

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: September 5, 2023
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Arts Committee Public Art Projects Plan Funding Allocation

REPORT BY: Jeremy Allen, KALB Media Administrator
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SUMMARY

The action before the City Council is to approve an allocation of Art in Public Places funds not to exceed \$160,750 for the creation of Public Art in Albany as outlined in the Arts Committee Public Art Project Plan (PAPP).

ARTS COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council approve Resolution No. 2023-63, to allocate Art in Public Places Funds in an amount not-to-exceed \$160,750 for the creation of Public Art as outlined in the proposed Public Art Project Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Art in Public Places Ordinance was adopted in 2007. The purposes of the Ordinance are to promote the acquisition, construction, installation, restoration, and maintenance of public art pieces in Albany. The Ordinance provides for a 1.75%-for-art fee on most new developments over \$300,000. This fee requirement can be satisfied with inclusion of public art in each project directly, or if there is not a possible public space for Public Art at the project site, the development must contribute equal to 1.75% of project costs to the Art in Public Places Fund, to be used in focused areas throughout the city.

The Public Arts Master Plan was adopted in July 2010 and revised in 2016 to provide additional detail of the workflow, categories, and selection process related to the development of public art in Albany. The core of the Public Arts Master Plan is a survey of sites that identifies public art opportunities across the City and a list of art programs actively pursued and managed by the Arts Committee.

DISCUSSION

Public Art Projects Plan (PAPP)

The Public Art Projects Plan is the document that the Arts Committee uses to make a recommendation to Council for the selection of projects funded by the Art in Public Places fund. Upon review of the site inventory and programs in the Public Arts Master Plan, the Art in Public Places Fund balance, and public art projects underway, the Arts Committee creates a biennial (every 2 years) PAPP that is forwarded to the City Council for approval. The PAPP is reviewed periodically by the Arts Committee for possible revisions and amendments to be approved by Council. All projects included in the PAPP are subject to the Public Art Review process as describe in Section J of the Public Arts Master Plan with final approval by the City Council.

The previous Public Arts Projects Plan (2021-2023) is attached to this staff report as Attachment 2, along with the status updates as follows:

- Creative Justice Art Project - \$30,000
A call for artist was release on November 8, 2021. A panel reviewed the submission received in September 2022 and made a recommendation to the Arts Committee. In November 2022 the Arts Committee selected to move forward with Susan Moffat’s project “Path to Belonging”. Community outreach for the project is currently ongoing at the Community Center with a description of the proposed project on display until the end of September.
- Heron Sculpture - \$8,250
No update available
- Sculpture Loan Program - \$10,000
A sculpture by Jeff Downing entitled “Barred Spiral” was installed at Masonic Avenue & Washington Avenue on the Ohlone Greenway on May 9, 2022 for a period of 2 years.
- Community Projects – Mural “Set Aside Fund” - \$20,000
No project implemented under this category.

Public Art Projects Plan

The current proposed draft Public Art Projects Plan 2023-2025 (Attachment 3) consists of project recommendations to be funded with the Art in Public Places Funds including the following:

- \$30,0000 for Creative Justice Art Project currently underway
- \$81,500 for murals in the commercial district in support of the outreach conducted by the Arts Committee Mural subcommittee
- \$5,000 to the Sculpture Loan program for the installation of a sculpture at the designated location at Masonic Avenue and Solano Avenue on the Ohlone Greenway.
- \$8,250 to pursue investigating options for the rehabilitation, relocation or removal of the Herons Sculpture at the Albany waterfront.

- \$36,000 for small scale community projects of less than \$10,000. In accordance with the Public Arts Master Plan, the Arts Committee may propose to set aside funds from the Art in Public Places Fund every two years to support public art projects originated by individuals or groups in the Albany community following a process outlined in the Public Arts Master Plan, Section K: Community Participation. Up to 20% of the Art in Public Places fund balance as of January 1, 2023 can be set aside for Community Projects.

SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

Public Art fosters creativity, freedom of expression, cultural awareness, civic pride, and strong sense of community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The estimated FY 2022-23 year-end balance of the Art in Public Places fund is \$180,456. The Arts Committee's funding request to support the projects outlined in the Public Art Projects Plan is \$160,750.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2023-63
2. Public Art Projects Plan 2021-2023
3. Current proposed draft Public Art Projects Plan 2023-2025