



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ACM: Christine Taylor

DATE: April 3, 2025

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give input to staff regarding the status of the following Public Art Committee projects:

- 1) Current Projects
 - a) Traffic Box Wraps
 - b) BNSF/Noblewins Bench Installation
 - c) Fire Stations #5 and #6
 - d) Animal Services Extension
 - e) Chairy Orchard 2.0
 - f) Blazier Memorial Play Wall
- 2) Future Projects
 - a) Denton Halloween Performers/Storytellers
 - b) Denton Placemaking Concepts

BACKGROUND

This item provides information about recent and upcoming arts projects and seeks feedback from the committee on those projects and plans.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Traffic Box Wraps

Parks and Recreation Staff are seeking public art for 3-4 additional traffic box wraps South of the Denton Square. Currently, the public submissions received are with a subcommittee of the Public Art Committee (PAC) for consideration. The submissions will be ranked, according to their consolidated scores and the top designs will be placed on available boxes.

In addition to these traffic boxes, David Baker with the City's Marketing and Community is collaborating with Alec Williams a Denton-based historian and photographer to create a series of traffic box wraps in the Fry Street Area featuring Williams' archive of Fry Street photographs from the 1970 and 1980s. This collaboration will likely cover 2-3 boxes in the Fry Street area by the University of North Texas campus.

BNSF/Noblewins Bench Installation

The City of Denton will soon be installing a bench made from a portion of a retired and repurposed wind turbine blade. The bench is manufactured by the company Noblewins and features BNSF art related to their Operation Lifesaver railway safety public education program. The bench will be installed along Hickory Street next to the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center. Parks and Recreation Staff, BNSF staff, and Noblewins are working together to organize a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The bench design and artwork were presented

to the PAC at the October 3, 2024, meeting where the committee voted to accept the bench as a donation from Noblewins, LLC.

Fire Stations #5 and #6

Staff finalized the Call for Artists for each of these fire station public art projects in January and released the calls on the City's ionwave procurement website in that same month. The call for artists was also published on Glasstire, publicartist.org, Codaworkx, on City of Denton social media, and shared with GDAC and other local and regional art partners and will be sent directly to a list of preferred artists. The artist call will be open until the end of April.

Fire Station #5 is located near the location of the present fire station at the corner of N. Bonnie Brae Street and W. Windsor Drive, along the western edge of North Lakes Park. Fire Station #6 will be a new fire station location at 2301 Hunter's Creek Road off of Teasley Lane in southern Denton. Funding for both projects is provided by the 2023 Bond program, with each project receiving just over \$250,000.00 in bond-funded support. The artist calls are asking for projects between \$100,000 and \$200,000 reserving the balance for contingencies

Animal Services Center Expansion

Staff in Parks and Recreation have worked with staff at Animal Service to refine a scope and Call for Artists for proposals providing indoor art for the facility's lobby. The call will be shared broadly, in a similar fashion to the Fire Station RFPs, and like those, will be shared directly with a number of artists who have provided similar public art works in the past.

Similarly, staff are working to finalize an RFP Call for Artists for the Linda McNatt Animal Shelter expansion project. This RFP, like those for the fire stations, will similarly call for a powerfully iconic work of landmark placemaking related to the joys of animal companionship and pet ownership. The Call for Artists will be placed on all the forums where the Fire Station calls were placed, and staff may reach out directly to additional artists directly to encourage their participation in the Call for Artists. The Animal Services Center Expansion RFP has been posted, and submissions are being accepted until the end of April.

Chairy Orchard 2.0

As a reminder, Parks and Recreation Staff are currently considering an extended, and large-scale, art installation that would serve as a Chairy Orchard 2.0. This project will not replicate the irreplaceable original but instead will seek to provide an expansive series of curated art spaces that are inspired by the Chairy Orchard and its sense of wonder and whimsy. Parks and Recreation Staff are currently imagining placing the Chairy Orchard 2.0 in South Denton at the future sites of the Active Adult Center and the South Branch Library. As staff built lists of specific artists to contact for the Fire Station and Animal Service Center projects, they were careful to note artists whose work leans toward the whimsical and fantastic and would make a good fit for the future Chairy Orchard. Staff will continue to build this list in advance of drafting RFPs and Calls for artist when bond funds are issued for the Active Adult Center and the New South Branch Library in FY26-27 and FY28-29.

Blazier Memorial Play Wall

Parks and Recreation staff discussed concerns about the Blazier Memorial Wall at the February 2025 PAC meeting. Currently, staff are in the process of finding an appropriate concrete art/material consultant to provide a more comprehensive report on the sculpture's condition. Staff are also considering what steps can be taken in the interim to discourage park patrons from climbing on the sculpture and risking either injury to themselves or further degradation of the sculpture's surface.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Denton Halloween Projects

Graveyard Storytellers

Parks and Recreation staff are in the early stages of site and program planning related to Halloween Denton 2025. Recently, staff spoke with members the Texas Storytelling Association and hope to include storytellers at the City Hall Graveyard within a program of themed evening storytelling sessions that may also include costumed actors engaging with graveyard visitors before and after the storytelling performances. The storytellers were excited about the possibilities at the City Hall graveyard. The Storytellers had recently spoken to a storyteller/historian from Waco, Texas who did historical programming at Waco's graveyard, focusing on the lives of people buried in the graveyard. The Denton storytelling group was also keen to do a similar program at IOOF if possible.

Placemaking - Witch's Hat

Parks and Recreation staff are finalizing a Call for Artists / RFP for a Giant Witch's Hat that will serve as the placemaking item for Denton Halloween 2025 to be placed downtown. This Witch's Hat will be similar in function to the giant jack-o-lantern that served as the iconic for 2024 on the Downtown Denton Square.

RECOMMENDATION

None.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

Employee art installation on Traffic Box Wraps should occur shortly after PAC chooses winning submissions in February. Additional traffic box wraps will be installed in FY24-25. Planning for the first slate of Bond-related Public Art projects is currently underway with staff sharing preliminary design consideration documents with Fire and Animal Services staff. Future bond projects include the Active Adult Center and the S. Branch Library. Preliminary design discussions for these projects should begin in 2025 and 2026, respectively.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Each project will have an anticipated maintenance need. Staff are currently working on determining an inspection and asset management protocol under the updated Public Art Policy that will allow for inspections of larger artwork on an annual basis, leading to more accurate estimates of maintenance needs on a year-to-year basis.

FISCAL INFORMATION

Public Art Bond Issue Timeline

FY23-24 (Animal Center)	\$317,000
FY 24-25 (Fire Stations #5 and #6)	\$506,000
FY 26-27 (Active Adult Center)	\$930,000
FY 28-29 (S. Branch Library)	\$969,000

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Presentation

Exhibit 3- Noblewins Bench Pictures

Respectfully submitted:

Gary Packan, Director Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:
Omar Siddiqi, Admin. Analyst,
Parks and Recreation