



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 2  
September 14, 2022  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation Project 1% for Art Opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Receive presentation from consultant and discuss next steps for engaging an artist in the project design process.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>STAFF:</b>	Paul West, CIP Project Manager
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Salim Nice
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	n/a

## SUMMARY

The comprehensive renovation of the Luther Burbank Park waterfront is an opportunity for integrated arts and placemaking elements. A Public Art Committee could provide guidance on using 1% for Art in Public Places (1%) funding to develop and install such elements to improve the waterfront experience for park users.

### BACKGROUND

The docks and adjacent waterfront at Luther Burbank Park were constructed in 1974. Inspection of the docks in 2014 revealed extensive rot and structural defects that would require major repairs. The cost estimate for these repairs represented a significant investment into a dock system that was not meeting the current public needs for boating and shoreline access. Instead of repairing the docks, the City decided to pursue a redesign to better serve the current needs. On March 1, 2022, the City Council accepted the Parks and Recreation Commission’s recommended 30% design for the project and authorized staff’s recommendation to combine the docks and waterfront project with the Boiler Building stabilization project for efficient design and construction. (More project information on [Let’s Talk](#)) The resulting comprehensive docks and waterfront renovation project is expected to begin construction in 2024.

This capital project is expected to generate a significant 1% contribution. In September 2021, staff and Anchor QEA, the firm designing the waterfront renovation, briefed the Arts Council on options for integrating public art elements into the design. They discussed focus areas for incorporating artwork, potential themes for art and heritage components, and opportunities for including the existing *Handsome Bollards* installation (Tom Jay, 1971) in the waterfront redesign. (Reference 09.14.21 Meeting Materials: [Agenda Packet \(Item 3\)](#) | [Video Meeting Recording](#)) Anchor QEA used the Arts Council’s feedback to further refine the preferred themes and types of artwork/media that will work best for the site.

Additionally, staff collaborated with the Mercer Island Historical Society to propose a new interpretive program for the Boiler Building and other heritage/historical elements featured in Luther Burbank Park. The City included the launch of this interpretive program in its application for the Washington State Historical

Society's Heritage Capital Project grant program and learned in August 2022 that the grant request of \$513,000 will be included in the ranked list of projects transmitted to the State legislature for final approval in 2023.

#### **ARTS COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN ART AND PLACEMAKING ELEMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT**

On Wednesday, staff and Anchor QEA's Noelle Higgins will provide a recap of the 2021 Arts Council direction; present the preferred theme and types of artwork/media; review the proposed interpretive program; and discuss the process for engaging an artist in the next phases of the project design. Pending the establishment of the Public Art Committee, staff will then work with the committee to steward this 1% project, including additional touchpoints with the full Arts Council as necessary.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive the presentation and discuss next steps for engaging an artist in the design process.