

DATE: March 13, 2024

TO: Visual Arts Committee

FROM: Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist

SUBJECT: City Council Direction Related to Public Art at Evelyn Park, Project 21-60

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to share with the Visual Arts Committee feedback received from the City Council on the public art selection for Evelyn Park, Project 21-60. The City Council referred the item back to the Committee to address LED lighting and the interaction with dark skies and the park-goer experience of the underside of the butterflies.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff to work with the artist to augment the proposed art and bring back a revised concept at the next available Regular Meeting of the Visual Arts Committee.

BACKGROUND

The 0.68-acre park site located on Evelyn Avenue, near the border of Mountain View and Sunnyvale, was dedicated to the City for park use by the 525 East Evelyn Avenue development project. On [May 9, 2023](#), the City Council approved a Conceptual Plan and selected the park name “Evelyn Park.”

At the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) meeting on November 8, 2023, after issuing a Call for Artists for public art proposals and scoring and jurying the applications, the VAC selected Looking Up Art’s proposal for a monarch butterfly sculpture, entitled “Butterfly Reflect.”

Staff prepared a report to represent the VAC’s recommendation to approve Looking Up Art’s “Butterfly Reflect” sculpture. At their Regular Meeting on [February 27, 2024](#), the City Council

deliberated on the VAC's recommendation and requested that the VAC discuss options for the proposed artwork at Evelyn Park with consideration to:

1. The public experience at ground-level given that the height of the sculpture (butterflies ranging from 10' to 25' tall); and
2. Address LED lighting and the interaction with dark skies.

ANALYSIS

Staff spoke with the Looking Up Art team on February 29, 2024, and the team shared they have some ideas to adjust the sculpture in response to the City Council's feedback. Looking Up Art provided several options for adjustments, including reduction in overall lighting, adjustments to the opacity of the polycarbonate panels, and direction of the lights facing inward and down within the sculpture.

Based on the direction from the City Council, the VAC should consider the following questions regarding Looking Up Art's "Butterfly Reflect" sculpture:

1. What should the park-goer experience look and feel like at ground-level, underneath the butterflies? What elements of the piece can be improved at ground-level?
2. Should lighting be incorporated into the piece? What does the piece look like with reduced lighting or no lighting?

KH/1/CDD

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