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August 19, 2025

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Related to a Presentation from Mahayla Broussard on Street Art and Utility Boxes

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Provide direction to staff; or,

Take no action.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

At the direction of the Council, this item has been agendaized to consider an art proposal from local resident Mahayla Broussard.

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## Rio Dell Canvas: Enhancing Our Town's Identity Through Street Art

This project's purpose is to include more local artists, get more young people from Rio Dell included in our community, and advance the beautification progress.

### **Introduction**

Some of the things that I've noticed is that many teens, and even young adults either don't know how or where they can advocate for their ideas, and or don't feel included in Rio Dell's decisions. For example we got two new murals, which not many people knew about until it was happening. I also know that many young artists in our community don't get the chance to display their art styles, build credibility, or get the same opportunities to do murals that bigger artists do. Also due to our city focusing on big murals which look great we have completely ignored opportunities for art on smaller scales.

So I believe that we should contract smaller local artists to do projects like the power boxes, mail boxes, small walls on community buildings, and even the bland cement wall on our bridges.

### **Motivation**

The main motivation for this project is to create a bridge between the town council and the teens/young adults in our community. Though our council already does so much it never hurts to add new perspectives that could possibly point out problems/solutions not seen before.

As you probably have already seen while driving through Eureka every power box is painted. There are many styles, themes, and motivation behind each one. This is because Eureka has different artists paint every box. This has given many artists a chance to display their skill.

This project would brighten and attract sightseers, and more foot traffic to Rio Dell. This could help local businesses and promote the town.

### **Project details**

By not looking for respective profiles of artists we can outreach more people in our community, and if necessary local areas. For example, many teens (myself included) who want to contribute to city art and murals.

Artists could be recruited via social media, flyers in businesses, and community notices.

Artists will choose subject matter and style, but prior approval by city council, or city beautification group is required

Funds for the art supplies can be supported by sponsors, fundraising, and or (if all else fails) the artists themselves. Sponsors could be acknowledged under artworks, to incentivize further support.

For the purposes of this meeting, I'm proposing that the city council allow me to paint the utility box in front of the apartment building on the north side of the scotia bridge. Materials will be either donated or paid for by the community resource center.

### **Steps for prepping the utility box**

First, I will mask anything that can't be painted, such as locks, and I will use drop cloths around the base of the utility box to prevent any mess that might get on the ground.

Second, the box will need to be sanded with a fine grit sand paper to create a surface rough enough for paint to stick to, but smooth enough that it still looks nice once painted, and to remove any loose paint. The drop cloths around the base of the box to catch any substances that might be bad for the environment.

Third, the box will need to be cleaned to remove all the loose dust. I plan to speak to the residents of the apartment building adjacent to the site and ask if I can use their water for a brief rinse. If that isn't an option, I can wipe the box down with a wet rag and achieve the same results. One benefit of using a wet rag instead is that it would minimize any water runoff that may contain paint chemicals.

Fourth, I will use a foam roller and maybe a brush to apply a direct to metal primer, such as Pitt-Tech. One coat of primer would be ideal but it may need two coats— I won't know until I see it with the first coat of primer on.

Fifth, I'll be able to apply an exterior acrylic paint that will hold up to exposure to weather and sun, and follow up with a good quality sealant for extra protection.