

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report



**Meeting:** October 24, 2024

**From:** Community Services and Recreation Department

**Subject:** Public Art Project

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**Recommended Action:** Approve the Monterey Avenue Railing Public Art Project and authorize the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with artist Bruce Harman in the amount of \$50,000 for the Project.

**Background:** The City of Capitola's Public Art Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 2.58) requires all commercial projects valued at more than \$250,000 to either incorporate art into the project or contribute to the City's Public Art Fund. One of the responsibilities of the City's Art and Cultural Commission is to administer the Public Art Fund and recommend public art projects for the City of Capitola (CMC Chapter 2.56).

The Monterey Avenue railing runs along the street as it slopes into the Capitola Village. The railing is 625 feet long and can be seen in its entirety as you drive in and out of the Village. The railing is made up of 2 inch diameter galvanized steel pipe in 8-foot sections. There are four horizontal pieces 7 inches apart in each section, making a total of 94 sections. The art installation will be mounted without altering the railing, no paint or drilling, allowing it to remain in its current state.

The Art and Cultural Commission has been considering a public art project for this location since March 2020. The Project was delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a Call to Artists was released on March 3, 2023. Staff received 5 submissions in response. In May 2023, the Art and Cultural Commission selected three artists to provide conceptual presentations. In December 2023, the Commission requested each presenting artist provide samples of their concept which were temporarily installed at the project site for viewing and feedback. During the June 2024 Commission meeting, the Commission chose the concept provided by Bruce Harman and recommended the City Council select the concept and award a contract to complete the project.

**Discussion:** Bruce Harman has been a full-time artist in Santa Cruz County for 40 years. His public art features detailed renderings of wildlife and nature, including a series of signal boxes on 41st Avenue.

The public artwork concept is fish and other sea life cut from 3/16" thick aluminum sheets and installed upon the railing. The sea life rendered will feature a variety of local fish, including garibaldi, salmon, bass, mackerel, rockfish, and sharks. The artwork may include other creatures, such as sea lions, dolphins, sea otters, humpback whales, starfish, and mermaids. Sea kelp and sea grass will also be depicted.

The fish will range in size from about six inches to 36 inches. The larger sea life will be no larger than four feet long. The artwork will have corners and points rounded for safety. Each creature will be painted by hand on both sides, prepared with a special cleaning agent, primed for artist-grade acrylic paint, and finished with a UV and anti-graffiti clear coat. Each piece will have a custom stainless-steel bracket bolted onto it that attaches to the railing with special tamper-proof

bolts. The artwork will be installed on the railing adjacent to the sidewalk on the west facing side of Monterey Avenue from Escalona Drive to El Camino Medio, spanning approximately 625 feet. Installation on the railing will have varied spacing with a steady current of color and life will decorate the entire length of the railing. No modification will be made to the railing during the installation of the project.

Fiscal Impact: The proposed project cost is \$50,000 for the artist contract and has been included in the FY 2024-25 Amended Budget in the restricted-revenue Public Art Fund.

Attachments:

1. Monterey Avenue Railing Public Services Agreement
2. Monterey Avenue Railing Public Art Proposal by Bruce Harman

Report Prepared By: Nikki Bryant, Community Services & Recreation Director

Reviewed By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager