

Staff Report

Date: February 8, 2016

To: Visual Arts Commissioners

From: Mary Chou, Project Manager

Re: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner – Entry Lobby Artwork by Merle Axelrad

In April of 2015, the Visual Arts Committee approved the conceptual design for Merle Axelrad's artwork with the direction that the artist would consider alternative framing options that would allow for its presentation as a single piece, instead of a diptych. Staff and the Artist have been working with the project architects to evaluate possible materials including glass and acrylic (single sheets and seamed) for a 108" high by 102" wide enclosed niche that would display a textile roughly 90" high by 84" wide. The research resulted in options that were either cost-prohibitive, or would negatively impact the visibility of the work.

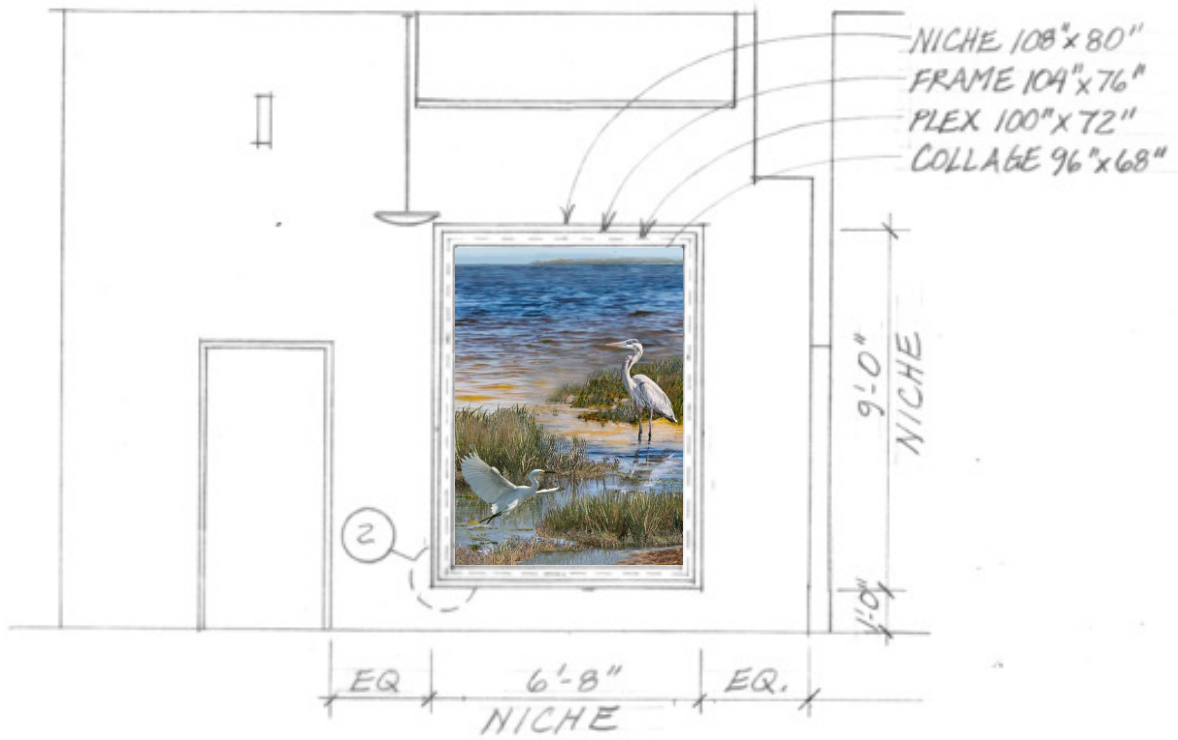
Based on these results, the Artist proposes to reduce the width of the textile piece and to present the textile in a frame of minimal width, using Optium, a plexiglass material that is both UV resistant and low-glare. The framed textile would be installed in a niche so that the surface of the work is flush with the surface of the surrounding wall. The niche would be 108" high by 80" wide, and the visible part of the textile would be 96" high by 68" wide.

While reduced in width, the artwork is still of substantial and prominent size on the wall of the entry lobby room that is 10 feet from the main public entrance into the building. The low-glare quality of Optium is important due to the proximity of the work to the curtain glass wall of the building facade. Below are images of the textile as a single piece, an elevation of the work on the lobby wall, as well as a detail of the framing dimensions. There is also an image of three works the artist installed at Laguna Honda Hospital, which were installed in a similar fashion – framed and set within a niche – as reference.

Upon approval of Design Development, the artist will work towards final design elements, including the width and color of the frame, which will be brought to the Visual Arts Committee for approval during Construction Document phase.

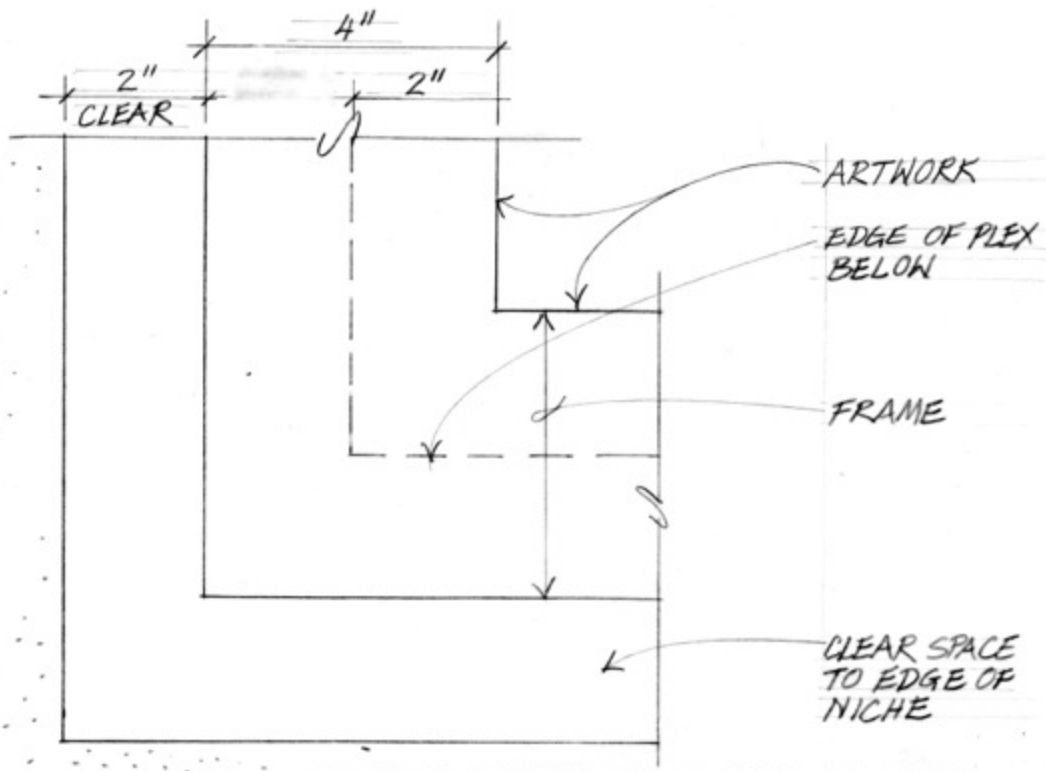
Motion: Motion to approve Design Development deliverables by Merle Axelrad for the public art project in the entry lobby at the new Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.





1 101 SERVICE CENTER - NORTH
 ELEVATION 1/4" = 1'-0"

MERLE AXELRAD 2.9.16



NOTE: DIMENSIONS TO BE CONFIRMED WITH FRAMER & INSTALLER

② 101 SERVICE CENTER - NORTH
 FRAME DETAIL 1/2" = 1'-0"

MERLE AXELRAD 2.9.16

