



DATE: April 14, 2020

CATEGORY: New Business

DEPT.: Community Development

TITLE: **Public Art Approval for Mora Park and Pyramid Park**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the Angelina Duckett small mosaic bench for Mora Park, Project 17-46, for \$10,000.
2. Approve the Adrian Litman “Magic Birds” art sculpture for Pyramid Park, Project 17-34, for \$30,000.

BACKGROUND

In October 2019, City Council approved conceptual plans for construction of Mora Park and Pyramid Park. Mora Park is a 0.45-acre park site located on Ortega Avenue at Mora Drive dedicated to the City for park use by the developers of the 2296 Mora Drive residential project. Pyramid Park is a 2.76-acre park site dedicated to the City for park use by the developers of 100 and 420 to 430 Ferguson Drive residential projects. At the time of approval, Council directed staff to work with the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) to provide recommendations for public art in each park. Council directed staff to provide public art options at 1 percent of the construction budget, compliant with Council Policy K-5 (Attachment 1) and 2 percent of the construction budget.

ANALYSIS

For Mora Park, City Council requested integration of art pieces with park elements, such as a park bench or bicycle rack instead of stand-alone art pieces. The concept for the park is “orchard” inspired, which was conveyed in the Call for Artists. Figure 1 shows the approved concept for Mora Park. The budget for art at Mora Park is currently \$10,000 (1 percent). At 2 percent, the funding would be \$20,000.

Figure 1: Mora Park Approved Concept



For Pyramid Park, City Council requested integration of art pieces with park elements, such as a park bench or bicycle rack instead of stand-alone art pieces. Figure 2 shows the approved concept for Pyramid Park. The budget for art at Pyramid Park is currently \$30,000 (1 percent). At 2 percent, the funding would be \$60,000.

Figure 2: Pyramid Park Approved Concept



VAC Review and Ranking

On November 13, 2019, the VAC discussed the two parks and recommended staff issue two separate Call for Artists for public art proposals for Mora Park and Pyramid Park (Attachment 2). The VAC requested pieces that met the 1 percent and/or 2 percent budget option. The Call for Artists was issued on November 21, 2019 with a deadline of January 8, 2020 and extended to January 20, 2020 to allow for additional outreach. Eleven (11) eligible proposals were submitted for Pyramid Park, and 10 eligible proposals were submitted for Mora Park. Proposals ranged from \$3,300 to \$150,000.

At the February 12, 2020 VAC meeting, proposals for each park were reviewed and ranked with consideration of suitability, cost, and durability for an outdoor public park setting. The review and ranking process was kept separate for each park. The majority of the artists submitted similar proposals for both parks. The VAC directed staff to return to the March 11, 2020 meeting with additional information about the proposal, budget, and installation from the following top-ranked artists: James Dinh, Angelina Duckett, Adrian Litman, and Ene Osteras-Constable.

Visual Arts Committee Recommendation

At the March 11, 2020 VAC meeting, the VAC reviewed additional information provided by the top-ranked artists and recommended Angelina Duckett for Mora Park and Adrian Litman for Pyramid Park. Table 1 below is a summary of the VAC recommendations for Mora and Pyramid Parks under the 1 percent Council K-5 budget and 2 percent budget option.

and a larger version of the same bench for a 2 percent public art budget option. Mosaics are durable and require minimal maintenance. The park plan is designed to provide a loop trail leading through orchard groves that provides shade throughout the park. Staff will consider placement in the park to eliminate skateboarding on the bench and/or include skateboard restrictors to protect the art.

- 1 Percent Budget: Angelina Duckett can provide two curved benches (Figure 3) connected together (each bench is 6' long by 16" high by 18" wide) with mosaics placed on all of the vertical surfaces in natural hues inspired by orchards. The small bench costs \$10,000 and within the 1 percent budget of \$10,000.

Figure 3: Angelina Duckett – “Orchards” Small Bench



- 2 Percent Budget Option: Angelina Duckett’s larger bench is the same orchard mosaic concept and costs \$20,000, which is within the 2 percent budget option of \$20,000. The bench (Figure 4) will include three curved benches (6' wide by 18" high and 72" inches long) connected together with three separate circular benches (36" in diameter and 16" high).

Figure 4: Angelina Duckett – “Orchards” Large Bench

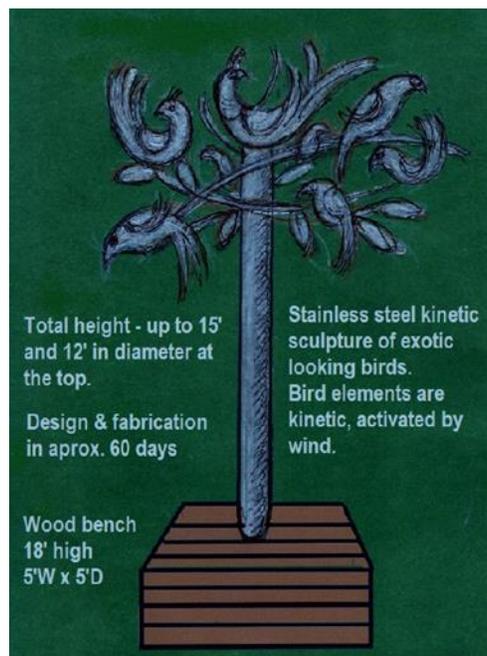


Pyramid Park

The VAC recommends the art sculpture titled “Magic Birds” proposed by Adrian Litman for the 1 percent budget and two art sculptures by the same artist titled “Magic Birds” and “Shoreline Wonders” for the 2 percent budget. The park plan has dog areas, corner entry, basketball court, and a play area.

- 1 Percent Budget: Adrian Litman proposes a stainless steel art sculpture of local/native birds mounted atop a metal, painted, 12” diameter column, 8’ tall (Figure 5 below). The sculpture costs \$30,000, which is within the 1 percent budget of \$30,000. The bird elements are kinetic and activated by wind. Although the artist proposes a 5’ square and 1.5’ high bench made out of painted fir or redwood boards around the column to provide seating, staff will work with the artist for a modification to create a lower-maintenance element.

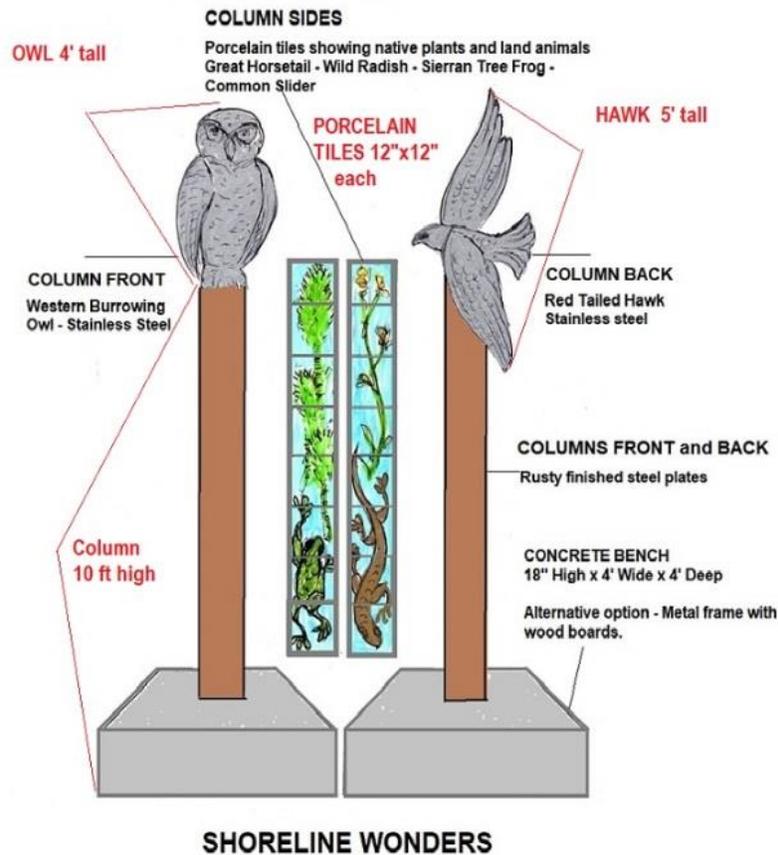
Figure 5: Adrian Litman – “Magic Birds” Art Sculpture



- 2 Percent Budget Option: Adrian Litman’s two art sculptures, “Magic Birds” and “Shoreline Wonders,” could fit within the 2 percent budget option. “Magic Birds” costs \$20,000, and “Shoreline Wonders” costs \$30,000, for a total of \$50,000 (the total proposed budget is \$60,000). The “Shoreline Wonders” (Figure 6) sculpture is a single 10’ high painted column with a 4’ tall stainless steel sculpture of a western burrowing owl and a 5’ tall sculpture of a red-tailed hawk placed on top. The

column sides would be decorated with 12" by 12" porcelain tiles showing native plants and land animals. The artist proposes a 4' square by 1.5' high concrete bench.

Figure 6: Adrian Litman – "Shoreline Wonders" Art Sculpture



Next Steps

If Council approves the recommendation or the alternatives, staff will execute agreements with the artists, and the installation can be completed in time for the opening and dedication of the new parks.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgets for Mora Park, Project 17-46, and Pyramid Park, Project 17-34, include 1 percent of the construction budget for public art consistent with Council Policy K-5. If Council selects the 2 percent option, the total public art budget for the two parks would increase by \$30,000 (from \$40,000 to \$70,000). Funding for construction of Pyramid Park has not

been approved by Council and is included in the 2020-21 Capital Improvements Program for approval in June 2020.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Increase the Public Art Allocation for Mora Park to \$20,000 and select the larger orchard bench by Angelina Duckett.
2. Increase the Public Art Allocation for Pyramid Park to \$50,000 and select the two Adrian Litman art sculptures.
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 Channel 26 cable television. This public art project was discussed and recommended for Council approval at the March 11, 2020 VAC meeting.

Prepared by:

Sabina Mora
Business Development Specialist

Tiffany Chew
Business Development Specialist

Approved by:

Aarti Shrivastava
Assistant City Manager/
Community Development Director

Kimbra McCarthy
City Manager

TC-SM/6/CAM
822-04-14-20CR
200025

- Attachments: 1. Council Policy K-5
2. Call for Artists – Mora Park and Pyramid Park