



TODAY'S DATE: May 20, 2026

MEETING DATE: June 3, 2026

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jason Welker, Community Planning and Development Director

SUBJECT: Recommendations of Art for the Art on Loan Silver Box Program Summer 2026 – Summer 2027

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The City's Art on Loan Silver Box Program provides opportunities to display temporary public artwork at designated silver box locations throughout Sandpoint. For the 2026 Silver Box Project, four artist submissions were received and reviewed by the Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Commission.

At its regular meeting, the Commission reviewed the evaluation and scoring process for the 2026 Silver Box Project submissions. The four submissions were evaluated collectively by the Commission using the established scoring criteria. Following review and discussion, the Commission selected three submissions for recommendation to City Council. One submission was determined to exceed the project size limitations and was not selected.

The Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Commission recommends the following artworks and locations for the 2026 Silver Box Art Cycle:

- **Dave Gonzo** — “**Seeds of Growth**” at the Farmin Park silver box location.
- **Maria Larson** — “**Hérons**” at the Post Office silver box location.
- **Lee Harris** — “**The Grass Is...**” at the Fifth Avenue/Columbia Bank silver box location.

A motion was made by Commissioner Burgess and seconded by Commissioner Decker to recommend the selected artworks and locations to City Council. The motion passed with the following Commissioners voting in favor: Chair Susnis, Commissioner Burgess, Commissioner McAlister, Commissioner Valentine, and Commissioner Collison.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council approve the recommended artworks and locations for the 2026 Art on Loan Silver Box Program and authorize staff to enter into agreements with the selected artists, with the Mayor authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of the City.

ACTION:

Move to approve the recommended artworks and locations for the 2026 Art on Loan Silver Box Program and authorize staff to enter into agreements with the selected artists, with the Mayor authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of the City.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Yes. This item has been budgeted and is anticipated to be reimbursed through SURA. The program provides \$1,000 to each selected artist, plus the cost of plaques.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2026 Art on Loan Silver Box Program Applicant Presentation