



Date: August 14, 2024

Board Memo Author and title: Becky Bucar, Assistant Public Works Director, Town of Truckee

Title: **New Truckee Library Potential Art Policy**

Recommended Action: Provide direction to staff regarding the potential incorporation of art into the Truckee Library project.

Discussion: During discussions regarding the Truckee Library design and programming, a question arose as to whether some form of art should be incorporated into the design. The incorporation of an art element could take several forms, some examples of which are listed below:

- **Incorporating an artistic element into the interior architectural design.** Under this scenario, staff would provide direction to the design team to incorporate an artistic architectural element into the building design. It could be left to the discretion of the design team (including the JPA staff) or could be part of a more involved process such as working with the Nevada County Arts Council and/or the Public Art Commission of Truckee to weigh in on the artistic element. It would be important to set a budget (and expectations) for this additional element. In addition, consideration to how this option would impact the building design schedule should be evaluated as the additional coordination would likely delay the design process.
- **Creation of space for rotating art exhibits within the building.** This could include reserving areas on walls or providing means of sharing digital art formats within the building to afford an opportunity for various art exhibits to be displayed. These exhibits could be organized by library staff, arts groups, schools, community-based organizations, or other entities as deemed appropriate.
- **Setting aside a space outside the library to incorporate a future art.** Setting aside space at the library entrance, outdoor plaza areas, or along walking paths or trails would allow for art installations concurrent with or after the library construction. This option should also include setting aside funding for a future installation.

The above are examples of the many different ways art can be incorporated into the library and it is worth noting that the design team is already considering the incorporation of a special event space, which will substantially benefit the performing arts community.

Staff is requesting that the Truckee Library Joint Powers Authority (JPA) provide direction as to whether an additional art element should be incorporated into the Truckee Library design and whether there is preference for how or where this occurs. The JPA may also establish an art funding amount or policy (such as 1 percent of the construction costs). If there is interest, staff will return to the JPA with additional details on process, cost, and funding mechanisms.

Impact: Truckee has long been home to a thriving community of artists, creatives, and makers. According to the Truckee Public Art Master Plan, "public art is an expression of culture; an opportunity to highlight local creative efforts which directly express the Town's community character and enrich the community. Public displays of art and performances can create economic benefits to artists, local

establishments including restaurants, lodging facilities, and real estate.” The library project introduces an opportunity to add an additional art asset to the community.

Public Communication: None beyond this staff report.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Public art images.