

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Anna Kelso, Active Modes Specialist

SUBJECT

Resolution 2024-091 Approving the Acquisition and Installation of a Public Asphalt Art Mural on Canyon Avenue.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to approve the acquisition and installation of a work of art at the intersection of Canyon/Magnolia/Sherwood, which exceeds \$30,000 in cost. Council has previously appropriated \$25,000 (appropriated 5/7/24) from the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Innovations Grant which will be used to partially fund the installation. Additional funds to be used for this project will come from the Community Capital Improvement Program for Pedestrian Sidewalk/ADA compliance and Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements, which will support the traffic calming elements of the project. The total project cost of \$56,500 will cover artist honorarium, materials, traffic plans, barricades, installation, ADA materials, site preparation striping and community engagement supplies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City was awarded a Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Innovations grant for \$25,000 in the fall of 2023 for an asphalt art curb extension project at the intersection of Canyon Avenue, West Magnolia Street, and South Sherwood Street. The original grant application included a curb extension design proposal totaling roughly 6,500 square feet. Upon receiving the grant, Bloomberg Philanthropies partnered FC Moves with Street Plans, a tactical urbanism consulting firm. Street Plans recommended revising the original plan to cover a much larger area than originally planned. The revised plans will be more effective in traffic calming and reducing pedestrian crossing distances and have been approved by all relevant City departments. Increasing the total area of tactical curb extension from 6,500 square feet to almost 17,000 square feet has also increased the total budget considerably, most notably, the artist honorarium. Funding from the Community Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) for Pedestrian Sidewalk/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements will cover the increased project costs above the grant award. The total project cost of \$56,500 will cover artist honorarium, materials, traffic plans, barricades, installation, ADA materials, site preparation striping and community engagement supplies. According to Sec. 23-308, the Art in Public Places (APP) Board shall make recommendations to the City Council concerning the use of funds in excess of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the acquisition, installation and maintenance of works of art.

Art in Public Places promoted a call for artists in January 2024. The artist was selected in a competitive process. Local artist Jess Bean was selected on March 15, 2024. Bean is an established artist and muralist and serves as the Executive Director of the Fort Collins Mural Project. One of her most recent murals can be observed on the United Way Community Center located at the corner of Sherwood Avenue and Oak Street. Bean also has extensive experience working on collaborative creative installations in the City and excels in building community through art.

Artist Jess Bean prepared the following statement about her design for the Canyon/Magnolia/Sherwood intersection:

The design uses the non-native magnolias to represent settlers overtaking the indigenous peoples. Black-tipped feathers represent Arapaho Chief Friday who worked closely with the “Indian Agent” appointed by Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Sherwood. Chief Friday’s efforts to secure land for his people never came to fruition, and he eventually moved his people on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming after it became clear that Sherwood was not going to be able to secure any land in Colorado for the Arapaho. The shadows of the black-tipped feathers represent Friday’s ever-lasting legacy.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

At the June 27, 2024, Art in Public Places Board meeting, the Board recommended funding the acquisition and installation of the art at the intersection of Canyon/Magnolia/Sherwood with a \$62,000 budget.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public outreach for this installation began with a press release informing the public of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Innovations Grant in the fall of 2023. This was followed by a call for artists which was managed through Art in Public Places. Once the artist (Jess Bean) was selected by the review committee, two public outreach events were held at the Lincoln Center on March 27th and May 16th, 2024. These events included live music, dance performances as well as an opportunity for the public to meet the artist, offer input on the design and vote on one of two designs provided for selection. Online voting was also offered on the FC Moves asphalt art page. Further communication about the project and the outreach events was provided to local businesses, residents and landowners via postcard mailers and yard signs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. APP Board Handout for the Canyon/Magnolia/Sherwood Asphalt Art Project
3. Draft APP Board Minutes, June 27, 2024