



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 05/23/2023

REQUESTER: Katherine Coffin

PRESENTER: David Riesland, Transportation Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2223-133: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE NORMAN ARTS COUNCIL TO BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES FOR THE ASPHALT ART INITIATIVE TO UNDERTAKE THE INCORPORATION OF ART INTO PUBLIC SPACES.

DISCUSSION:

As with the prior application, the same process will be followed. The Norman Arts Council will prepare the grant application and co-submit with the City of Norman. This process is continuing because the grant guidelines stipulate that each application requires a city agency as its principal applicant.

The purpose of the grant is to help cities create arts-driven street redesigns that can improve traffic safety, develop vibrant public spaces, and engage residents of their respective communities. While the pandemic has fundamentally changed how citizens interact with their communities and landscape, the grants provide an opportunity for cities to activate a key public resource—city streets—in a way that celebrates the creativity of residents and offers chances to safely collaborate and connect with others.

The City of Norman will be completing the James Garner Avenue Phase 2 project between Acres Street and Flood Avenue prior to the grant initiation period. The James Garner Avenue corridor will represent a new entry and exit into downtown Norman to and from the north. The southern terminus of the corridor is adjacent to the Norman Central Library. The crosswalk at the northern side of the James Garner Avenue intersection with Acres Street will be bustling with vehicular traffic as well as pedestrian traffic associated with the Norman Central Library and Andrews Park. The James Garner Avenue Phase 2 project is part of the City's 2019 Transportation Bond Program. This project, which utilizes federal funding for a large portion of the project costs, is currently under construction (a location map is provided).

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council approve Resolution R-2223-133 endorsing the grant application for submission to the Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Initiative no later than Monday, June 12, 2023. Grants will be announced sometime in the fall 2023 with project installation to occur during calendar year 2024.