



DATE: May 21, 2019

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Community Development Department

TITLE: **Public Art – Wyandotte Park, Project 18-34**

RECOMMENDATION

Select the Ene Osteras-Constable art sculpture for the Wyandotte Park, Project 18-34.

BACKGROUND

In February 2015, the City acquired the parcel at 2254 Wyandotte Street (0.88-acre) for a new park. The park is located at the intersection of Wyandotte Street and Reinert Road and is across from a small City-owned corner park constructed in 1999. On November 13, 2018, City Council approved the conceptual plans for the new park project and directed staff to work with the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) to include public art.

ANALYSIS

Wyandotte Park is designed to utilize the existing open space at the front of the property for natural turf and to create a meandering “wooded” experience under the existing trees at the rear of the property. Play areas in the park will primarily utilize boulders, near or under the tree canopy for organic play. (See Figure 1 – Approved Conceptual Park.)



Figure 1 – Council-Approved Concept Plan

VAC Review and Ranking

On February 13, 2019, the VAC recommended staff issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for public art at Wyandotte Park. The VAC encouraged artists to consider single or multiple art installation sites or park bench designs as art (contingent that it is functional and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act). The VAC was open to selecting multiple art installations and/or artists if proposed art is within the budget of \$18,000. The RFP was issued on March 1, 2019 (Attachment 1), and a total of nine applications were submitted by the deadline of March 25, 2019. All proposals ranged in cost from \$14,000 to \$18,000.

At the April 10, 2019 VAC meeting, proposals were reviewed and ranked with consideration of suitability and durability for an outdoor public park setting. The VAC selected a bronze sculpture of two owls by Ene Osteras-Constable (see Figure 2 – Osteras-Constable Concept) as the top choice, followed by benches submitted by two artists Marisha Farnsworth (see Figure 3 – Farnsworth Concept) and Damon Belanger (see Figure 4 – Belanger Concept).



Figure 2 – Osteras-Constable Concept

At the direction of the VAC, staff requested additional information from Ene Osteras-Constable to consider an alternative animal design concept for a chicken, and to clarify budget and installation information from all three top-ranked artists. Marisha Farnsworth confirmed the proposal was within budget, which included delivery and installation costs. Damon Belanger withdrew his proposal citing the installation costs would exceed the budget.

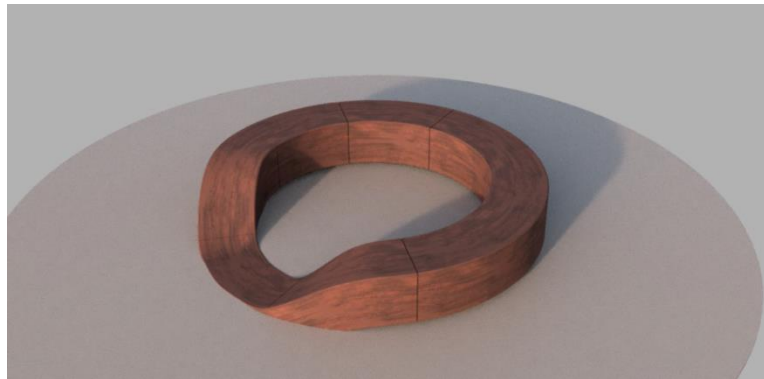


Figure 3 – Farnsworth Concept



Figure 4 – Belanger Concept

Visual Arts Committee Recommendation

At the May 8, 2019 VAC meeting, the Committee reviewed the additional information from the remaining top two artists and formally selected Ene Osteras-Constable as the best qualified artist. The artist can provide five bronze cast chickens, each 20" tall within the art budget. (See Figure 5—Chicken Concept.) The original sculptures will be hand-carved in cork, as shown in the figure, and the final patina will be bronze, similar to the patina shown in Figure 2. The chickens reflect the neighborhood history surrounding the park which was known for large chicken farms in the early 1900s. When the area was developed, streets in the area were named after chicken breeds, such as wyandotte, leghorn, plymouth, and rock. Staff will work with the artist to select suitable locations for the art throughout the park.



Figure 5 - Chicken Concept

As an alternative, if City Council desires an art-like bench, the VAC recommends the second highest-ranked proposal provided by artist Marisha Farnsworth, entitled "Full Circle," (see Figure 3—Artist Concept), which is an inclusive artwork bench that presents a place for gathering, discussion, and play. The piece is created out of durable solid redwood slabs and set on a concrete foundation. The circle is 9' at its outside diameter with a six-foot void at the center.

Schedule

If Council approves the recommendation or the alternative, staff anticipates the fabrication can begin in late June 2019, and the installation can be completed in time for the opening and dedication of the new park in early 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT

The project has budgeted 1 percent of the construction budget per Council Policy No. K-5 (Attachment 2) for a total of \$18,000. Both artists proposed art for \$18,000. If Council selects both the sculpture and the bench, the Wyandotte Park project has sufficient funding to cover the additional \$18,000 (total \$36,000). The budget includes the artist's design and coordination, fabrication, delivery, and installation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Select Marisha Farnsworth artwork bench.
2. Increase the Public Art Allocation by \$18,000 for a total of \$36,000 and select both Ene Osteras-Constable art sculpture and Marisha Farnsworth artwork bench.
3. Do not select either and direct staff to issue a new Call for Artists to obtain additional art options for the VAC to review and recommend to Council.
4. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING

The Council meeting agenda and Council report have been posted on the City's website and announced on Chanel 26 cable television. This public art project was discussed and recommended for Council approval at the May 8, 2019 VAC meeting.

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Attachment:

1. Request for Proposals – Call for Artists
2. Council Policy K-5