MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

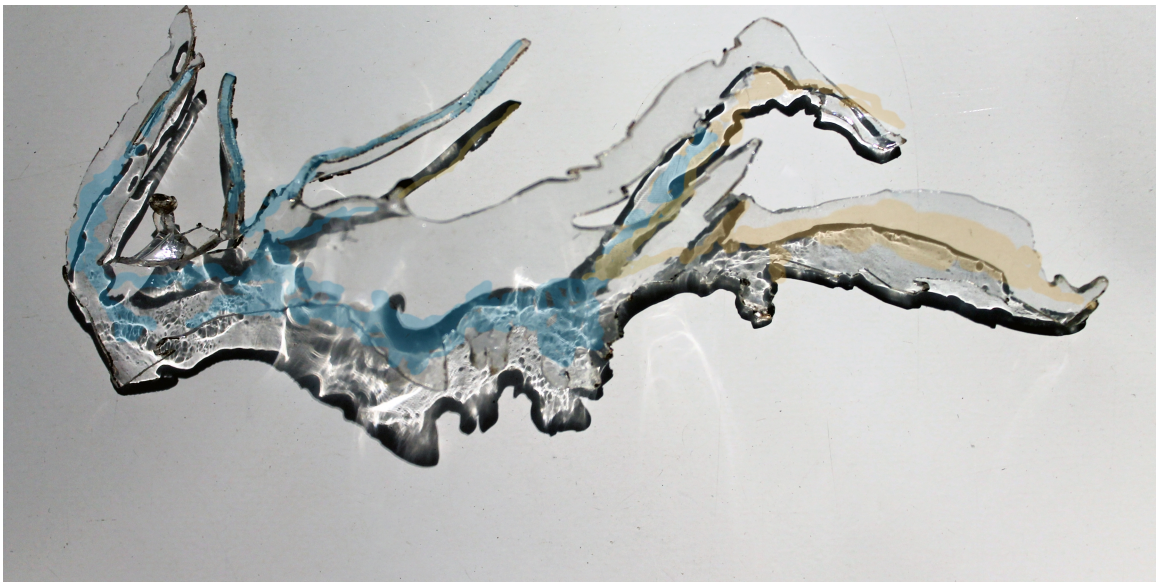
SUBJECT: ***Status Report*** DATE: July 18, 2013

1. Arts Committee Artist Recommendation for Wall Sculpture for Bowie City Hall Lobby
The Public Art Selection Subcommittee met on Wednesday, July 10th, to review the 42 proposals received for its next public art project, a wall sculpture for the City Hall Lobby. The Subcommittee chose Baltimore Artist Adam Nelson's design. Nelson has both Bachelor's (Maryland institute College of Art Baltimore, MD) and Master's (University of Maryland, College Park) degrees in art. His most recent work is a suspended entrance sculpture at the entrance to the new Blacktip Reef Exhibit at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

   Nelson states in his proposal that his proposed sculpture is intended to create a flowing abstract sculpture that will radiate light across the wall, while at the same time emulating the Chesapeake Bay, a key natural icon for Bowie and the State of Maryland.

   The sculpture will be a layered relief sculpture. The first layer will be a laser cut aluminum sheet, roughly 10 feet by 6 feet by 1/8 inch cut in the shape of the Chesapeake Bay water silhouette. Colors include the deep tones of blue, yellow, and brown. The second layer of the piece will be made of three panels of clear thermoformed plastic cut into the shape of the Chesapeake Bay. The sculpture's close proximity to the front windows of the lobby will provide a constant source of lighting that will vary in intensity based on the weather of the day allowing light to reflect and refract through the sculpture.

   Here is a preliminary sketch of the artist's proposed design:



Also included is a photo of Nelson's most recent public art project, a suspended entrance sculpture at the entrance to the new Blacktip Reef Exhibit at the National Aquarium in Baltimore that just opened to the public in June 2013.

The Arts Committee has approved the choice of the Public Art Selection Subcommittee, made up of two Arts Committee members, a public art specialist from Maryland-National

Capital Park and Planning Commission, a local abstract artist with museum exhibition hanging experience, and two representatives from the public art division of the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Arts Committee Chairperson will come to the August 5th City Council Meeting seeking Council approval to award the contract for the wall sculpture to Artist Adam Nelson.

2. Economic Development Committee (EDC)
   The Bowie EDC held their regular monthly meeting July 10 and heard a briefing from the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland on the pending stormwater regulation and fee changes. A lively discussion ensued. The EDC learned that City staff members are working on the matter for future discussion with and recommendation to the City Council. There will be no EDC meeting in August. The next regular meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 a.m.

3. Expanded Recycling in City Parks
   The Parks and Grounds Division recently installed six recycling containers at the following locations within Allen Pond Park: one at Murtaugh 1 Field, one at Murtaugh 2 Field, one at Huston Field, two at Andy Brown Field, and additionally one at Glen Allen Park. With these additions, there are 28 recycling containers in the City park system.

4. Race Track Site
   As part of the due diligence leading up to a potential acquisition of the Bowie Race Track property, it is necessary to conduct a PHASE II Environmental Study. This is a more detailed analysis building on the PHASE I Study performed in 2009. In accordance with the City Charter, staff has located a Howard County contract with Apex Companies of Rockville to perform this work for the amount of $55,419. The report from Apex is expected in late August. The report will assist the partner jurisdictions in developing purchase proposals for negotiation purposes with the owner.

5. Buckingham at Belair Subdivision
   A copy of the City letter to the Planning Board is enclosed in your package. The hearing is next Thursday in Upper Marlboro. Today we received the M-NCPPC staff report, which recommends approval of the application. That document is enclosed as well. Staff has provided copies of both documents to residents whose contact information we had from the City Council Meeting.

6. Animal Shelter/Bowie CLAW Letter
   We received a letter from CLAW's attorney. Verification of the $100,000 was provided. Staff is reviewing the details of the letter and we will report to Council shortly. The letter will be forwarded to you electronically.