

TOWN OF WINDSOR AGENDA REPORT

Joint Windsor Town Council, Windsor Redevelopment Successor Agency and Windsor Water District Meeting Date: August 6, 2025

To: Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Olivia Lemen, Parks and Recreation Director
Subject: Public Art Partnership Opportunity

Recommendation to Council:

By motion, approve the Public Art partnership with Luther Burbank Center for the Arts.

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:

On December 20, 2023, the Town Council approved a conceptual Emerging Artist Rotating Public Art Program (Program). This Program is divided into three components:

- Existing long-term sculpture loans
- **Civic Youth Gallery** at Town Hall
- **Redwood Corridor Catalyst**

The Town currently features three large sculptures by prominent regional artists. *Offering* by Bruce Johnson is located in the roundabout at Old Redwood Highway and Market Street; *Big Joe* by Peter Forakis now permanently resides at the roundabout at Old Redwood Highway and Windsor Road; and *Slice* by Robert Ellison is located in Keiser Park near the playground. The Town has loan agreements for *Offering* and *Slice* that expire in either 2025 or 2026, depending on the piece. The intention is to extend these agreements through the end of the next fiscal year unless a purchase agreement can be reached within the Town's budgetary parameters.

The **Civic Youth Gallery** was established in 2024 and has had two installations so far from students within the Nueva School for the Arts at Windsor High School. Another installation is scheduled for June 2025 in honor of the Juneteenth holiday. This project will be in partnership with Windsor High School students and Nuestra Comunidad, a local non-profit organization.

The third component is the **Redwood Corridor Catalyst** (Catalyst) an outdoor, rotating sculpture program. The Catalyst would create three to five pre-determined locations along Old Redwood Highway available to artists to showcase their work in a public space. The exhibition term would be set for 18-24 months and artwork would be selected through an application and jury process. The program is designed for artists who are building their portfolio and resume and have a strong interest in gaining experience with public art installations. These locations would have set criteria which artists would need to meet to be considered for the program. Selected artists would be provided with a stipend to help facilitate transportation, installation, maintenance and deaccession of the work. Areas considered for the Catalyst are Esposti Park, David Smith Memorial Park, Bluebird Center, and Town Hall.

Since the time Council approved the Program, the Catalyst has been unfunded. This component of the Program requires on-going funding and dedicated staff time to install and prepare the sites, prepare and manage the call for art, coordinate the artist agreements, and promote and market the program. The current resources do not allow for this component of the Program to be implemented at this time.

Discussion:

A potential partnership opportunity has been identified with Luther Burbank Center for the Arts (LBC) to expand public art in Windsor. The LBC, a 501c3 non-profit, is the premier arts and events center north of San Francisco, known for world-class performances, contemporary visual art, nationally recognized education programs, and community events. LBC offers free, year-round access to contemporary artworks throughout its 26-acre campus, including a one-acre Sculpture Garden for rotating exhibitions that support regional artists. The Sculpture Garden has become a popular destination to relax, reflect, and experience art for more than 100,000 visitors annually. Featuring a temporary winter light display from November through January, the Garden is the centerpiece of a campus-wide Art Walk, which showcases an additional 28 pieces by 14 artists – all of which are part of the Center's permanent collection.

The LBC is interested in expanding accessible, quality arts experiences out into the community by partnering with the Town of Windsor with two main goals: expand the reach through promotion of their Sculpture Garden exhibition at a satellite installation, encouraging attendance; and enhance the Windsor community with free visual arts experiences. The Town of Windsor was identified as a perfect partner given the commitment to public art, beautification initiatives, and proximity to the LBC.

The LBC Sculpture Garden is due to rotate a new curated exhibition called Art in Motion (working title) later this year. Scheduled for installation in September of 2025, Art in Motion will highlight how energy and motion can be communicated in many different ways. In sculpture, it can be seen in bold, dynamic compositions that appear alive. It also can be represented in the engineering and physicality of kinetic movement. And it can show up when light and shadow animate the work. Art in Motion explores the figurative and literal qualities of movement in the works of eight artists, who bring their individual perspectives and creative vision into view. Through artistic expression, each piece captivates and inspires, inviting viewers to explore the interplay among energy, space, time, and motion – all while igniting a sense of wonder.

In reviewing protentional locations for this opportunity, staff visited the areas along Old Redwood Highway corridor, identified in this Program. While this partnership won't achieve the entire vision of the Catalyst, it will allow the Town to increase the visibility of public art in Windsor, specifically on the east side of Windsor. It will also create the infrastructure needed when this component of the Program can be launched.

Staff of the Town and LBC visited a number of sites on the east side of Old Redwood Highway and selected the vacant corner at Pleasant Avenue as shown in Attachment 1. As captured in the most recent traffic studies, this prominent location receives more than 10,000 vehicle trips per day. At the gateway to Maddie Washburn Elementary School, David Smith Memorial Park, and Chuck Williams Dog Park – this serves as an ideal high visibility location to expand the Windsor's temporary public art program and achieve the LBC goals of a satellite location. Any infrastructure placed here to support this partnership will be available when the full Redwood Corridor Catalyst program is funded.

In the proposed community partnership, the following responsibilities will be divided between the LBC and the Town:

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts:

- Sculpture curation and Artist negotiation
- Artist Stipend
- Transportation Costs
- Installation Costs
- Deinstallation Cost

Town of Windsor:

- Site Preparation
- Low Voltage Lighting
- Insurance coverage of Artwork while displayed
- Encroachment Permitting

The LBC is currently in negotiations with the selected artists for the Art in Motion exhibit. Town Staff, LBC Staff and the selected artist will work collaboratively to identify a sculpture which meets public safety needs as well as site and location restrictions. While this process has not been finalized, there is a short list of artists who have been identified to include an additional piece of art for this location. Once selected, the sculpture would be installed for a two-year term of Fall '25 – Fall '27.

Given the proposed budget reductions in the FY25-27 budget, Staff would propose completing the minimal site work and lighting with volunteers, Town Staff and funding any materials and supplies using the Measure M-Parks for All funds. The Sunrise Rotary Club of Windsor is considering this project for a Rotary grant. If the site is not chosen by Rotary, then the Town will host another volunteer work day to plant improve the area with some fresh, drought tolerant, pollinator friendly landscape.

This project was presented to the Public Art Advisory Commission on May 28, 2025. The Commission discussed the partnership and it received a unanimous recommendation to move forward.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost of the site improvements is included in the approved Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Measure M- Parks for All Fund.

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. Site Location](#)

[13.1 Public Art PowerPoint \(Distributed 2025-08-06\)](#)

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