



# City of Denton

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

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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks and Recreation

**ACM:** Christine Taylor

**DATE:** August 7, 2025

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide 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) MLK Jr. Recreation Center Mural
  - e) The Art Room – ALH Senior Center
  - f) Halloween Denton
- 2) Arts Maintenance Projects
  - a) *Bench People* repair

### **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***

Staff have provided all eight artworks selected for installation by the Public Art Committee from our public art call to our printer/installers at Speedpro Irving. Installation of new traffic box art on has begun. A map of traffic box art and installation locations is included with this report (see **Exhibit 2- New Traffic Box Art Locations**).

#### ***BNSF/Noblewins Bench Installation***

Staff have scheduled the unveiling ceremony for the BNSF/Noblewins bench for **Monday, August 18 at 10 a.m. at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center (Greater Denton Arts Council)**. Members of the Public Art Committee are welcome and encouraged to attend the ceremony which should also include the Mayor or a Council/CMO representative, BNSF staff, and the executive director of Texas Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit dedicated to safety at railway crossings. The bench will be installed next to the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center on Hickory Street near the intersection with the Downtown railroad line.

#### ***Fire Stations #5 and #6***

Recently, the artist calls for both fire stations concluded. Staff received 30 proposals for Fire Station #5 and 27 proposals for Fire Station #6. Following a staff review of the received proposals, a subcommittee of the Public Art Committee, Fire Staff, and other relevant City staff will be convened to consider the proposals and determine winning proposals for each project.

### ***MLK Jr Recreation Center Mural***

Earlier this year, Parks and Recreation Staff applied for a grant through Keep America Beautiful's MLK Corridor Community Grant Program. This program seeks to "revitalize and beautify roads, neighborhoods, and parks in or adjacent to areas named in honor of the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." In the grant application, staff asked for \$20,000.00 to install a landmark community artwork at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center in the form of a community-created mural that would communicate the contemporary legacy of the Civil Rights movement. City Council considered and approved the grant in their meeting on August 5.

Staff have created a survey to better understand patron and community members' art preferences for the future mural and will be using this information to hire an appropriate muralist who also has experience collaborating on community-created projects.

### ***The Art Room Community Art Project - ALH Senior Center***

The Art Room is a Denton-based nonprofit that provides art studio space for individuals working through mental health issues. As part of its community-oriented mission, The Art Room also provides an annual art project, artistically rejuvenating the spaces of other community organizations. For 2025, The Art Room would like to focus on the ALH Senior Center as the site of their annual community project.

The Art Room has named this year's community project "From These Roots" in honor of the elders who helped establish the ALH Senior Center and whose legacy lives in our present moment. The project consists of three parts: a colorful 56" x 80" mural of the original ALH building created by combining individual panels painted by volunteer participants, an appliqued quilt featuring a Sankofa bird created with the help of volunteers from the Denton Quilt Guild and guided by quilt artist Barbara McCraw, and a mosaic bench project featuring American Flag and Sankofa bird motifs that will similarly be created with help from community volunteers. The Art Room anticipates installing these works in early September.

### ***Halloween Denton***

Staff continue to work on programming for Halloween Denton. The Denton contingent of the Tejas Storytelling Association is currently finalizing theming for their City Hall Graveyard Saturday evening storytelling series.

Staff are also currently in the process of securing an artist to provide reusable, 3D, immersive, Halloween-themed ground art. These art pieces will work like optical illusions offering especially compelling photo opportunity spots. Staff are also continuing to work on the Graveyard Mausoleum and on wire ghosts for deployment within Quakertown Park.

The Scary Chairy Orchard registration launches early in August along with social media announcements to help get the word out. We hope to have a similar turnout to last year where we received around 140 Scary Chairy art pieces.

## **ARTS MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

### **Bench People Damage**

Recently, a repair was performed on the Bench People sculpture to re-attach a finger that had fallen off. Staff do not think the damage was the result of vandalism but was perhaps due to an intrinsic and original weakness in the stone itself.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

None.

### **ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT**

Traffic wrap installations should be nearing completion in August.

### **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- Traffic Box Art Locations

Exhibit 3- Presentation

Respectfully submitted:

Gary Packan, Director Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:

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Parks and Recreation