



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/05/2026

REQUESTER: KARLA SITTON, ADMINISTRATIVE TECH IV

PRESENTER: MICHELE LOUDENBACK, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2526-135: A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN AND NORMAN ARTS COUNCIL, FOR THE 2026 ARTFUL INLETS PROJECT.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman operates a regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and implements a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff. Public education and community engagement are key components of this program.

Artful Inlets is one of the City's signature stormwater education initiatives. The program transforms infrastructure into public art to highlight the connection between everyday activities, stormwater runoff, and local water quality. Since its launch in 2019, Artful Inlets has successfully engaged residents, strengthened partnerships with the arts community, and increased awareness of pollution prevention. Given the program's continued success and community support, the City and the Norman Arts Council (NAC) seek to partner again in 2026 to select, install, and showcase five (5) new program pieces in Rotary Park.

DISCUSSION:

To implement the 2026 Artful Inlets program, the City and the NAC will enter Contract K-2526-135. Artists will be invited to submit designs that transform infrastructure into public works of art, conveying stormwater and water quality themes. Five (5) pieces of infrastructure have been identified for this project, all located in Rotary Park. Selected artists will adapt their designs to the specific locations and integrate their original artwork into the designated surfaces.

On February 10, 2026, Council approved Contract K-2526-135 between the City and the NAC for implementation of the 2026 Artful Inlets Program. The NAC will provide \$3,750 in Public Arts Board funding for the project to pay a stipend to the selected artists. The City will provide \$3,750 in funding for materials and supplies needed for the selected artwork, as well as in-kind services to ensure the inlets are appropriately prepared and protected for art installation. Funding for this project is available in the Stormwater Quality budget, Other Supplies and Materials – Miscellaneous (Account No. 10110225-43199). This program will take place in April 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends supporting Council's approval of Contract K-2526-135 with the Norman Arts Council to implement the 2026 Artful Inlets Program and to install five (5) pieces of infrastructure at Rotary Park.

Examples from April 2025:

