

Treasure Island finalists named for art projects

By Charles Desmarais

Finalists for the first three major public art projects to be installed as part of the redevelopment of San Francisco's Treasure Island are expected to be approved by a city panel Wednesday.

Each of the three works is budgeted at \$1 million to \$2 million. Seven artists and one alternate will be named to compete.

All the artists have earned international attention. They include Ai Weiwei, the Chinese artist whose multiroom installation on Alcatraz was a Bay Area sensation, and British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, the creator of four popular works in the Presidio made from natural found materials.

Also on the short list are Chakaia Booker, Antony Gormley, Jorge Pardo, Hiroshi Sugimoto and Pae White. San Francisco environmental sculptor Ned Kahn was named as an alternate.

The artworks are being commissioned in accordance with the Treasure Island Arts Master Plan. A selection panel will present the recommendations Wednesday at a meeting of the city

Artists continues on C2

Finalists announced for Treasure Island art projects

Artists from page C1

Arts Commission's visual arts committee. They are likely to be approved the same day by the Treasure Island Arts Steering Committee.

The artists will receive up to \$5,000 apiece per site to develop their proposals. Ai and Booker will each be asked to make proposals for two of the three sites where art is to be installed.

The sites are:

» Building 1 Plaza, located in front of the historic structure known as Building 1, the old Navy administration building that has also been used as a museum. Ai, Booker and White would be asked to make proposals for artwork with a budget of \$1 million. Kahn would be an alternate.

» Waterfront Plaza, located along the shoreline facing San Francisco,

near a proposed ferry terminal. Ai, Gormley and Pardo would compete for a \$2 million budgeted artwork.

» A new Yerba Buena Hilltop Park, where Sugimoto, Booker and Goldsworthy would submit proposals for a budgeted \$2 million artwork.

The artists were selected by a panel consisting of Arts Commission President JD Beltran; Janet Bishop, curator at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Mika Yoshitake, curator at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.; Chris Meany, representing Treasure Island developer Wilson Meany; and Fei Tsen, president of the Treasure Island Development Authority.

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Karl Nielsen / Special to The Chronicle

Finalists for public art at Building 1 Plaza on Treasure Island include Ai Weiwei, Chakaia Booker and Pae White, with Ned Kahn as an alternate. All have earned international acclaim.