



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Board of Supervisors **Meeting Date:** July 16, 2026

Staff Contact: Jennifer Budge, Parks, Recreation and Open Space Director

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed public art donation from the Invisible Hands Foundation of a bronze sculpture of Mark Twain sitting on a bench by artist Gary Lee Price titled "Mark Twain III." (Anna Freeman, afreeman@carsoncity.gov)

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:** 10 Minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to accept the donation of "Mark Twain III" and authorize the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Director to take any actions necessary to complete the donation.

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

Per the current Public Art Policy, this donation proposal requires Board consideration and possible approval due to its listed value of \$59,800. The policy also states that the City shall require the artist to warrant that the work is unique and limited to an edition of one unless stated to the contrary in a contract; however, this bench will be one of up to 40 identical benches available for purchase. It is not a one-of-a-kind artwork.

All of artist Gary Lee Price's benches are editions of 40. The molds are then destroyed and no others are produced to preserve the value. The artist has always produced art with the intent of them being placed in public spaces, as part of that, his work has primarily been in editions so they can be enjoyed by many.

The version proposed to be donated to Carson City is the third version Price has created, which is why it is titled "Mark Twain III." The first version can be found in Reno, Incline Village, and around the country. The second version is one of Mark Twain standing behind the bench with Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher seated on the bench looking at Mark.

Mark Twain III is a life-sized bronze sculpture of Mark Twain seated on a bronze bench with space for people to sit down and join him. The donation proposal states that this artwork is significant to Carson City because it was here that Samuel L. Clemens first signed the name "Mark Twain."

Upon approval, the sculpture would be installed by Public Works staff in McFadden Plaza, near the Fox Brewpub in the historic St. Charles Hotel.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Public Art Policy

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes

If yes, account name/number: N/A

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: Upon the Board's approval, once installed this will become an asset of Carson City and part of its public art collection. It would be added to the asset inventory with an estimated value of \$59,800. It is unknown what the maintenance costs will be, but is anticipated to be very minimal, as the art is built with the intent of being outside and durable. The installation will be conducted by Carson City Public Works. Any necessary maintenance responsibilities will be shared by Public Works staff and Parks, Recreation and Open Space staff.

Alternatives

Do not accept the donation and/or provide alternate direction to staff.

Attachment(s):

[ATTACHMENT_Public Art Donation Proposal and Photos_Mark Twain III Bench 2026.pdf](#)

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)