

DATE: September 13, 2023

TO: Visual Arts Committee

FROM: Faryal Saiidnia, Senior Project Manager
David Printy, Principal Project Manager

SUBJECT: **Public Art – Villa Park (Villa-Chiquita Park), Project 21-61**
and
Public Art Bench – Sylvan Park Volleyball Court, Project 21-46

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize a web posting of a “Call for Artists” for the Villa Park Public Art project.

Authorize a web posting of a “Call for Artists” for the Sylvan Park Volleyball Court Public Art Bench project.

BACKGROUND

Villa Park:

The proposed 0.39-acre park site located at 1720 Villa Street was dedicated to the City for park use by the developer of the 1720 Villa Street development project. On June 13, 2023, the City Council approved a Conceptual Plan and selected the park name “Villa-Chiquita Park.” The Council Policy regarding Public Art provides for 2% of the Construction budget be set aside for public art, which in this case, is \$28,000.

The Conceptual Plan includes the following:

- A lawn area;
- A central plaza area with a specimen tree;
- Nature-theme playground;
- Entry plaza opening into raised crosswalk;
- Picnic tables and benches

Council also approved staff to place signage within the park to provide historical information about Club Estrella, the primary social club of the local Mexican-American community, which was founded in 1948 just one mile from the future park. The club’s purpose was and still is, to promote Mexican-American culture in a social atmosphere as well as to assist the poor and needy

in the community. During the April 12, 2023 meeting to review the concept design, the Parks and Recreation Commission had the following suggestions for public art, including:

- A star theme, as “Estrella” translated from Spanish means star.
- A Mexican-American theme.
- Integrated into the park’s perimeter fencing.
- As an art and play piece.

Sylvan Park:

Sylvan Park is a nine-acre neighborhood park on Sylvan Avenue at Glenborough Drive. Plans to install a new sand volleyball court to replace the underutilized horseshoe pit were approved by City Council on June 28, 2022. The project construction budget was below the \$1 million threshold to require a public art element, therefore public art was not included during the planning and design stages. During this meeting, Council directed staff to include functional public art using or replacing the (2) benches already slated to be placed near the volleyball court, also allowing the public art process to follow after the start of construction to avoid delays to the schedule. Although this project is not required by Council Policy to set aside 2% of the Construction budget for public art, Council did request staff to include an art bench, and using the 2% typical budget in this case would be \$9,000.

ANALYSIS

Villa Park:

Several art opportunities exist on the site. Figure 1 shows the approved concept for Villa Park and suggested areas where art can be located.



Figure 1: Approved Concept for Villa Park and Potential Art Locations

Art proposals should include a color sketch or photo, title, description, cost, fabrication schedule, and special requirements. Based on the proposal and costs, the VAC could select a single art piece or multiple art pieces within the budget. The budget includes cost for installation by the artist and any required building permits.

Art proposals may include any of the following at the approximate locations shown in Figure 1 above:

- Standalone art structure/s.
- Art element integrated into the seat walls or benches.
- A star or Mexican-American theme, as noted above to recognize Club Estrella.
- Integrated into park’s perimeter fencing.
- As a combined art and play piece.

Sylvan Park:

Figure 2 shows the approved construction plans for Sylvan Park Volleyball Court Project and area where art benches are to be located. Artist may propose (1) bench (no longer than 12’) with ADA companion space or (2) approximately 6’ benches with ADA companion space.

Art proposals should include a color sketch or photo, title, description, cost, fabrication schedule, and special requirements. Based on the proposal and costs, the VAC could select a single art piece or multiple art pieces within the budget. The budget includes cost for installation by the artist and any required building permits.

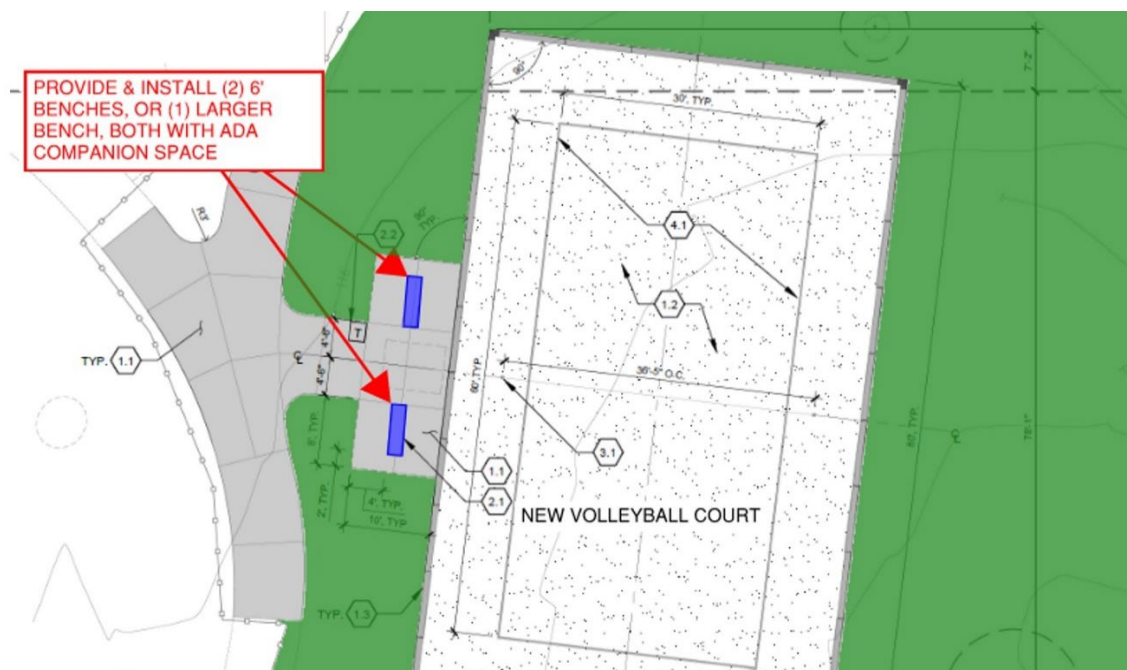


Figure 2: Approved Plans for Sylvan Park Volleyball Court and Art Bench Location

ART SCHEDULE

Based on the design schedule for the park, final decisions on the art selection for both Villa and Sylvan Park projects should be made no later than the January 2024 VAC meeting and to present the recommendation to Council for approval in February 2024.

Villa Park:

The design consultant will incorporate the approved public art in the construction documents for coordination between the artist and the park construction contractor. The new park will bid in spring 2024 and open in early 2025.

Sylvan Park:

Construction is underway as of March 2023, with the volleyball court to be completed by the end of 2023. The bench would be installed in early 2024.

The art schedule is as follows:

October 13, 2023	Artist proposal deadline
October 27, 2023	Deadline for VAC to jury proposals
November 8, 2023	VAC meeting to make artist selection
February 2024	Council approves art recommendation
Fall 2024	Art installation

cc: ACM/CDD, EVM, APWD – Arango, PPM – Printy, SPM – Saiidnia, File 21-61