

TOWN OF WINDSOR AGENDA REPORT

Joint Windsor Town Council, Windsor Redevelopment Successor Agency and Windsor Water District Meeting Date: April 17, 2024

To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Mike Kovanis, Recreation Program Supervisor
Subject: Discovering Windsor Through Art Program Recommendation

Recommendation to Council:

By motion, approve the Public Art Advisory Commission recommendations for the 2024 Discovering Windsor Through Art utility box painting program.

Strategic Plan Element:

The recommended action supports the goal of Livability. Goal Statement: Preserve community character by maximizing the use of existing amenities and creating future opportunities that enhance quality of life for all.

Background:

The Public Art Advisory Commission (Commission) established a new utility box painting program in 2021 called Discovering Windsor Through Art (Program). Now entering the Program's fourth year, local artists have painted nineteen traffic signal utility boxes around Windsor (Attachment 1). This amount reflects all of the Town owned and maintained traffic signal utility boxes in the Program.

The Program theme for 2024 is "Inclusion for All", which reflects how Windsor strives to provide a safe, supportive, and inclusive community for everyone. The Artist Handbook (Attachment 2) and applications were released to the community on February 1, 2024 and the deadline for submission was March 1, 2024. The Town received eleven applications from qualified artists. The Commission served as judges at the regular Commission meeting on March 27, 2024 and ranked the applications based on the following criteria:

Technical Skill – Review of previous work

Design Originality – Consideration of proposed artwork

Consistency with Theme – How the artwork aligns with the theme

Overall Impact – Reaction and connection to the design

Discussion:

The Commission is recommending six of the eleven applications received to move forward for final Council approval based on the program budget (Attachment 3). Included in the recommendation, the Commission designated specific locations for each design. The preferred locations for 2024 are six California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) traffic signal utility boxes. These boxes are the same size and design as the Windsor utility boxes painted. Upon Council approval of the designs, Town staff will complete the application process to Caltrans to include these boxes in the Program. In the event the Caltrans application is not approved, the Commission has selected six Town owned boxes in the Parks system as alternate locations.

Once Town Council approves the artwork, staff will proceed with individual artist agreements. Each

artist/art team will receive an \$800 stipend upon the satisfactory completion of their painting project. Staff will host a mandatory pre-painting workshop by May of 2024 to review the program requirements with the selected artists. Town Council feedback for the artists can also be presented at this workshop.

The 2024 Program schedule is as follows:

Town Council Artist Selection Approval: **April 17**
Artist Pre-painting Workshop: **April or May**
Box Painting (weather dependent): **Tentative June 1-15**

Fiscal Impact:

Each artist/team will receive an \$800 stipend upon the successful completion of their painting project. The Public Art Special Revenue Fund has allocated \$7,000 to cover the cost of artist stipends and additional materials for this Program. No General Fund resources are needed.

Environmental Review:

This action does not constitute a “project” within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 and requires no environmental review.

Attachment(s):

1. [Map of Painted Utility Boxes](#)
2. [2024 - Discovering Windsors through Art Handbook](#)
3. [2024 Recommended Artists](#)
4. [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Prepared by:

Mike Kovanis
Recreation Program Supervisor

Reviewed by:

Nelle Herman
Recreation Division Manager

Reviewed by:

Olivia Lemen
Parks and Recreation Director

Recommended by:

Jon Davis
Town Manager