

Sculpture trail in the works for Texas Avenue

By Mark Fleming mark.fleming@baytownsun.com Oct 23, 2021



“Silence” is one of the abstract sculptures being considered for inclusion in the Baytown Sculpture Trail coming to the Downtown Arts District in March.

Baytown’s Downtown Arts District will add a new dimension to its art collection in March with the advent of a year-long Sculpture Trail featuring 20 sculptures from artists across North America.

The sculptures will be displayed outdoors in the 100-400 blocks of West Texas Avenue, with installation and an opening reception to be scheduled in mid-March.

Steve Knight, second vice president of the Art League of Baytown and a leader of the Sculpture Trail effort, told the Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council Monday that the field has been narrowed to about 24 entries, and a final selection could come this week.



The ACE District Council issued a national call for artists and got responses from across the US and even from Canada. Each

artist chosen will receive \$1,500, which many of them will use to come see their work displayed.

Knight said the sculptures range from about three feet tall to seven feet or more. Media include stone, metal and wood.

About half of the finalist selections are abstract and about half are figurative, depicting humans, animals or other natural objects.

As an outdoor exhibit along downtown sidewalks, the exhibit will be free. All of the pieces will be available for sale or lease—sales will be open right away, but any pieces purchased must be left in place until the exhibit ends in March, 2023.

Visitors will be able to vote on a favorite. The winner will receive the People's Choice Award and will be purchased by the City of Baytown for permanent display. The creator of the piece chosen as Best in Show will receive a \$1,000 prize.

The Sculpture Trail is based on the Sculpture Walk in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and, like that program, is intended to become an annual event, creating an annually changing outdoor sculpture gallery.

The ACE District Council is still seeking sponsors for the event. Each sculpture will be mounted on a concrete pedestal bearing the name of a sponsor.

Sponsorships are available for \$1,500, \$2,500 or \$5,000.