

Sam Robertson tribute approved here

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The donation of a bronze bust sculpture of Col. Sam Robertson was approved by the San Benito City Commission on Tuesday evening.

Robertson is the recognized founder of the City of San Benito.

An anonymous donor proposed the contribution to the City, according to Sandra Tumberlinson, a member of the Ad Hoc committee formed years ago by the City Commission to honor the City's founder.

"Residents and former residents of San Benito approached the City Commission requesting the commencement of a memorial to honor Col. Sam Robertson," Luis Contreras, museum coordinator told the Commission.

"An ad hoc committee was then appointed by the administration and (they) met periodically to review various ideas for the memorial," he said. Members of the committee were Tumberlinson, Mark Moody, Lupita Monsevalles and Gilbert Weaver.

The bronze bust, approximately two-feet tall, will sit on a 6.5-foot dark granite base, Tumberlinson told the Commission.

The history and story of Col. Sam and the City may be engraved on all four sides of the base, according to specifications included in the project request.

While originally proposed to sit on a grassy area between the new San Benito Cultural Heritage Museum and Community Building or the corner of Sam Houston Blvd. and Adele Street, Contreras recommended that the sculpture be housed inside the Museum for its security and protection.

The artist who created the bust is Carolyn Huitt Genery, a San Benito native. She is a painter and sculptor, having studied at The Institute of Arte in San Miguel Allende, University of Arizona, Martine Vougle Sculpture Academy in France, Ecole de Albert Defois Viehiers in France and the Academy of Realist Art in Santa Fe, Seattle and New York City.

No timeline for installing the piece has been established to-date.

