



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 06/25/2024

**REQUESTER:** Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

**PRESENTER:** Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF THE ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,652, FOR PATIO RENOVATIONS AND SECURITY UPGRADES AT THE NORMAN FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER, LOCATED AT 444 SOUTH FLOOD AVENUE.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Norman Firehouse Arts Center approached the City of Norman regarding a patio renovation project and an upgrade of the security system at the City-owned facility within Lion's Park at 444 South Flood Avenue. The donation is valued at \$120,652 with grants from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, ARPA funds from the Oklahoma Arts Council, Firehouse Art Center, Zarrow Family Foundation, and the City of Norman Parks and Recreation Department.

The Norman Board of Park Commissioners recommended on June 6, 2024, that the City Council accept this donation for a patio renovation and upgrades to the security system at the Firehouse Art Center.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Chapter 12, Section 12-110 states that the City Council must first accept any item donated to the City with a value above \$250. Furthermore, Chapter 2, Section 2-311 states that "the City shall accept all donations of public art, as defined herein, that are made in accordance with article I, section 4 of the Charter. . ." Article I, Section 4 of the City Charter allows the City to "receive bequests, gifts, and donations of all kinds of property in fee simple or trust for charitable or public purposes and perform all acts necessary to carry out the purposes of such bequests, gifts, donations or trusts, with power to manage, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of same in accordance with the terms of the bequest, gift, donation, or trust."

### **Project 1: Kirkpatrick Pottery Patio and Security System**

The Kirkpatrick Pottery Patio and Security System funding will consist of a \$10,000 grant from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, a \$74,152 grant from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds from the Oklahoma Arts Council, a \$11,500 Firehouse Arts Center Cash Contribution from the

remaining grant funds from the Zarrow Family Foundation, and in-kind donation of \$25,000 from Parks and Rec for project management and concrete.

The project will entail renovating the Firehouse Art Center kiln yard, which currently functions as a storage area, into a small outdoor event space with a functional gas kiln and space for the newly acquired clay mixer. The renovations will include replacing the outer wall and roof of the kiln yard, adding an outdoor gas kiln and an entry door, and commissioning murals for the outer wall. This new area will provide additional space to host guests during events and create a welcoming atmosphere for students.

The renovation of the kiln yard will also include concrete work to repair the walkway to one of the main entrances. These repairs would make the kiln yard and outdoor walkways around the building safer and more accessible. In addition to the new Pottery Patio, the Firehouse plans to install a new security system with eighteen indoor and outdoor cameras. The update to the security system will increase the safety for faculty and students attending Firehouse classes after hours. The security improvements will also make it safer for the Firehouse to commission public art outside the building and display artwork more securely in the gallery and gift shop.

### **Project 2: Flood Avenue Patio**

The Firehouse Art Center Board of Directors has voted to approve an allocation of \$25,000 to develop a patio on Flood Avenue in front of the original Firehouse entrance. The City has agreed to assist with the concrete for the patio and the construction that needs to take place to add a new garage door.

This is a \$120,652 donation to the Firehouse Art Center building at 444 South Flood Avenue.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends acceptance of the donation valued at \$120,652 for the renovation of the Patio Areas and an upgraded Security System at the Firehouse Art Center.