



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Ellen Martin, Visual Arts Administrator

SUBJECT

Resolution 2024-145 Approving Expenditures from the Art in Public Places Stormwater and Water Utility Accounts to Commission an Artist to Create Art for the City's Utilities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to approve expenditures from the Art in Public Places Stormwater Utility and Water Accounts to commission an artist to create art for the Oak Street Stormwater Improvements Project. The expenditure of \$155,000 will be for design, engineering, materials, signage, fabrication, delivery, installation, and contingency for Mark Aeling to create the artworks for the Oak Street Stormwater Improvements Project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Section 23-303 of the Code, which was added in 1995, established the Art in Public Places (APP) Reserve Account, and designated it for use in acquiring or leasing works of art, maintenance, repair or display of works of art, and administrative expenses related to the APP Program, in accordance with the APP Guidelines adopted by the Council in Ordinance No. 20, 1995. In 2012, Council permanently adopted the APP Program, and reenacted City Code Chapter 23, Article IX, with certain modifications.

As part of the City's Oak Street Stormwater Improvements Project, APP worked with the Project Team and St. Petersburg, Florida artist Mark Aeling to design art for the site.

The design places three sculptures along Oak St. at the intersections with Howes St., Washington Ave. and Jackson Ave. The series of sculptures are intended to create a visual narrative to inform viewers of the purpose of the capital project to better control stormwater and its impact on public and private property.

This narrative begins at the Howes St. intersection and Oak St., which is the eastern most location and closest to downtown. This location is close to the urban center of town and will have the largest sculpture.

Rain Drop is the sculpture proposed for the Howes St. intersection and it depicts a larger-than-life drop of water splashing into a puddle of mud. This is the beginning of the natural process of precipitation that the Oak Street Stormwater Improvements Project is designed to direct and divert through the science of engineering.

Vortex, the second sculpture found at the intersection of Washington Avenue. and Oak Street, depicts a water vortex that is channeled through a cylinder. In effect, by channeling the potentially destructive energy of this natural resource it can be neutralized.

Seed Pods, a smaller and more intimate sculpture located at the entrance to City Park at the intersection of Jackson Ave. and Oak St., depicts stylized milkweed husks open to the world to reveal seeds. This sculpture refers to the synergy that occurs when we live in harmony with nature.

All the sculptures will combine stainless and Corten steel, giving strong contrast to the sculptures. Each of the sculptures will be placed in a rain garden that is being built by the project. Rain gardens help manage stormwater runoff, prevent erosion and provide habitat for local wildlife. The rain gardens capture rainwater and allow it to infiltrate the soil rather than flowing over the surface. The root systems of plants in rain gardens help stabilize the soil, further reducing erosion. By incorporating native plants that attract pollinators, this project will also create pollinator gardens that support biodiversity.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The funds for this item have been appropriated in the \$155,000 Account. The APP program also has available appropriated maintenance funds for the long-term care of this artwork and the rest of the APP art collection.

Oak Street Project art budget is \$155,000 to be used for design, engineering, materials, signage, fabrication, delivery, installation, and contingency for this artwork.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The design concept and budget for the art project was reviewed and recommended for Council approval by the APP Board at the November 20, 2024, regular board meeting.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The selected artist collaborates with the project team to develop concepts for the artwork based on the goals of the project and input from the team. The final design and budget are reviewed and approved by the project team and then the APP Board, who then recommends the project to Council for approval.

The artist and project are being promoted on the capital project and APP newsletter/websites. The APP Program promotes the project in development, fabrication, installation, and completion of the artwork on social media, website, and newsletters.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Oak Street Stormwater Proposed Artwork
3. Art in Public Places Board Minutes, November 20, 2024