



City of Denton

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

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ACM: Christine Taylor, Assistant City Manager

DATE: June 3, 2024

SUBJECT

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

- 1) Original Denton District (ODD)
 - a) Traffic Box Wraps
- 2) “Serve” Sculpture
 - a) Certificate of Substantial Completion
 - b) Minor remaining fixes
- 3) Continuing projects
 - a) Sycamore Street Mural
 - b) S. Bonnie Brae Sculpture
- 4) Art Maintenance and Repair
 - a) Dallas Drive Murals
- 5) Encounters with Art Status
- 6) Future Projects
 - a) Sound sensitive lighting
 - b) Future Bond Projects

BACKGROUND

This item is to gather feedback and provide updates on the ongoing, new, and proposed public art projects.

Original Denton District - Traffic Box Wraps

City staff and with the help of their installation and printing contractors have completed the installation of the 17 boxes that were initially supported with TCA funding in FY 23-24. The first ten boxes in this program feature art by students from Denton-area high school. The recently installed traffic boxes feature Denton Senior Center member artwork, a Jude Landry design adapted from the graphics he created for the Design Downtown Denton initiative, and TWU student art. These new traffic boxes are located at Carroll/Congress, Elm/McKinney, Bell/Administration, and Bell/Chapel. (**Exhibit 2 - Landry Traffic Box Wrap**)

For FY2024-25 Denton Parks and Recreation are requesting an additional \$15,000.00 Hotel Occupancy Tax funding to support additional vinyl art wraps on traffic boxes and other infrastructure boxes. Project completed.

“Serve” sculpture at Denton Tennis and Pickleball Center

Ms. Sanders attended to some very minor issues with her sculpture ‘Serve’ at the Tennis and Pickleball Center and left some spare paint samples to help with possible future repairs. Additionally, Ms. Sanders provided the transfer of ownership document to City staff for the “Serve” sculpture. Project completed.

Sycamore Street Bridge Mural

City Staff have tentatively scheduled a June 16-17 date for Kirk Seese to come to Denton and paint his design onto the Sycamore Street Bridge. Mr. Seese will be applying his design to both interior sides of the bridge as well as the southern face of the bridge that faces toward park space at Carl Young Sr., and Fred Moore Parks. As a reminder, Seese's design will feature a foreground of large monarch butterflies against a muted, and delightfully "out-of-focus" background of vegetal greenery. The mural theme was developed as a result of conversations with the Southeast Denton Neighborhood Association and the ALH Senior Center Women's Prayer Group, with both groups substantially favoring this theme over others.

S. Bonnie Brae Sculpture

Robert Barnum recently installed his sculpture, *Deer Moon*, along a trail on Bonnie Brae just north of Vintage Boulevard in Southwest Denton. Robert Barnum's design responds to the design brief which asked for a sculpture design that provided a sense of North Texas "riparian flora and fauna." The final design features a tree made out of CORTEN steel that is foregrounded by an aluminum buck, hawk, and full moon. The sculpture is situated within a landscaped border which will eventually include river rock and tall prairie grass, echoing the riparian theme of the work itself. **(Exhibit 2 - Installation Photographs)**

Barnum's proposal was approved by a subcommittee of the PAC and by the entire committee at the June 2023 meeting. The design is amenable to evening illumination, which Parks and Recreation staff intend to add to the piece in a future project phase.

National Humane Alliance Fountain

Restoration of the City's Herman Lee Ensign Fountain (ca. 1910) is currently on hold awaiting the finalization of the concepts for Downtown Denton and Quakertown Park.

Encounters with Art

City Staff have issued payments to artists performing under the city match component of funds allocated for the Encounters with Art program. As a reminder, this program came to an early close when City Staff had some irreconcilable concerns regarding the TCA grant contract. Project complete.

Halloween, Texas

Parks and Recreation Staff are working to help facilitate a month-long calendar of events for October that will put Denton on the map as a premier, national destination or Halloween-related entertainment. Staff have currently reallocated approximately \$75,000.00 from the Chairy Orchard to be used for Halloween purchases to create frighteningly endearing public spaces for the Halloween season.

Light and Sound Installation at Wolff's Park

Staff are currently investigating the possibility of installing a light and sound system at Wolff's Park. These systems make use of outdoor microphones to channel sound through a computer processor that then translates that sound into a pattern of light and color using an LED light array. Limbic Media, a technology firm based in Vancouver, BC offers a number of such light and sound products that may be a good fit for the physical space at Wolff's Park. Staff are currently considering an installation that would be a canopy over the park space, making use of the scaffolding offered by the existing light array.

Parks and Recreation Staff estimate a light and sound installation at Wolff's Park could be realized for around \$10,000.00.

RECOMMENDATION

None.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

The S. Bonnie Brae sculpture was installed May 21, 2024. The Kirk Seese mural should be installed by mid-June. Purchases for Halloween, Texas will continue through the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Additional traffic boxes and infrastructure boxes will be wrapped pending funding in the new Fiscal Year from HOT (Hotel Occupancy Tax) funds. The Chairy Orchard and art projects associated with bond funding are several years out in terms of design and completion.

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

1. S. Bonnie Brae Street Sculpture – (Project #450013467), \$25,000 budget. Additional funds re-allocated for installation-associated costs from existing Public Art accounts. These re-allocated funds totaled \$25,000.00.
2. Sycamore Street Mural- (Project #450017474), \$10,000 budget in FY 23-24. Re-allocated \$2,500.00 to support South Bonnie Brae sculpture installation.
3. HOT funds: Current HOT Fund allocation for FY 23-24: Chairy Orchard, re-allocated to Halloween expenditures (\$75,000.00. Additional traffic box wraps (\$12,000.00), on hold for present year, so entire balance re-allocated to support South Bonnie Brae sculpture installation. TCA grant matching (\$8,400.00), balance less \$4,600 paid to artists transferred to support South Bonnie Brae sculpture installation. Art maintenance (\$4,600.00), balance less \$300 for Robertson Drive mural repair, transferred to support South Bonnie Bra sculpture installation.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 - Presentation

Exhibit 3- Landry Box Wrap

Exhibit 4- Barnum Installation Photos

Respectfully submitted:

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Parks and Recreation