



COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 5.5

DATE: June 23, 2026
TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts
FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II
SUBJECT: Review of the proposed Great Elephant Migration exhibit.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts receive the presentation and report and recommend approval of \$30,000 in matching funds for the Great Elephant Migration exhibit.

SUMMARY

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and 333 Arts have partnered on a proposal to bring the Great Elephant Migration exhibit to the City of Livermore. During September and October 2026, large herds of elephant sculptures would be displayed in various regions of Livermore, allowing for local and regional community members to view and enjoy them. Having these sculptures would have a significant impact on tourism, local businesses, and arts engagement.

The project requires total budget funding of \$120,000; upon receiving the proposal from the project organizers, the City proposed the possibility of providing \$30,000 from the F/Y 2026-2027 Public Art Fund budget in matching funds contingent upon the organizers securing the remaining necessary funding.

The Commission for the Arts is asked to receive the report and presentation from staff and the organizers, discuss the proposal, and recommend approval of the funding for this project.

DISCUSSION

As of June 16, 2026, organizers have secured pledges of \$40,500, and the City's potential \$30,000 funding match. The City will only consider moving forward with supporting this project if the organizers are able to secure the entirety of the remaining necessary budget funding. Initially, organizers indicated that the Great Elephant Migration group required a commitment to host the exhibit by late June 2026; they have now indicated that they have until July 31, 2026, at the latest to secure funding and commit to hosting. Funding from the F/Y 2026-27 Public Art Fund budget would be utilized to support this project if approved.

Currently proposed locations for the herds of elephants are in the downtown including areas near or within Bankhead Theater, Bankhead Plaza, Stockmen's Park, and Livermorium Plaza; however, these locations have not been formally decided upon.

The Great Elephant Migration exhibit has been displayed across the country since 2024. Organizers have indicated that Livermore would be the only stop on the west coast for this exhibit in 2026. This display is not only artistic in nature; it is also raising millions to support human-wildlife coexistence projects and to protect migratory animals making journeys across land, rivers, skies, and oceans. Cities and regions that have displayed the herd exhibits include: Miami Beach, Beverly Hills, New York City, and Rhode Island. Estimates from the organizers indicated that 4 million people have engaged at the street level with the exhibits.

ATTACHMENTS

- [1. The Great Elephant Migration - Background Information and History Presentation](#)
- [2. The Great Elephant Migration - Organizer Presentation](#)

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