

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Visual Arts Committee

From: Jackie von Treskow, Senior Program Manager, Public Art Program and Allison Cummings, Senior Registrar, Civic Art Collection

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Re: Explanatory Summary – Proposed As-Needed Fine Art Services Contracts with Atthowe Fine Art Services and ARG Conservation Services, Inc.

### Overview

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The San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) seeks authorization to enter into four new as-needed fine art services contracts with Atthowe Fine Art Services, and one new as-needed fine art services contract with ARG Conservation Services, Inc. Both contractors are pre-qualified fine art service providers for the city. The Atthowe Fine Art Services contracts will replace existing agreements that are nearing their maximum capacity and ensure the continued availability of specialized services essential to both the Public Art Program and the Civic Art Collection. The ARG Conservation Services, Inc. contract is a new Chapter 6 contract (details below).

### Description of Services

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Under these as-needed contracts, Atthowe Fine Art Services and ARG Conservation Services, Inc. And ARG Conservation Services, Inc. will provide a broad range of technical fine art services including:

- Artwork handling, transportation, packing, crating, and storage;
- Installation and de-installation of temporary and permanent artworks at City facilities and public sites;
- On-site technical coordination with artists, contractors, and engineers during project fabrication and installation;
- Conservation and restoration of artworks in the Civic Art Collection of various media and scale;
- Support of maintenance, cleaning, and conservation of artworks in the City's Civic Art Collection;
- Consultation and condition reporting to support project planning and collection stewardship;
- Other related fine-art services as required by SFAC Public Art and Collections program staff.

These services are critical to the successful implementation of new public art commissions and the ongoing care and preservation of the City's existing artworks.

### Procurement Background

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In July 2022, SFAC issued [RFP #0000007216 "As-Needed Fine Art Services Providers"](#) to establish a pool of qualified vendors capable of delivering art handling, transportation, installation, storage, conservation, and related services. Atthowe Fine Art Services and ARG Conservation Services, Inc. Were among the firms selected through this competitive solicitation, making them eligible for contract awards under both Chapter 6 and Chapter 21 of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

### Chapter 6 vs Chapter 21 Contracts

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SFAC maintains separate Chapter 6 and Chapter 21 contracts to ensure compliance with City procurement rules based on the funding source and project type:

- Chapter 6 (Public Works and Construction): Used when artwork activities are integrated into or occur alongside City construction or capital improvement projects, such as installations coordinated with Public Works or other departments' building projects.
- Chapter 21 (Purchasing): Used for general services not tied to construction, including ongoing collection maintenance, conservation, or independent public art projects.

Accordingly, for Atthowe, two contracts are established for the Public Art Program (Chapter 6 and Chapter 21) and two for the Civic Art Collection (Chapter 6 and Chapter 21), allowing SFAC to engage Atthowe appropriately across

all project types. For ARG Conservation Services, Inc. we are adding the Chapter 6 contract to cover appropriate projects.

**Recommendation**

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Staff recommends approval of the four proposed as-needed contracts with Atthowe Fine Art Services and the one as-needed contract with ARG Conservation Services, Inc. to maintain uninterrupted support for the handling, installation, conservation and care of artworks commissioned and maintained by the San Francisco Arts Commission.