



## PUBLIC ART COMMISSION OF TRUCKEE STAFF REPORT

Date: January 3, 2023  
To: Public Art Commission of Truckee  
From: Becky Bucar, Engineering Manager  
Subject: Brockway Road Wall Art Next Steps

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In early 2022, the Public Art Commission of Truckee chose Jane Kim/InkDwell to create a piece of art for installation on the Brockway Road retaining wall located on the southwest side of Brockway Road between South River Street and Old Brockway Road. At their December 3, 2022 meeting, the PACT recommended that the Town terminate its contract with InkDwell for the artwork on the Brockway Road Wall because the art concept proposed by the artist has substantially changed from the initial proposal and because the artist had yet to identify a material that met the durability requirements within the proposed budget. Staff recently reached out to the artist to begin the termination process. The purpose of this discussion item is for the PACT to determine if the Brockway Road Wall is still the best location to pursue a public art installation, or if there is a better location that is consistent with the Public Arts Master Plan and current Opportunity Sites inventory.

### Background on Previous Artist Selection Process

InkDwell was chosen from 8 proposals received January 14, 2022 through a public selection process that included presentations from artists, participation of a representative from the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, and an informal ranking provided by each PACT Commissioner. A summary of the proposals that were received is provided in **Attachment A**. Minutes from the January 24, 2022 and February 1, 2022 PCT meetings are available here:

January 24, 2022:

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=59562858&repo=r-6a91ddbc>

February 1, 2022:

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=59570314&repo=r-6a91ddbc>

The proposals were evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall concept and approach
2. Originality and innovation

3. Appropriateness, relevance, and compatibility with the site context, including the Historic District
4. Longevity
5. Artist references and experience
6. Demonstrated ability to implement the project

InkDwell's proposal, which displayed a sugar pine cross section, was chosen by the PACT as the first choice. Staff immediately began working with the artist to enter into an agreement but because changes to the contract that was included in the Request for Proposals (RFP) were requested, and because of several rounds of reviews, the contract was not signed until July of 2022.

## **Considerations for Future Art Project**

### Location

Before establishing the next steps for the Brockway Road Wall Art project, staff requests that the PACT consider whether the wall remains the best location for a future art project. Several challenges with the wall have been identified through the process, including, but not limited to:

- The wall is north facing, is shaded a good part of the time, and is directly adjacent to snow removal activities (leading to snow build up along the wall). This creates additional challenges with paint and/or materials that rely on some sort of bond and makes the 20-year lifespan difficult to achieve.
- The board form texture of the wall creates ridges that make attaching items to the wall more difficult.
- The wall is very large and because paint is not an option, it is less likely that a piece that covers the entire wall is possible with the current budget and options would be limited with such a tight budget.
- Staff notes that neither of the second and third choices from the RFP process (Arteclettica and Wyatt Hersey) provided budgets for their art piece in the original submittals, although when asked by staff they indicated they could meet the \$40,000 budget. In addition, Wyatt Hersey proposed using powder coated metal, which was determined to be cost-prohibitive by InkDwell.

Due to the challenges with the Brockway Wall location and size, staff is recommending that an alternative location be chosen by the PACT. Staff recommends the consideration of an existing roundabout in the Town right of way, such as the Coldstream Road/Donner Pass Road/I-80 roundabout, or the new transit center site in the Railyard (see **Attachment B**), both of which are identified in the current Opportunity Sites inventory.

### Budget

The original budget for this project was \$40,000 for the art (with an additional \$10,000 available for installation and as a contingency). \$10,000 has been paid to InkDwell per their agreement, leaving \$30,000 in the original art piece budget. However, the Town's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget now includes a total of \$150,000 for CIP C2308, Public Art Master Plan Implementation (**Attachment C**). As mentioned above, \$10,000 of that has already been spent on the InkDwell contract and staff recommends

reserving \$70,000 for the Donner Lake Litter Art, leaving \$70,000 in funds available for future art projects. The PACT could recommend an increased project budget up to the \$60,000 as staff recommends reserving at least \$10,000 as a contingency. The increase in budget would ultimately need Council approval before initiating another contract.

#### Brockway Road Wall Potential Next Steps

If PACT recommends pursuing the wall location, there are several options to move forward:

- Reach out to the other two artists that were in the top three from the RFP process, inquire on their interest, and request an updated submittal.
- Consider paying top two artists for concept development (materials, durability, rough cost estimate, etc.).
- Develop an updated RFP to initiate a new selection process.

#### Alternative Location Potential Next Steps

If the PACT approves the staff recommendation to pursue an alternative location, staff recommends that the PACT discuss and provide direction on the following next steps.

1. Determine the location
2. Determine a budget
3. Discuss an updated RFP process, including timeline, updated selection criteria, and budget.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the PACT abandon the Brockway Road Wall Art project, recommend a new location for an art installation, and provide input to staff on the next steps, including the proposed budget and Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

#### **Attachments:**

Attachment A: Brockway Road Wall Art RFP Submittal Summary

Attachment B: Coldstream Road/Donner Pass Road/I-80 roundabout locations

Attachment C: CIP C2308, Public Art Master Plan Implementation budget sheet