

## PROPOSAL

### San Francisco State University Campus Art Committee

(Initial review by committee: 2/2/21)

#### Artwork Description

Title: “Lucy Selfie”

Artist: Elisabeth Daynes

Type/Medium: Sculpture, Silicone, natural hair, yak hair, glass eyes, resin, metal

Size: 4.25ft x 2.3ft x 2.3ft

Artist Elizabeth Daynes has built an exact replication of Lucy, *Australopithecus afarensis*, our bipedal ancestor from 3.2 million years ago. The artist shaped and based her reconstruction directly on the skull and utilized post-cranium data in very close collaboration with the scientific community.

Lucy in this sculptural depiction brandishes a smartphone and is taking a selfie. The phone is her “tool” as well as an extension of her hand. It is a reminder of how far we have evolved and a way to find humor in the fact that we will all disappear. Centuries from now, as *Homo sapiens* are excavated with our smartphones, there will be enormous amounts of data allowing our ancestors to see exactly what we looked like, what our interests were, and how deeply we are glued to our screens.



#### How Acquisition Adds to SF State’s Mission

This sculpture contains a multitude of values that reflect SF State’s mission. At its core is a belief in science as well as evolutionary biology, digital media and anthropology that reflect multiple disciplines within the campus. Through this sculpture’s placement at SF State, there will be an extraordinarily high level of student engagement and interaction. We believe that students will respond well to its placement in a public space as it will inspire their personal development, stimulate creative thinking, fuel self-reflection, and spur intellectual growth.

### **Lucy Selfie Provenance**

2017 and 2018: *Lucy Selfie* created by artist Elisabeth Daynes. Two *Lucy Selfie* sculptures were created: the first (1 of 2), created in 2017 is owned by the National Museum of Prague, Czech Republic, and the second, (2 of 2, under consideration for acquisition by SF State ) was created in 2018.

The artwork (Piece # 2/2 edition) is currently on loan from its originator, artist Elisabeth Daynes and in possession of 836M Gallery owners Julie and Seb Lepinard. The sculpture has not been owned by anyone other than the artist.

#### Display history of *Lucy Selfie*:

- February 28- March 3, 2019: 2/2ArtUp:, Lilles, France
- June 7-21, 2019: Agnès b., Paris, France
- October 3-February 5, 2020: 836M Gallery: San Francisco, CA, US



### **Artwork Acquisition**

SF State Foundation Board Member Camilla Smith has offered to cover the costs for sculpture placement, provide a donation to the campus entity most involved to compensate for the time and energy of coordinating the acquisition, and also cover costs for the display case needed to ensure the safety of the artwork.

Pending an appraisal (which will also be paid for by the gallery), Julie and Seb Lepinard of San Francisco art gallery 836M have offered a \$60,000 cash donation to San Francisco State University for its purchase of *Lucy Selfie* from the artist, Elisabeth Daynes. The \$60,000 gift amount is based on an assessment of what they anticipate the appraisal will be. The artist Elisabeth Daynes has entrusted the sculpture placement and its purchase at \$60K with her representatives at 836M.

Upon two separate agreements in place with Julie and Seb Lepinard (the donors for the purchase of the sculpture) and Camilla Smith (donor for sculpture acquisition costs), 836M will pay for the sculpture's shipment to SF State.

Of note, from 2022-2023, the sculpture will be on loan to Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC as a part of their upcoming exhibit on the cell phone.

### **Display Location on Campus**

The display location is an open question and one that the committee is empowered to determine.

Per the wishes of the artist, the sculpture needs public access for viewing (not stored in an archive). The VP of Advancement's opinion is that the artwork will be displayed best in a high traffic area for students and other members of the campus community, as it invites both reflective and playful engagement.

## Proposed Timeline from Acquisition to Installation

### February - March 2021:

- Campus Art Committee (CAC) convenes initial meeting to consider (completed)
- Campus Forum is held to receive additional feedback
- Campus Art Committee reviews feedback from forum
- If the CAC votes to decline accepting the piece, Advancement communicates decision to gallery and related parties.
- If the CAC votes to accept the piece, parties on campus relevant to its acquisition begin paperwork process internally and externally
- Parties relevant to sculpture placement begin process for acquisition of display and case fabrication
  - Costs are communicated to Advancement and sent to Camilla Smith for her committed support in covering necessary expenditures.

March 2021: Development drafts and sends agreements to 836M and Camilla Smith

April 2021: 836M ships *Lucy Selfie* to campus

June 2021: Display and case for reception of sculpture are completed

Summer 2021: *Lucy Selfie* is shipped from 836M and installed in its place on campus

## Project Budget, Funding Plan, Source of Funds

The expertise on the committee will help determine the fundamentals. Informed preliminary estimates from relevant campus faculty staff anticipate a one-time installation cost for the sculpture's display.

\$60,000	<u>Acquisition cost</u> for sculpture, <i>Lucy Selfie</i> . – No cost to the University as donors Julie and Seb Lepinard are making a donation to SF State for cost to acquire the sculpture. The donors will cover cost for an appraisal to determine fair market value.
\$10,000	<u>Installation, display and case</u> for protection of <i>Lucy Selfie</i> – No cost to the University as donor Camilla Smith will provide funding necessary for the sculpture's installation and maintenance.
\$1,000	<u>Coordination of sculpture's placement and movement to and from campus</u> (assistance from Global Museum) for necessary transaction paperwork– No cost to University as Camilla Smith has offered a \$1,000 donation to the Global Museum or other relevant campus entity. Shipping costs to and from the University will be covered by the 836M and the Smithsonian.
\$0	<u>Insurance</u> – The existing blanket SF State insurance policy will more than cover the value of the sculpture and its necessary insurance.
\$0	<u>Conservation/damage</u> – We fully anticipate the existing insurance coverage to ensure any conservation or damage to the artwork. Long-term conservation costs would be minimal.
<u>\$71,000</u>	Total estimated budget (no cost to University)

**Designated Campus Unit for Oversight and Maintenance:** Office of Facilities and Service Enterprises

## Agreement with SF State & Rights

The artist and the donors supporting this acquisition understand that making a gift gives the University undisturbed rights, and at the same time has requested that the sculpture can be made accessible for potential future loan to other institutions. They would additionally like to invite people to campus to view the sculpture.

Upon this committee's agreement to acquire the sculpture and completion of related activities cited in the Executive Directive, Advancement will draft an agreement ensuring the University's rights to the sculpture.