teaching about the neighbourhood or speaking to a message about the local community. The large scale of the piece was also seen to reduce the usable green space of the small park. It was also noted that some may see the name as carrying negative connotations. Overall the piece makes a strong, colourful, visual impact as a work of art but it was scored slightly lower than others.

**Home Works by Artist: Studio Huizenga**
This proposal impressed the jury with its bold vision and the dedication to celebrate the local architectural style of the historic neighbourhood. Form and function came together well in the proposal and the colour, lighting and seating were seen as welcome additions to the community. However the jury felt that, while not intended by the artist, the work could be seen by many to connotate the negative aspects of the affordability crisis currently affecting the neighbourhood by elevating and idealizing the “house” form. Given this, and that the work did not receive a large amount of public support, the jury scored the work lower.

---

**THE JURY**

Maureen Sweeney Cathedral High School (recently retired Arts Dept Head)
Cyanne Forte-Pyle Recent graduate Cathedral High School
Mary-Kate Sandajan Recent graduate Cathedral High School, Graphic Design
Tara Bursey Local Artist
*Treasa Levasseur Local Musician
Brenda Duke GALA Gibson and Lansdale Neighbourhood Association
Nathan Muir Indigenous Youth Advisor and Artist, NYAWEH Cathedral
Eileen Reilly Arts Advisory Committee Member and Photographer

* Partial attendance – Stage Two jury only

Advisors to the Jury:

Ken Coit, City of Hamilton, Manager, Placemaking, Public Art & Projects (Facilitator)
Meredith Plant, City of Hamilton, Sr Landscape Architect, Placemaking, Public Art & Projects