



# City of Denton

City Hall  
215 E. McKinney Street  
Denton, Texas  
[www.cityofdenton.com](http://www.cityofdenton.com)

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## 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 select an artist for the Sycamore Street Bridge Mural from among the submissions received within scope.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Sycamore Street Bridge located near the intersection with S. Crawford Street and spanning the creek alongside Carl Young, Sr. Park, had an existing mural that was in disrepair. That original mural, of a mauve and abstract design, has so weathered, chipped, and degraded over the years that staff determined that a restoration was no longer possible, and that a new mural would have to be commissioned in its place.

The existing mural covered only the interior walls of the bridge – those visible from the surface of the street. The scope of the new mural would also include the face of the bridge, down to the abutments, oriented South and visible from Carl Young, Sr. Park. Meetings conducted with SEDNA and the ALH Women's Luncheon group determined that an appropriate theme would feature monarch butterflies and vibrant flowers. This theme also demonstrated the City of Denton's commitment as a Monarch City USA to enacting policies that are helpful to the migrating butterflies and to other pollinators.

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. At the end of this expansive call, the City received three proposals that fell within the desired budget parameters. Several artists responded to the call for artist emails indicating that the project as conceived would be difficult to do within the provided fiscal constraints.

The proposals (**Exhibit 3- Proposals for Consideration**) provided for the Committee's consideration are from artists Kirk Seese, Rhianna Deck, and Natasha May Platt. Ms. Platt originally supplied a proposal with a \$39,000 budget, but then translated her project to a vinyl wrap application projecting a cost of \$6,500 for labor. She said this would leave enough of a buffer for wall installation costs.

Kirk Seese's proposal was received during the first artist call and offers a directly painted application on Sycamore Bridge featuring Monarchs in flight against a muted, almost abstract background of pinks and greens evocative of a floral garden. Seese estimates the total cost of the project at \$7,500. Finally, Rhiana Deck also proposes a painted application that features massed Monarchs in migration against a cream background, for a total cost of \$7,500.

### **OPTIONS**

The Public Art Committee will collectively consider, and vote on, the three proposals that were received within budgetary constraints. The artist with the most votes will then be offered the commission through the City's existing purchasing frameworks.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Public Art Committee members should choose the artwork they find most aesthetically compelling and which they think has the most likelihood of being completed in a professional, timely, and fiscally responsible manner.

### **ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT**

Staff is coordinating the installation of the mural with Capital Projects with completion scheduled for late Fall 2023.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

The project theme was developed in collaboration with members of SEDNA, the ALH Women's Luncheon Group and other interested stakeholders.

### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

Funding for this project will come from art renovation and repair funds from HOT/departmental funds.

### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet  
Exhibit 2- Presentation  
Exhibit 3- Proposals for Consideration

Respectfully submitted:  
Gary Packan, Director, Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:  
Omar Siddiqi, Management Analyst, Parks and Recreation