

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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### STAFF

Libby Colbert, Visual Arts Assistant, Arts & Culture  
Solara Clark, Lead Specialist, Arts & Culture  
Cheryl Donalson Moses, Senior Manager, Arts & Culture  
Eileen May, Arts & Culture Director

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### SUBJECT

**Resolution 2026-099 Approving Expenditures to Commission an Artist to Create a Mural for the Poudre River Whitewater Park Pursuant to the Art in Public Places Program and Approving the Mural.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to approve the Poudre River Whitewater Mural Art in Public Places Whitewater Mural Project, based upon the recommendations of the Arts and Culture Board.

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### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

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### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Arts & Culture Board recommends commissioning local artist Ren Burke to create a mural on the approximately 200- foot floodwall adjacent to the Cache la Poudre River on the east side of College Avenue. The wall is part of the preserved Coy Headgate and Diversion Structure, an important interpretive feature illustrating Fort Collins' early irrigation and agricultural history. The installation is intended to enhance the visual quality of the Whitewater Park, deter recurring graffiti, and highlight the ecological diversity of the Poudre River Corridor. The mural concept was reviewed and approved by the Arts & Culture Board on June 8, following evaluation of the project's alignment with public art standards and community benefit. In addition, an interdisciplinary City project team—including representatives from Parks, Natural Areas, and Historic Preservation—has reviewed and approved the proposed design. The mural features wildlife native to the river corridor and incorporates wave- pattern elements that visually reference River Flight, Burke's existing mural visible from the College Avenue bridge, creating continuity between the two installations.

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### CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The overall budget for the Poudre River Whitewater Mural Art in Public Places Project includes the artist fee, surface preparation, paint supplies, painting labor, anti-graffiti sealant, sealant application labor, artist contingency, maintenance, and City staff oversight, totaling around \$31,545, \$6,545 of which will be

supported by Art in Public Places Reserves. The remaining \$25,000 is being considered under a separate City Give appropriation ordinance on July 21, 2026. There are no expected ongoing costs outside of this projected budget.

#### **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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The Poudre River Whitewater Park Mural Art in Public Places Project was reviewed and recommended for Council approval by the Arts and Culture Board at the June 8, 2026, meeting.

Exhibit A to the Resolution presents the Poudre River Whitewater Mural Art in Public Places Mural Project details to Council.

The attached PDF is the draft Arts and Culture Board Minutes from the June Board meeting where the donation was reviewed and approved by a vote of the Board.

#### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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No one showed up for public comment during the Arts and Culture Board meeting.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Arts & Culture Board Minutes, June 8, 2026
2. Resolution 2026-099