MEMORANDUM

TO: Karan Watson
    Provost and Executive Vice President
    Co-Chair, Council on Built Environments

    Jerry Strawser
    Vice President for Finance and Administration
    Co-Chair, Council on Built Environments

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Wind Drinkers Bronze Sculpture

I have reviewed the recommendation of the CBE to approve the proposed Wind Drinkers Bronze Sculpture on the front lawn of the new Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Complex with noted caveats.

I approve this request with the additional caveat that the canine figure in the sculpture represent the original Reveille (not collie breed), or the sculpture is to be installed with no canine figure at all.

Michael K. Young

cc: Sub-Committee Council Chairs, Council for the Built Environments
    Dr. Eleanor M. Green, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
March 14, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Michael K. Young
President, Texas A&M University

SUBJECT: CBE Recommendation: Wind Drinkers Bronze Sculpture

The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) reviewed a request from the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) to place a sculpture at the front lawn of the new Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex. The sculpture will be a commission of an existing piece of artwork, three mares, three foals and a canine, with complete funding to be provided from the artwork budget of the Education Complex project. The intent of the sculpture is to be one of a few at the complex intended to illustrate the various species of animals cared for by the veterinary profession. The request as well as the Design Review sub-council’s report are attached.

The Design Review sub-council (DRsc) voted to recommend approval of the bronze sculpture on the front lawn of the new Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex with the following caveats:

- Addition of the third foal is approved.
- Addition of the canine figure (collie breed) is approved with removal of the blanket. The canine figure as shown should be modified by adjusting the ears and tilt of the head so as not to appear that she is chasing the horses.
- Movement and spacing of the horses is approved based on the original Wind Drinkers design (see attached) rather than what is depicted in the renderings.
- In order to provide a more informal landscape, request removal of the hedge and incorporation of a circular path surrounding the circular sculpture area.

The CBE voted to recommend, with noted caveats, the President’s approval of the request for the proposed sculpture, with the exception of the addition of the canine figure until review by the Reveille Task Force. If the task force approves the figure, CBE approves the canine with the blanket in the sculpture. If the task force does not approve, the canine will be removed from the sculpture.
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Karan L. Watson  Date
Provost and Executive Vice President
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Jerry R. Strawser  Date
Vice President for Finance & Administration
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Approved: With caveats in memorandum to Provost Watson and VP Strawser, dated 4/1/16

Michael K. Young  Date
President

cc: Sub-Council Chairs, Council for the Built Environment
Dr. Eleanor M. Green, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
October 23, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karan L. Watson, Ph.D., P.E.
    Provost and Executive Vice President
    Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Jerry R. Strawser, Ph.D., CPA
    Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
    Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

THROUGH: Eleanor M. Green, DVM, DACVIM, DABVP
        Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine
        College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

FROM: Sam Wigington
      Director of Facilities
      College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

SUBJECT: Request for Placement of Bronze Sculpture

Intent

The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences proposes a sculpture to be placed at the front lawn of the new Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex upon which construction is now underway. The sculpture will be a commission of an existing piece of artwork, three mares, three foals and a canine, with complete funding to be provided from the artwork budget of the Education Complex project. The intent of the sculpture is to be one of a few at the complex intended to illustrate the various species of animals cared for by the veterinary profession.

Main Concept of the Work

This sculpture is an original piece of artwork intended to showcase the allure, elegance and prowess of one of the many species cared for by the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.
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The long and rich history of horses and their contributions to the cattle and ranch industry but also to the settling of the United States. The sculpture relays the importance of the human/animal bond and the love we share with the animals who are part of our lives and of our families. The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences teaches students to care for all types of animals in Texas, including livestock, companion animals, wildlife, and exotic animals.

The Artist  
Mrs. Lisa Perry was contacted about possible modifications to one of her sculptures after a long process of consulting with multiple artists for a statement piece to be installed on the south lawn of the main entrance of the new educational complex for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Lisa has an extensive portfolio of equine statues as well as other animals found in Texas. Her work is featured in the Fort Worth Stockyards, Lubbock Lake National Historic and State Archeological Landmark Park in Lubbock, Texas as well as the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame and Museum in Amarillo, Texas. http://lisaperry.com/

Value  
The sculpture is valued at approximately $500,000 and will be funded through the art budget for the new educational complex. An Artwork budget has been established in accordance with System Policy 51-03 for the acquisition of the works of art and other aesthetic improvements.

Materials, Fabrication and Maintenance  
The sculpture is bronze with a concrete base. Casting, base fabrication, lighting and installation will be supervised directly by Lisa Perry, sculptor, using specialists in the production and use of top quality materials. Scott McCready, a landscape architect with SWA Group, is working collaboratively with Mrs. Perry and Stantec, the architectural firm responsible for the design of the new education complex, to design an appropriately supported foundation and landscaping that highlights the piece while discouraging guests from touching or climbing on the work. Skanska, the contractor building the new education complex, will construct the foundation for the piece. Maintenance required for the piece will be funded by the College of Veterinary Medicine with a guaranteed minimum budget of 3\% or $15,000 annually.

Placement  
The sculpture will be designed to be placed at the southern front lawn of the new educational complex for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Science to welcome everyone: students, guests, staff and faculty. The sculpture is intended to demonstrate one of the many species that are cared for by the veterinary profession. The sculpture will be placed is such a way as to compliment the scale and overall aesthetics of the new complex.

Timeline  
Construction of the education complex is scheduled to be complete in August 2016. Our goal is to have the sculpture in place prior to moving in to the new buildings.
To: Dr. Jerry Strawser  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment  

Dr. Karan Watson  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment  

From: Ms. Lilia Gonzales, AIA  
University Architect and Chair, Design Review Sub-Council  

Date: February 29, 2016  

Re: Design Review Sub-Council (DRsc) Report  
Bronze Sculpture at Front Lawn of CVMBS Education Complex  

On October 28, 2015 and November 18, 2015 Design Review Sub-council Art Committee members reviewed a request from the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) for approval of a bronze sculpture to be placed on the front lawn of the new Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex. This sculpture location was included on the master plan for artwork locations that was presented to the DRsc in August 2014. In April 2015 a bronze sculpture of a bull was approved for the west side of the complex.  

Site and Landscape  
The sculpture would be located at the end of the main boulevard off of Raymond Stotzer that leads to the complex. Overall landscape design within this front lawn area is classical and formal in nature. The sculpture will be set on a concrete plinth. Around the sculpture is a 9-12” high cast stone seat wall which allows space for college signage. The lettering will be etched into the stone to match what is proposed for the main building.  

Native grasses will be planted within the plinth area around the sculpture. A dwarf yaupon holly hedge will surround the sculpture area. White crape myrtles will be planted along the front façade of the building. Live oak trees will be planted around the front lawn area. CVMBS confirmed that the landscape will be maintained by SSC Service Solutions.  

DRsc Art Committee members expressed concerns that the formality of the overall landscape design is conflicting with the informality of the sculpture, and believe the relationship between the sculpture group and the building façade would be improved by removal of the square-shaped hedge and square-shaped paving. It is recommend to use a circular shaped platform for the sculpture, and the proportion of the edges will likely need further study.  

Sculpture  
The proposed bronze sculpture is by artist Lisa Perry and is based on one of Ms. Perry’s works titled “The Wind Drinkers” which features a grouping of five horses (one stallion, two mares, and two foals). The proposal is to modify the original art piece by replacing the stallion with a third mare, adding a third foal
in order to present a complete family unit, and adding a canine running with the horses. The intent is for the canine figure to be a representation of Reveille.

The approximate overall length of the proposed bronze sculpture is 42 feet. If a circular platform is used, the approximate diameter of the planting area and curb surrounding the horses is 50 feet. These distances are subject to some adjustment during design development to account for lighting and final coordination with the sculptor.

DRsc Art Committee members expressed frustration that the renderings as presented are not accurate depictions of the sculpture and make it difficult to make a decision. The placement of the horses will actually be consistent with the artist’s original design, which is more dynamic in spacing and activity, and more compact overall. The addition of a third foal was not preferred by DRsc Art Committee members as it is not consistent with the artist’s original design. The decision to add the foal was made in order to depict a complete family unit and not for artistic expression. The addition of the canine is approved, however due to concerns about it looking unnatural and out of place it is requested to remove the blanket. The canine figure should be modified so as not to appear that she is chasing the horses.

**Recommendation**

The Design Review sub-council Art Committee unanimously voted for approval of the bronze sculpture on the front lawn of the new Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex with the following caveats:

- Addition of the third foal is approved.
- Addition of the canine figure (collie breed) is approved with removal of the blanket. The canine figure as shown should be modified by adjusting the ears and tilt of the head so as not to appear that she is chasing the horses.
- Movement and spacing of the horses is approved based on the original *Wind Drinkers* design (see attached) rather than what is depicted in the renderings.
- In order to provide a more informal landscape, request removal of the hedge and incorporation of a circular path surrounding the circular sculpture area.

Selected images are attached. **CVMBS strongly prefers the blanket on the canine figure. Attached for consideration is a supporting document from Dr. Eleanor Green regarding the purpose and justification for the blanket on the canine figure. Please note that the revised canine figure holding the leather lead has not been reviewed or approved by the DRsc.** Please let me know if you have any questions.

cc: Sam Wiginton
    DRsc Members
    Bettyann Zito
yaupon holly hedge

Mexican feather grass
blue grama grass

PLANTING CHARACTER

gulf coast muhly
crape myrtle

live oak
Artist Biography

Lisa Perry [b. 1950, Montana]

Born in Montana, Lisa Perry has a long background in ranching and breeding American Quarter Horses. She and her husband have lived in Springtown, Texas over thirty years, where she maintains her studio. Lisa studied art at Montana State University and has been a professional sculptor since 1981. She is a full member of the American Academy of Equine Artists. Her monumental sculptures are featured around the United States and her work is in private collections around the world.

Exhibitions

Museum exhibitions have included:

The AQHA Heritage Foundation Museum, Amarillo, Texas,
The Kentucky Derby Museum, Louisville, Kentucky
The Ranching Heritage Museum at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Notable Commissions

Heroic size sculpture of “Bill Pickett, Bulldogger” for the city of Ft Worth. a Texas sesquicentennial project in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historical District. Commissioned by the North Fort Worth Historical Society. 1987

Partial List of Awards

-Best of Show AAEA, Kentucky Derby Museum, Churchill Downs, Louisville, Kentucky
-Montana Governor’s Award - Montana Artist of the Year

Publications


Teaching

February 10, 2016

TO: 
Dr. Karan L. Watson  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

Dr. Jerry R. Strawser  
Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer  
Co-Chair, Council for the Built Environment

FROM: 
Dr. Eleanor M. Green  
The Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine  
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

SUBJECT: Request for Placement of Bronze Sculpture

The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) is seeking an iconic art piece that will speak to students, faculty, staff, alumni, constituents, visitors, and others, as they approach the Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex (VBEC) - now and for years to come. The goal for this piece is to have a recognizable link to Texas A&M University and to have a meaningful connection to veterinary medicine, the history of the CVM, and the heritage of Texas. This piece of art is intended to instill pride while being memorable, inspirational, and often cited.

Who better to brand the piece as Texas A&M University CVM than the University mascot, Reveille? And how better to identify Reveille than by her blanket? As the CVM is her care provider during her tenure as the First Lady of Aggieland, and after her retirement at the Stephenson Center, there is an unbreakable connection between the CVM and Reveille. The CVM even cared for the very first Reveille after she was found in 1931. This connection makes it even more appropriate for her to be part of a piece that is completed during the CVM centennial and will stand the test of time.

This proposed piece of art was the culmination of numerous long discussions and extensive exploration by many for the ideal art piece that was not just suitable, but ideal for the new VBEC. The idea of joining two Texas icons – horses and Reveille running together - ended the discussions, was universally supported, and was even described as creating an emotional response. Horses are a major part of Texas’s rich ranching heritage through today. Texas still ranks number one in the nation in horses with its numbers nearly twice that of #2. Of course, Reveille is a major icon for Texas A&M, one especially befitting veterinary medicine. Because of the quality of Lisa Perry’s work in capturing the essence of horses and dogs and because of the cost savings associated with modifying her “The Winddrinkers”, incorporating her concept of the foal running with a dog (see attachment) was the concept agreed upon within the CVM.
An important question within the CVM was how to position Reveille with running horses so it was clear that she was not chasing the horses and the horses were not chasing her. The conclusion was to make sure Reveille was wearing her blanket and to position her alongside the running horses in the middle of the herd (not in the front where it could be misconstrued that the horses were chasing her and not in the rear which it could be misconstrued that she was chasing the horses). Additionally, Reveille and one foal would be holding opposite ends of a leather lead (see attachment). The latter implies playing together happily, as dogs and horses will do. Reveille’s head will also be turned out towards viewers and away from the herd with her ears forward and engaged.

We have received verbal support from three donors interested in helping fund the bronze. Two potential donors were interested primarily because of the inclusion of Reveille, which requires the blanket, and one potential donor was interested because of the horses. All interested donors were drawn by the inclusion of both Reveille and horses.

The Marquette of Reveille and the one foal joined by the leather lead is slated to become a prestigious award for our college that we will use for our next 100 years.

We sincerely appreciate the feedback we have received so far and thank you in advance for your support of our concept. This bronze, as proposed, has the potential to draw substantial attention to the campus.

Attachments (4)

cc: Mr. Sam Wigington