



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2024

TITLE:

Receive presentation of the Bastrop Bird Junction Project, the proposed nine (9) locations, and proposed outdoor Bird Sculptures, and consider action to approve the proposed locations and proposed outdoor Bird Sculptures for locations one (1), two (2), and five (5) as identified in Exhibit A, located within the City Limits of Bastrop, Texas.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE:

James E. Cowey, Director of Development Services

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

City Staff has been working over the past several months with the Bastrop Cultural Arts Commission on their “Bastrop Bird Junction Project.”

This project currently consist of nine (9) proposed locations throughout town. All large outdoor sculptures will be of Bastrop’s (Native and Migratory) birds.

The proposed locations are listed below:

1. 1600 Chestnut Street – Film Alley (NW Corner)
2. 900 State Highway 95 – Hay Elotes (SW Corner)
3. 1408 B Chestnut Street – Bridge between Schulmann and Visit Bastrop (East side at bridge)
4. 1408 Chestnut Street – Visit Bastrop
5. 1408 Chestnut Street – Convention Center
6. 1408 Chestnut Street – Convention Center
7. 906 Main Street – Tuck Law Firm
8. 1028 Main Street – Calvery Episcopal Church (SW Corner of Main)
9. 1100 Church Street – Bastrop Public Library

The two locations at SH 95 will be in TxDOT right-of-way. A verbal approval by TxDOT staff has been given in prior conversations. City staff is working on obtaining official approval from TxDOT.

Maria Montoya, Chair with Bastrop Cultural Arts Commission has provided the history and scope of the project along with the overview of sculptures and timing for each location below:

Intro: The Cultural Arts Commission has begun the process of enhancing the Chestnut corridor with large outdoor sculptures featuring native and migratory birds in the area through a public art project, “*The Bastrop Bird Junction.*”

Birds have a special meaning for Bastrop. In 2020, Bastrop was one of only four cities across Texas to be designated as “Bird City” by the Texas Parks and Wildlife. In celebration of our Bird City status, a series of bird sculptures will be installed in Bastrop in three different phases.

Located just 30 miles east of Austin on the banks of the Colorado River, Bastrop is one of the oldest towns in Texas. With its rich history and abundant resources, Bastrop has flourished as a culturally rich and diverse community for over a century. Coincidentally, Bastrop is home to many native birds and the city is uniquely situated in a corridor for migratory birds. The Bastrop Bird Junction project is being rolled out in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Phase 1

The sculptures are from 7 to 10 feet in height. With diversified development, we have secured enough support to fund four of the six sculpture locations in phase 1. Five sculptures are each \$25,000 and the signature piece is \$50,000. We have plans for completing this first phase for the remaining sculptures before the end of the year. Our community has been very generous in assisting us to complete Phase 1. Our completion date for Phase 1 is Dec 2024.

Phase 2

There will be three sculptures, (two on Main Street and one by the library) in Phase 2. Two of the sculptures are each \$25,000. One signature sculpture is \$50,000. Completion of sculptures 7,8, and 9 is slated by the end of May 2025.

Location 1: Funding has been obtained for the \$50,000 signature sculpture. The bird chosen is a barred owl. The artist has been approved. The height will stand at approximately 10 feet. Completion date is Sept 1. Installation shortly after that.

Location 2: Funding has been obtained for the \$25,000 sculpture. The bird chosen is a ruby throated hummingbird. The artist has been approved. The height will stand at approximately 8 feet. Completion date is Sept 1. Installation is scheduled shortly after that.

Location 3: Funding has yet to be obtained. Anticipated cost: \$25,000. The bird will be chosen either by the donor or the artist. The anticipated height will be 7-8 feet. Completion date is approximately Dec 2024. Installation is scheduled shortly after that.

Location 4: Funding has yet to be obtained. Anticipated cost: \$25,000. The bird will be chosen either by the donor or the artist. The anticipated height will be 7-8 feet. Completion date is approximately Dec 2024. Installation is scheduled shortly after that.

Location 5: Funding has been obtained for the \$25,000 sculpture. The bird chosen is a pileated woodpecker. The artist has been approved. The height is approximately 7 feet. Completion date is approximately May 10. Installation is scheduled shortly after that.

Location 6: Funding has been obtained for the \$25,000 sculpture. The bird chosen is a red-tailed hawk. The art call will be going out April 22nd.

Location 7: Funding has yet to be obtained. Anticipated cost: \$25,000. The bird will be chosen either by the donor or the artist. The anticipated height will be 6-7 feet. Approximate completion date is May 2025. Installation is scheduled shortly after that.

Location 8: Funding has yet to be obtained. Anticipated cost: \$25,000. The bird will be chosen either by the donor or the artist. The anticipated height will be 6-7 feet. Approximate completion date is May 2025. Installation is scheduled shortly after that.

Location 9: Funding has yet to be obtained. Anticipated cost: \$50,000. The bird will be chosen either by the donor or the Cultural Arts Commission. The anticipated height will be 8-10 feet. Approximate completion date is May 2025. Installation is scheduled shortly after that.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider action to approve the (9) nine proposed locations and proposed outdoor Bird Sculptures located within the City Limits of Bastrop, Texas.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit A: Proposed Bird Sculptures Location Map
- Attachment A: Proposed Bird Junction Project Phase 1 Sculptures List
- Attachment B: Proposed Bird Junction Project Images

