



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of City Coordinator**

Date: April 25, 2005

To: Council Member Barbara Johnson, Chair
Ways & Means/Budget Committee

**Subject: New Central Library Project – Fabrication and Installation Services for
Electronic Light Sculpture**

Recommendation:

Approve the New Central Library Public Art Subcommittee recommendation that the Library Board and City authorize proper officials to execute a contract with Ben Rubin for fabrication and installation of an electronic light sculpture to be installed on the exterior of the glass elevators in Library Hall for a total contract amount not to exceed \$110,000 (4400 – 908 –9080)

Previous Directives:

- April 12, 2004 Authorization to executive contract with Ben Rubin for fabrication and installation of an electronic light sculpture on the exterior of the glass elevators in Library Hall floor for a total contract amount not to exceed \$85,000.
- April 14, 2003 Approval of the issuance of a Request for Proposals for artists to develop public art for the New Central Library.
- October 25, 2002 Acceptance of Schematic Design and Budget for new Central Library.
Authorization of bond sale

Prepared/Submitted by: Richard A Johnson, Project Coordinator 612-334-1671

Recommended:

Richard A. Johnson
Project Coordinator

John Moir
City Coordinator

Presenter in Committee: Richard A Johnson, Project Coordinator

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
 Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
 Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
 Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
 Action requires use of contingency or reserves
 Other financial impact (Explain):
 Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification
City Goals
Comprehensive Plan
Zoning Code
Other

Background/Supporting Information

The current project budget for the New Central Library includes \$750,000 for Public Art. On 9/18/02 the Minneapolis Arts Commission approved the Proposed Workplan for Public Art for the New Central Library. On 10/10/02 the New Central Library Implementation Committee established a public art subcommittee to determine the need, process and implementation of a public art process for the new Central Library Project. On 3/18/03 the public art subcommittee chose seven potential sites for public art in the New Library and approved an artist selection process that called for issuance of an RFP for lead artists for each site. The City Council approved issuance of the RFP on 4/14/03.

The Public Art subcommittee reviewed the 153 responses received to the RFP and selected 21 semifinalists on 7/18/03. On 8/18 - 8/19/03, the semifinalists were interviewed and eight artist/artist teams were unanimously selected including two local artists. The New Central Library Implementation Committee approved the selection of the eight artist teams on 9/9/03.

On 11/18/03, an open house was held so that the public could view the preliminary designs developed by the selected artists. Over 100 people attended the open house and provided feedback. The public art subcommittee subsequently approved the final designs for six of the seven sites on 1/24/04.

Ben Rubin was selected as the artist for the elevator artwork. An art conservator has been retained by the Project and is advising on maintenance and related issues. On April 12, 2004 the Council Council approved authorization to execute a contract with Ben Rubin not to exceed \$85,000. The contract has not yet been executed. The process for fabricating and installing an electronic artwork on the elevators in Library Hall is complex and has required coordination with the elevator, electrical and computer installations. Needed design modifications have been made during the past year to ensure this coordination and in response to recommendations of the art conservator. As a result, the fabrication and installation budget for the artwork has been increased by \$25,000. This increase includes a spare parts allowance of \$10,000 to ensure that the artwork can be maintained and repaired as need be. As a result, we are returning to your committee to request authorization to execute a contract not to exceed \$110,000.

Richard Johnson will be present at your committee to answer questions.