



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item #3
July 20, 2022
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Public Art Donation Proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive presentation, and, if desired, demonstrate support for a design and proposal to be developed by the donor.	
STAFF:	Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Salim Nice	
EXHIBITS:	1. Aerial View of Proposed Location for Donation	

SUMMARY

This staff report will provide an introduction of a concept design for a public art and placemaking project donation from a Mercer Island resident (“donor”). Tonight, Berger Partnership, a landscape architecture firm contracted by the donor, will provide a presentation and concept proposal for painting the “Stacks” in Aubrey Davis Park and other potential placemaking opportunities in the area. An aerial view has been provided to identify the location (Exhibit 1).

BACKGROUND

In early 2021, a Mercer Island resident (wishing to remain anonymous at this time) approached City staff with the request to donate a project, which, when completed, would offer community gathering space and placemaking elements at the area east of the tennis courts in Aubrey Davis Park, which hosts the ventilation stacks, known colloquially as the “Stacks.” The donor’s intent was to create a location where people could passively come together to engage, reflect, escape, and connect.

Recognizing limitations on staff capacity and with a strong desire to see this potential project move forward in a successful manner, the donor contracted with Berger Partnership to begin work on a concept design. Berger Partnership began to engage City staff with a draft concept in January 2022 and has requested to present their concept proposal to the Mercer Island Arts Council and Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission for review.

DISCUSSION

Before the donor invests additional personal resources in a design proposal, they request the Arts Council discuss the merits of the proposed donation and, if desired, demonstrate support for the donor and Berger Partnership to move forward with developing a complete design and final proposal for donation to the City. This potential project is not identified within the Capital Improvement Program and would be considered a donation, which requires acceptance by City Council.

Key Questions to consider:

- Would this concept be a benefit to the community of Mercer Island?
- Does this project concept align with the [Arts & Culture Vision](#) adopted as part of the [Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan](#) and/or other Arts & Culture priorities identified by the Arts Council?
- Does the Arts Council support this concept moving forward?

NEXT STEPS

- Berger Partnership will seek Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) support at their September Regular Meeting.
- Following the PRC meeting, the donor will decide whether or not to continue the project in to design. At that point, staff would assist in engaging WSDOT, who, as the property owner, must give approval before a project can be completed at the proposed site.

If the donor elects to continue the project forward:

- City staff will coordinate with the donor to determine the scope of the donation and responsibilities as well as identify what capital and operational impacts the project may have on the City budget.
- Once a scope of the donation is confirmed and potential impacts to the City budget are known, the donor will return to the respective boards to present their proposed donation. At that time, the donor may request the Arts Council and Parks and Recreation Commission review the design, provide additional feedback, and provide a recommendation to the City Council.
- Following recommendations from the Arts Council and/or Parks and Recreation Commission, staff would coordinate with the donor to present the donation to City Council for acceptance.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive presentation, and, if desired, demonstrate support for a design and proposal to be developed by the donor.