

DATE: April 15, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: Albany City Council

From: Albany Arts Committee

Re: Purchase of Sculpture from Sculpture Loan Program

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council purchase the sculpture Barred Spiral from Jeff Downing for long-term installation at the Washington Ave/Masonic Ave for \$4800 using Set Aside Funds for small community projects.

BACKGROUND

The Sculpture Loan Program features sculptures along the Ohlone Greenway for a two-year period. Two sculpture pads were installed in 2020 at 1) Washington Ave./Masonic Ave. and 2) Solano Ave./Masonic Ave. Pieces after the two-year loan may be purchased by the city, at the artist's discretion. Barred Spiral by Jeff Downing is located on Washington and Masonic Avenue and has a loan period of May 9, 2022 - May 8 2024. The Arts Committee voted unanimously to purchase the sculpture for long-term installment at the current location. The other sculpture pad on Solano Ave/Masonic Ave has remained empty since 2020 because the planned artist had to drop out.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Purchasing this sculpture would result in only a single sculpture pad available (Solano Ave/Masonic Ave) for the Sculpture Loan Program. The Art Committee will release a new call for applications for the single sculpture pad this summer. The single sculpture pad has remained empty since the pad was installed in 2020. Purchasing the Barred Spiral sculpture ensures there will be a piece located on the Washington and Masonic Avenue corner for the foreseeable future, whereas extending the loan or ending the loan may result in the sculpture pad becoming empty for an unknown time until a new artist is selected and the piece is installed.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

None.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

Purchasing the sculpture would reduce the number of pads available for other artists to loan their sculpture to the city. However, the Committee discussed the possibility of installing additional sculpture pads at other locations if there is much interest in participating in the Loan Program.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES

Purchase of art for public places supports improving the quality of our neighborhoods and streets and promotes community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The price of the sculpture is \$4800. Extending the loan for another two years would cost \$1000 while ending the loan would cost \$0, although the introduction of a new sculpture would cost about \$3000.