

DATE: December 13, 2023

TO: Visual Arts Committee

FROM: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager

SUBJECT: **Villa Park (Villa-Chiquita Park), Project 21-61, and Sylvan Park Volleyball Court, Project 21-46—Jurying**

PURPOSE

Select an artist(s) to create and install public art for Villa-Chiquita Park, Project 21-61, and select an artist(s) for Sylvan Park Volleyball Court, Project 21-46.

BACKGROUND

At the September 13, 2023 Visual Arts Committee (VAC) meeting, Economic Vitality and Public Works staff outlined and discussed with the VAC appropriate areas for public art installations along with requirements to conduct a Call for Artists for Villa-Chiquita Park, Project 21-61, and Sylvan Park Volleyball Court, Project 21-46 (collectively, “Projects”).

The Project is subject to Council Policy K-5, Public Art and CIP Projects. With the recent modifications to Council Policy K-5 that the City Council approved on February 22, 2022, 2% of the construction budget for public art for the Projects is \$28,000.

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 Conceptual Plan includes the following (Figure 1):

- A lawn area;
- A central plaza area with a specimen tree;
- Nature-theme playground;
- Entry plaza opening into raised crosswalk; and
- 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;
- Art integrated into the park’s perimeter fencing; and
- Art as an art-and-play piece.



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

Sylvan Park

Sylvan Park is a nine-acre neighborhood park on Sylvan Avenue at Glenborough Drive (Figure 2). Plans to install a new sand volleyball court to replace the underutilized horseshoe pit were approved by the 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 two benches already slated to be placed near the volleyball court and 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 the Council Policy to set aside 2% of the

construction budget for public art, Council did request staff to include an art bench. The 2% budget in this case would be \$9,000.

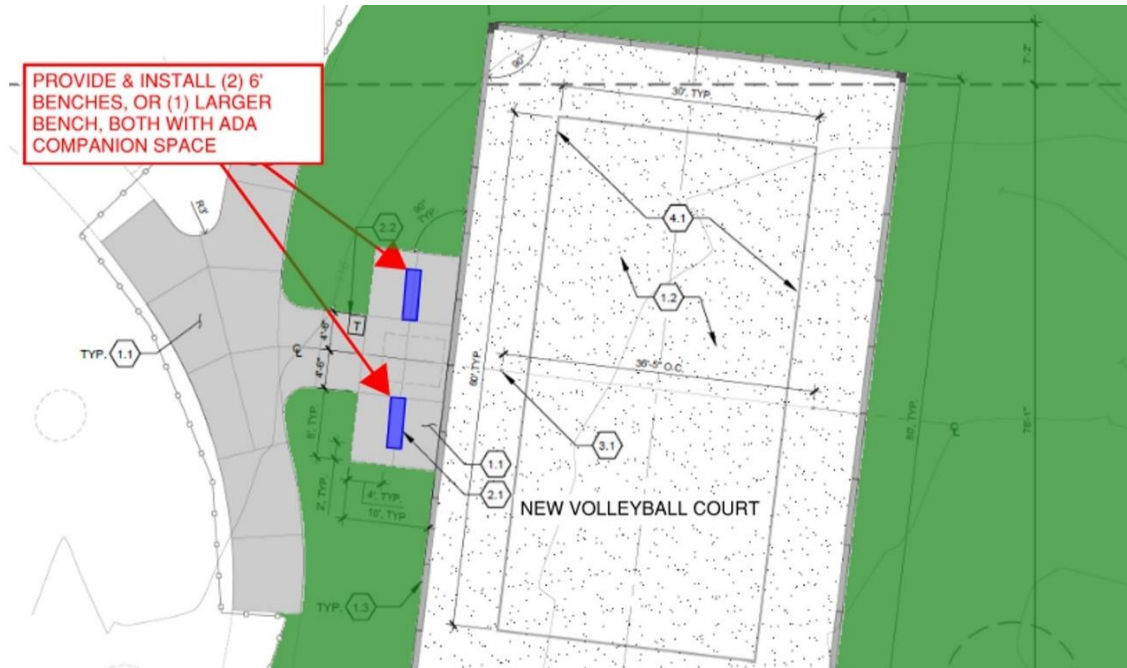


Figure 2: Approved Plans for Sylvan Park Volleyball Court and Art Bench Location

ANALYSIS

The City of Mountain View posted a Call for Artists in the CAFÉ system on September 25, 2023. ([Call For Entry and Application Management for the Arts \(CaFÉ\)](#)).

- City staff distributed the call through the CAFÉ platform along with notifying those artists and individuals that have signed up to receive such notifications through *Ask Mountain View* and the City of Mountain View directly.
 - The VAC shared the announcement widely with their networks.
 - The VAC identified the Bay Area as the geography associated with the Call for Artists.

Ten (10) proposals were received for Villa-Chiquita Park. No response was received for Sylvan Park. Upon receipt of the submissions, staff sought support from Public Works staff to review all

the submissions, ensuring there were no immediate engineering constraints or issues that arose for each of the proposals.

- Jurying occurred beginning October 28, 2023, and the artist submissions were evaluated based upon the following criteria:
 - Prior public art projects (portfolio of work shared by the artist with the VAC);
 - Maintenance requirements; and
 - Proposed art.

VAC members scored each proposal for Villa-Chiquita Park (Figure 3).

Artist	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	Range
Dinh, James	6	7	7	3	7	4
Ekman, Nina K	5.7	7	7	3	7	4
Koppman, Debra	5	5	7	2	7	5
Duckett, Angelina Melicia	4.4	4	7	1	7	6

Figure 3: VAC Scoring for Villa-Chiquita Park Artists

The VAC shall review the scoring and deliberate and discuss which artist or artists to recommend to the City Council.

JL/6/CDD
~~819-12-13-23M~~