



City of Pomona

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

ADMINISTRATION | OFFICE OF ECONOMIC BUSINESS AFFAIRS

April 27, 2026

TO: Cultural Arts Commission

FROM: Ata Khan, Deputy Director of OEBA
Jocelyn Ayala, AIPP Program Manager

SUBJECT: SIEMENS Call for Art Part B: Proposals - Selection of Artist for Public Art Installation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of one of the three artist finalist to be selected for Public Art Installation.

Staff supports the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to select James Dinh as the artist with the alterations of his outline figures having more defining characteristics and a new color palette that is more vibrant for the space to be used.

BACKGROUND

The City of Pomona's Cultural Arts Commission invited artists or artist teams to submit qualifications to render, design and install artwork in publicly accessible designated areas on a private property located at 1237 County Road.

The property (generally located at the northwest corner of County Road and Mills Avenue) is a newly developed facility in South Pomona by SIEMENS manufacturing. The Siemens Pomona Facility is an approx. 154k square foot manufacturing facility that assembles electrical boards and components. This new "green" building is an all-electric and carbon-neutral facility and was constructed to LEED – Gold standards. Other building features include EV chargers, solar panels and a battery energy storage system that offset 1/3 of the building's electrical usage, among others.

There are designated art spaces outlined where artwork can be placed. This artwork will be funded by the City of Pomona's Art in Public Places fund. City Staff has conducted engagement at community events and has collected input on ideas for the theme of the artwork. The artwork the City is looking for will require installation and the artist should be able to collaborate with a fabricator/installation company for completion of project.

The Call is split into two parts—Part A: Qualifications and Part B: Proposals. The following timeline has been shared with the public—

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Call for Art Released | December 2, 2025 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Call for Art Information Meeting | December 18, 2025, 12 – 1:30PM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Submission Deadline | January 7, 2026, by 5PM PST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Artist Selection- Part A | January – February 2026 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Artist Selection- Part B | March 2026 April 2026* | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Project Execution | April 2026 May 2026 | |
| Project Completion | August 2026 (Tentative) | |

*Artists requested more time to complete their proposals, pushing back project execution timeline.

FISCAL IMPACT

This artwork will be funded by the City of Pomona’s Art in Public Places fund. Siemens’ original minimum valuation of funding for public artwork is \$222,307.59. The artwork recommended to exist on site would be either sculptural or freestanding panels, and for this reason, Staff would recommend the maximum allocation of \$250,000.00.

PART A: QUALIFICATIONS

By the Submission Deadline, Staff collected 36 entries, 4 of which were duplicate entries for a total of 32 entries total. After Staff review, 18 applicants were selected to move forward to the Commission’s qualification review due to eligibility requirements and completion of the application.

Cultural Arts Commissioners reviewed artist qualifications and initially agreed to select up to three artists to submit proposals. Applications will be scored using the following criteria (100 points):

- **Artistic Merit:** Past works and creative practice reflect a high level of aesthetic quality and technical execution. There is a clear connection to community in these projects. (up to 45 points)
- **Suitability for the Project:** Artist work samples and interests demonstrate suitability for the artwork themes and goals in work sample projects. (up to 55 points)
- **Additional 5-points** to be given to Artists based in Pomona. Proof of being a resident must be submitted. If you are in an Artist team with multiple artists, you only collect 5 points once.

On January 26, 2026, Cultural Arts Commission approved the four highest scoring applicants to move on to Part B of the Siemens Call for art (James Dinh, Dan Romero, Joe Adams, and Brett Price).

PART B: PROPOSALS

The Artists selected in Part A were asked to develop a proposal for presentation to the Public, a Public Art Committee, and Cultural Arts Commission. With guidance from Staff, the three reviewing bodies will review the artist proposals as presented by the artists.

Brief Timeline of Events

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| February 3, 2026 | Staff met with artists virtually to go over questions of proposal requirements. Artists were provided with a proposal folder and were updated periodically as new information was requested or shared by Siemens. |
| February 11, 2026 | Artists had the opportunity to meet with Siemens representatives on site, but only two artists made the available time—Joe Adams and Brett Price. |
| February 13, 2026 | Artist Brett Price informed Staff he could no longer participate in the Siemens Art Call due to unforeseen circumstances and looks forward to applying for future projects in Pomona. |
| March 19, 2026 | Artists Submitted their proposals to Staff at City Hall. |
| March 23 – April 23, 2026 | The Artists’ Proposals were set up in City Hall and asked the public to submit their comments regarding each proposal. |
| April 13, 2026 | Staff arranged an artist engagement to invite community members to speak directly with the artists. All Artists were present. |

Artist Proposals Scoring and Judging Criteria

Artists were instructed that they would be scored and judged based on the following criteria:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Up to 230 points | Artistic Merit: Artwork reflects authenticity, originality, evokes response or inquiry. |
| Up to 220 points | Site Specificity: Artwork demonstrates relevance and is appropriate for the site, architecture, occupants, visitors, and environment. |
| Up to 200 points | Feasibility: Project budget and the project schedule are clear, specific, and detailed indicating the artwork can be fully implemented. |
| Up to 100 points | Durability and Permanence: The artwork is materially and structurally sound. |
| Up to 100 points | Public Safety: Proposed artwork does not create unsafe conditions nor utilize unsafe materials. <i>If the Risk Management Department deems the project unsuitable due to lack of proper insurance and details of project scope, then the project will not continue forward.</i> |
| 50 points | Attended Community Engagement Meeting |

Staff will make note of this on their scoring sheet.

Thus, the expectation to present a proposal that elaborates to reflect the expectations of the scoring criteria should be addressed in their submitted proposal.

Advisory Committee

On Friday, April 17, 2026, at 10AM, the Advisory Committee created for this Art Call met to score and discuss each proposal. The committee consisted of the following individuals:

- Adam Kastamo, Siemens Representative
- Laura Figueroa, Siemens Representative
- Alejandro Ruiz, Artist & Resident of District 3
- Heather Albertson, CAC Advisory Committee Member
- David Judah Oliver, Former-CAC Advisory Committee Member

Committee Scores

| | Proposal A Joe Adams | Proposal B The Home Team | Proposal C James Dinh |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adam Kastamo | 830 | 660 | 880 |
| Laura Figueroa | 780 | 750 | 850 |
| Alejandro Ruiz | 615 | 875 | 830 |
| Heather Albertson | 400 | 750 | 710 |
| David Judah Oliver | 775 | 770 | 685 |
| AVERAGES | 680 | 761 | 791 |

The Committee scoring card reflects Proposal C by James Dinh as the top score.

Committee members discussed their scores and points of view on all proposals. Below are collected comments that were shared.

Proposal A –

- Not as clear of a connection to Pomona.
- Intention is meaningful but too abstract; more manipulation of the rock forms to connect with the existing nature and/or the local area would be desired.

Proposal B –

- Contains insightful symbolism and imagery related to the majority cultural background in Pomona.
- The arrangement of the colorful nopales and prickly pears being on top of metallic-colored arches creates a disconnected feeling from the art piece, the viewer, and the industrial site location; perhaps the arches being in another form to lessen the separation/overall there needing to be a better transition between these two elements.
- The practicality and maintenance of preserving this artwork comes with unknown

- costs and safety concerns due to the glass.
- Timeline and materials did not give confidence to being a successful project. Noted points of concern were (1) parts of their timeline being too vague (ex. “experimentation with materials”) or not inclusive of parts of their project (ex. the community tiles) and (2) the artists noted in their budget anecdotal information about potentially not being able to complete the project due to weather and an unstable economy.

Proposal C –

- This artwork feels repetitive in terms of already existing in another City.
- The silhouettes being altered to be someone more familiar to the City, whether that’s an actual person who has contributed to the City or a more “soulful” presented silhouette.
- Altering the colors of the silhouettes to be in line with peaceful colors that are more natural and local to the area, primary colors even.

Final Committee Statement

The Committee selects James Dinh’s proposal as the most appropriate artwork for the Siemens Call for Art pending two changes of the silhouettes being altered to reflect more familiar people and the colors being altered to more natural “peaceful” colors.

Public Comment

Staff invited the community/public to give their input on the proposals being available for viewing in the lobby of City Hall from March 23 – April 23, 2026, and through an artist engagement at Washington Park Community Center on April 13, 2026. The following is a summary of the comments received with the full compiled list of comments in Attachment #4.

| Proposal | Comments |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Joe Adams (A) | 10 |
| The Home Team (B) | 78 |
| James Dinh (C) | 33 |

Most comments were positive in their respective selection of the proposals, however, there were few that were critical about selecting none of them.

Proposal Updates

Each Artist had the choice to submit a new 2D rendering by April 23, 2026, by 1PM PST to Staff after receiving Public Comments collected from March 23 – April 17, 2026, by 9:30AM, to have a week to submit any changes. This did not include the committee’s comments.

The Home Team was the only one to update their proposal rendering and budget.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – SIEMENS Call for Art – Part B Proposals Information
2. Attachment 2 – Proposals
3. Attachment 3 – Committee Review Scores
4. Attachment 4 – Public Comment (Collected from 3.23.26 – 4.23.26)
5. Attachment 5 – Draft CAC Resolution No. 26-##