



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: December 1, 2022

SUBJECT

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

- 1) Tennis Center
- 2) Bell Avenue and Wainwright Street Sculpture (formerly Dallas and Teasley)
- 3) Bonnie Brae Roundabout Sculpture
- 4) Traffic Box Wraps in the Original Denton District
- 5) Art repair and restoration
 - a) National Humane Alliance Fountain
 - b) Bell and Sherman mural
 - c) Sycamore bridge mural
- 6) Possible Future Project
 - a) Downtown murals in backstreets and alleys

BACKGROUND

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

Ongoing Projects

Tennis Center

The public art project located at the Tennis Center has a budget of \$36,000 comprised of bond funds. At the request of the Public Art Committee (PAC), individuals from Denton Area Tennis Association and the tennis pros at the Goldfield Tennis Center were contacted for thematic input. Input was received from Luis Valdez from the Denton Area Tennis Association. His input was that the artwork should show tennis as an inclusive sport and that the work should be inspirational was used as the art theme in the scope of work.

An artist call was completed on June 30, 2022. Proposals were received from two artists. The PAC subcommittee and tennis center staff reviewed and scored the proposals. The leading proposal by artist Christine Sanders was approved by the PAC in the August 4, 2022, meeting at a cost of \$35,353.26. The artist has been given the notice to proceed with the final designs on the racquets.

Subcommittee assignments are Franklin, Nicholson, and Chamberlin.

Bell Avenue & Wainwright Street Sculpture (Formerly Dallas Drive and Teasley Sculpture)

The public art project was formerly to be located on Dallas Drive and Teasley Lane. The PAC provided input in their April 2022 meeting that the Bell Avenue and Wainwright Street was a better location. While determining the location, PAC expressed interest in Eagle Drive and Elm, however staff did not recommend the site for placement of Public Art, due to visual obstructions. This project has a budget of \$25,000

comprised of bond funds dedicated to transportation projects. Some issues have been noted with using the Bell & Wainwright location due to traffic visibility and the proximity to the Bell Avenue railroad overpass mural. The proposed relocation is identified at S. Bonnie Brae Street close to Vintage Blvd.

Subcommittee assignments are Nicholson and Nuchols. The other subcommittee members have rotated off the PAC.

Bonnie Brae Roundabout Sculpture

The public art project located at the Bonnie Brae Roundabout has a budget of \$133,020 with \$50,000 artist budget and \$83,020 for site improvements. A call for artists was conducted in December 2021. Three proposals were received and evaluated. The PAC accepted the proposal of “Dog Star” by artist Elizabeth Akamatsu in the February 10, 2022, meeting. City Council approved the contract (7-0) on February 15, 2022. The artist completed the design and was given the notice to proceed with the fabrication. The sculpture was installed on September 3, 2022. The landscaping and irrigation have been installed and lighting will be completed by December.

Subcommittee assignments are Lane, Liechty, and Nuchols.

Traffic Box Wraps in the ODD

The PAC indicated its interest in creating a pilot program to wrap utility boxes in 2019. Two skins for traffic boxes were created at the 2019 Arts and Jazz Festival and installed at two locations in the Original Denton District (ODD) cultural arts district. This project will expand the program to wrap the rest of the traffic boxes in the ODD. This would include the area in the ODD, the roads forming the border of the ODD, and cover up to 18 boxes. A grant application was submitted to the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) in July 2022, for \$12,000 to cover half of the estimated \$24,000 needed to prepare and wrap the boxes. Staff was notified in September that the grant award would be half the requested amount of \$6,000. The matching portion of this grant will come from the 2022-2023 HOT Funds allocation. The wrap designs will come from involvement with our UNT, TWU, and DISD partners and through a local artist call. Suggested themes for the art include Historic Denton, Science, Nature, Music Denton, and Denton Diversity. This project was reviewed by the Traffic Safety Commission on July 18, 2022 and received many supportive comments. Artist calls have been made to the Denton Independent School District (DISD) high schools and to art program coordinators at Texas Woman’s University and the University of North Texas. The artist's call for the DISD schools was due on November 18.

A subcommittee has not been assigned to this project.

ART REPAIR & RENOVATION

National Humane Alliance Fountain

The National Humane Alliance fountains are a series of granite drinking fountains distributed by the National Humane Alliance in the early 1900s. Up to 125 fountains were donated to cities in both the United States and Mexico. They were intended to provide fresh drinking water for horses, dogs, and people. Denton received one of the fountains that was originally located near the courthouse on the square. The fountain is currently located next to the Women’s Club building in Quakertown Park. The fountain’s base and upper portion are still in good shape. However, sometime in the past the brass lion head features were removed, piping was cut out, and cement filled into some of the fountain spaces. Renovation of the fountain will include reproducing the lion heads, removing the cement, and replumbing. The renovated fountain will then be relocated to a site yet to be determined, possibly within Quakertown Park.

Bell & Sherman Mural Repair

This mural, also known as the KDB Flower Mural, is showing some weathering and peeling. The mural will need to be cleaned, damage repaired, and a fresh coat of preservative to prevent damage from vandalism. Costs to be determined.

Sycamore Bridge Mural Renovation/Replacement

The mural on the bridge guardrail is weathered and has existing damage from past vandalism. Staff will be meeting with residents of the community and members of the Southeast Denton Neighborhood Association whether they would like the mural renovated, removed, or a new mural in its place.

POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECT

Downtown Murals in Alleys and Backsides of Buildings

The Denton Main Street Association (DMSA) is proposing a partnership with the PAC. The DMSA asked the question, “Can DMSA start to work with Public Arts Committee and Parks & Recreation staff to begin some mural and beautification efforts on back-streets and alleys?” One proposed location that is being discussed is the alley between 116 and 120 Austin Street.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS

The Tennis Center sculpture is expected to be completed by December 2022. The Bell Ave. & Wainwright sculpture is projected to be completed by Fall 2023. The Bonnie Brae roundabout project was completed on September 3, 2022. The Traffic Box Wraps in the ODD will be completed in phases throughout the year with the first installations in early spring. The National Humane Alliance Fountain is expected to be completed by summer, 2023. The Sycamore bridge mural completion will be started once staff has received community input.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

Each project will have an anticipated maintenance need. A supplemental request will be submitted the following fiscal year to offset anticipated maintenance expenses.

FISCAL INFORMATION

1. Tennis Center - (Project #400276), \$36,000 budget. No funds have been spent on this project.
2. Bell Avenue & Wainwright Street Sculpture – (Project #450013467), \$25,000 budget.
3. Bonnie Brae Roundabout Sculpture (Project #450008) - \$133,020 budget (\$50,000 artist budget and \$83,020 site improvements). Funding for this project came from \$54,010 Hotel Occupancy Tax and \$79,010 bonds.
4. Traffic Box Wraps - (no project number assigned) projected budget \$12,000 (\$6,000 TCA grant and \$6,000 Hotel Occupancy Tax funds)
5. Art Renovation & Repair – Project numbers and budgets will be assigned after full assessments of the artwork has been completed and estimates received from original artists or restoration specialists.
6. Downtown Murals in Alleys – No funding has been currently identified.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Presentation

Respectfully submitted:

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Prepared by:

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