



PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMO

Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

To: Public Art Advisory Committee

From: Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Confirming direction from the Committee regarding the solicitation for art at Firth Park

At its July 21, 2025 meeting, the Public Art Advisory Committee considered the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for public art at Firth Park. Following discussion, the Committee determined that publishing an RFQ would be the most appropriate first step, allowing the City to cast a wide net before developing a short list of finalists and inviting selected artists to submit detailed proposals. Staff received this direction and will prepare the RFQ accordingly.

As part of this discussion, the Committee also addressed establishing a “not-to-exceed” budget for the project. Members noted that the site offers multiple opportunities for artistic integration, such as a marquee mosaic, decorative fencing, and benches. To better understand potential costs, the Committee requested that staff obtain estimates for various fencing options. These estimates are provided on the following page.

At the July meeting, there appeared to be consensus around a not-to-exceed budget of \$300,000 for the project. With the additional cost information now available, staff seek confirmation of the Committee’s preferred not-to-exceed amount so that it may be clearly stated in the RFQ and presented for Council consideration.

Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director

Fencing cost estimates

Note: the area where the fence would potentially be located is approximately 155 feet.

Basic Materials

- **Wood:** \$20 - \$40 per linear foot
- **Vinyl:** \$30 - \$60 per linear foot
- **Chain Link:** \$8 - \$40 per linear foot
- **Steel:** \$20 - \$85 per linear foot
- **Wrought Iron:** \$30 - \$60 per linear foot
- **Aluminum:** \$40-\$75 per linear foot
- **Composite:** \$35 to \$70 per linear foot
- **Bamboo:** \$20-\$30 per linear foot

Custom Materials

- **Custom Designs:** Highly customized fences with intricate details can range from \$85 to \$130+ per linear foot
- **Powder Coating/Galvanization:** These protective finishes can add \$5 to \$10 per square foot
- **Posts:** Standard 4x4 metal posts can cost between \$30 to \$70 each.
- **Gates:** Standard single gates can range from \$300 to \$800, while custom gates with automatic openers can cost \$1,000 to \$5,000 or more.

McGrath Arts (*Artist contracted for the Alvarado to San Benito stairway*)

Approximately \$200/sq ft for custom handrail panels (equivalent to custom fence panels)