



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 1, 2023

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)
- 2) Traffic Box Wraps
- 3) Tennis Center
- 4) S. Bonnie Brae Sculpture
- 5) Art repair and restoration
 - a) National Humane Alliance Fountain
 - b) Sycamore Street Bridge Mural

BACKGROUND

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

Ongoing Project

Original Denton District

In June 2019, the City approved support to seek state designation as an official cultural district from the Texas Commission on the Arts via resolution 19-1158. In addition, Chapter 22 of the City's Code of Ordinances was amended to provide the Public Art Committee (PAC) oversight to make recommendations to the Council related to cultural districts via ordinance 19-1156.

Cultural districts are defined geographical areas which encourage and celebrate arts, culture, entertainment, and history for the purpose of economic and community development. Districts are formed around "cultural assets" that include performances and exhibitions, creative activity, architecture, and historical offerings. Cultural districts do not obligate property owners to any type of additional regulations.

A Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) Cultural District is primarily used as a marketing point for local communities. Grant funding from TCA can be used for cultural tourism projects subject to funding availability. TCA Cultural Districts must submit an annual report to TCA and must be recertified every 10 years. City staff is in the process of gathering attendance information from ODD organizations and from the City's Economic Development Staff to include in the annual ODD TCA Annual Report.

City Staff have solicited LORs (letters of request) from ODD organizations who will need an ODD LOS (letter of support) for their TCA grant request under the Cultural District – Arts Respond grant program.

Traffic Boxes Wraps

Parks and Recreation staff finalized the vinyl wrap proofs from SpeedPro Irving, our contractors for the printing and installation of the vinyl wrap project. The initial proofs provided by SpeedPro were tweaked

slightly to ensure that each artwork best fit the three-dimensional shape of its particular traffic box. SpeedPro anticipates that the DISD art will be placed on the designated vinyl boxes by the end of June.

Texas Woman's University recently provided the Parks and Recreation department with a number of works of art to consider for the two traffic boxes that were designated for TWU student art. Parks and Recreation staff have given the works a preliminary consideration and will ask the Public Art Committee to choose the two works out of the top five that will be placed on the traffic boxes. This item will be presented as a separate agenda item for a vote.

The traffic box project initiated in 2022 when staff applied for a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA), requesting \$12,000 to cover half the estimated \$24,000 needed to cover up to 18 boxes. TCA provided the City with half the requested funds (\$6,000), which the City matched from Public Art's 2022-23 HOT fund allocation. In addition to DISD and TWU art, the project initially envisioned vinyl wraps featuring art from UNT, Morrison Milling Co., and the Denton Parks and Recreation Department, as well. Department staff are still working to secure art from UNT, and are considering other public partners alongside Morrison Milling Co. For the traffic boxes allocated to the Parks and Recreation Department, staff are considering sourcing artwork both from within the department and perhaps from a contest soliciting artwork from residents, at large.

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. The art is currently in fabrication and installation is expected Summer 2023.

Subcommittee assignments are Franklin, Nichelson, and Chamberlin.

S. Bonnie Brae Sculpture (Formerly Bell and Wainwright 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. The project has been relocated to S. Bonnie Brae Street close to Vintage Blvd. This item will be presented as a separate agenda item for a vote.

Subcommittee assignments are Nichelson, Lane and Johnson.

Art Repair and Restoration

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,

pipng 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.

Staff have extended the RFP deadline to the middle of June, having yet to receive an adequate response. This may be due to the uniqueness of the project – involving as it does both a masonry and plumbing component. Staff continue to reach out to masonry and fountain restoration firms. If the current RFP fails to receive adequate responses, Staff may consider seeking a masonry firm to do the stone restoration alone and retrofit the plumbing using internal staff capabilities.

Sycamore Bridge Mural Renovation/Replacement

The Sycamore Street Bridge located near the intersection with S. Crawford Street and spanning the creek alongside Carl Young, Sr. Park has an existing mural that is in disrepair. Two Calls for Artists took place under two scopes that were distinguished only by the fact that the second scope more carefully delineated a desired budget: \$5,000 - \$7,500. The project scope was posted on IonWave, GDAC, Glasstire, Public Artist, and directly mailed to over 100 local, state, and regional muralists. This item will be presented as a separate agenda item for a vote.

RECOMMENDATION

None.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

The Tennis Center sculpture is expected to be installed during Fall 2023. The S. Bonnie Brae sculpture is tentatively projected to be completed by summer, 2024. The Traffic Box Wraps in the ODD will be completed in phases throughout the year with the first installations of DISD art installed by the end of June. The National Humane Alliance Fountain is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. Staff is coordinating the installation of the Sycamore Bridge Mural with Capital Projects with completion scheduled for late Fall 2023.

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.
2. S. Bonnie Brae Street Sculpture – (Project #450013467), \$25,000 budget.
3. Traffic Box Wraps - (Project #450015444) projected budget \$12,000 (\$6,000 TCA grant and \$6,000 Hotel Occupancy Tax funds)
4. 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.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Presentation

Respectfully submitted:
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Prepared by:
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