



PUBLIC ART COMMISSION OF TRUCKEE STAFF REPORT

Date: November 4, 2025

To: Public Art Commission of Truckee

From: Nola Mitchell, Associate Engineer

Subject: Town Hall Temporary Art Wall – Implementation Options

At the October 7, 2025, regular Public Art Commission of Truckee (PACT) meeting, a rotating temporary art exhibit on the second-floor hallway of Town Hall (10183 Truckee Airport Road) was discussed. In the past, this hallway displayed student artwork, Dark Skies artwork, and Dark Skies photo contest winners. The goal of the discussion was to determine interest and a potential framework for selecting and implementing rotating exhibits. Staff presented questions and topics for the PACT to consider, as outlined in the October 7, 2025 staff report and summarized here:

- 1) PACT's desired involvement to oversee Town Hall's second floor hallway temporary art space.
- 2) Potential for short- and long-term implementation. A short-term plan could be to coordinate directly with Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) to display student art. A longer-term plan could mimic Nevada City's process for their CHAMP Gallery (City Hall Art Meets the Public).
- 3) Discuss potential partners for implementation, including curating.
- 4) Installation process discussions including if there should be a permanent hanging system and if PACT can assist with installations.
- 5) Discuss frequency of temporary art rotation in the second-floor hallway.

PACT expressed interest in the space for rotating art at their October 7, 2025 meeting but had questions and concerns about what entity would lead the effort and costs. Based on the PACT discussion, staff committed to further detail options for implementing the Town Hall hallway exhibit that are discussed below.

- 1) **Option 1 - Simplified Process.** Staff reached out to Sven Leff, General Manager of Truckee-Donner Recreation & Park District (TDRPD), for information about their rotating art in the Steve Randall Community Recreation Center. TDRPD has located artwork to display using different strategies: word of mouth and waiting for informal proposals to be submitted, developing their own content (for example TDRPD displayed children's art from their recreation programs), and organized community

groups proposing to display artwork like the Forest Fire exhibit. TDRPD sometimes helps curate the artwork and organizes an opening event for art exhibits and sometimes the artist both curates the art and organizes the opening event. TDRPD does not have staff dedicated to managing the rotating art.

Staff Analysis: Staff proposes that PACT take a similar approach and reach out to TTUSD Truckee art teachers and non-profits like Sierra Watershed Partnerships (SWEP) to gauge interest. Interested parties that submit ideas could then be reviewed by staff and PACT (or a PACT subcommittee). Qualified interested parties could hang and curate the artwork, otherwise, PACT could help curate. Town staff can help coordinate the installations with the artists. The level of interest will determine how often art is rotated. This approach does not impact the PACT budget but does take some PACT and staff time away from other PACT projects (approximately 10-20 hours).

- 2) **Option 2 - Approach the Truckee Cultural District (TCD) to determine interest.** Following the October 7, 2025 PACT meeting, staff reached out to Commissioner Kellie Cutler, TCD Program Manager, to determine if TCD has interest in organizing and curating exhibits in the Town Hall hallway. TCD plans to discuss future plans internally in the next month. These discussions will determine if they have the capacity and interest to oversee rotating art in the Town Hall second-floor hallway. If TCD does have interest, the Town of Truckee and PACT will still be responsible for selecting artwork themes and making final determinations on content displayed because the space is inside Town Hall. Also, Commissioner Culter will need to recuse herself from this and future discussions because of her role as staff with TCD.

Below is a rough estimate of the quarterly costs provided by TCD for the Truckee Tahoe Airport rotating art exhibit program for a general comparison:

- **Lead Curator:** Determines theme, call to artists, juries exhibit, installation, labels, sales, and de-installation = \$2,500
- **Communications/Design/Branding:** Designs all collateral, signage, social assets, and communications = \$1,000
- **Other:** Administration time, exhibit supplies, and reception expenses = \$750
- **Coordination:** Coordinating all moving parts (this is an estimate) =\$750

The total quarterly cost would be approximately \$5,000 (\$20,000 annually). Because the Truckee Tahoe Airport has a larger display space than the Town Hall hallway, this estimate is likely larger than what would be needed for the Town Hall space, and displays could be rotated less frequently, resulting in reduced implementation costs.

Staff Analysis: Staff does not recommend this approach because TCD will not know if it has capacity/interest to oversee this project for at least a month and the PACT did not express support for this expenditure at their October meeting. It could be an option to consider in the future if Option 1 is not successful.

- 3) **Options 3 - PACT Select Themes and Staff Curate Exhibits.** At the October 7 meeting, PACT showed some interest in selecting themes and having staff curate exhibits. Some ideas included showcasing the work the PACT has done, showcasing the art inventory, or displaying Future Forest Cultural Trail, being led by Michael and Heather Llewellyn.

Staff Analysis: This approach is possible if PACT takes the lead and volunteers time. In addition to having limited time available, staff does not feel comfortable curating these shows because of lack of experience and artistic background. However, staff notes that in lieu of using the Town Hall second-floor space to showcase the existing art inventory, PACT could use the Town of Truckee “Find it Fridays” social media posts to provide more details on the design, fabrication, and installation process for PACT projects.

Staff recommends that the PACT select Option 1 - Simplified Process because it is the fastest and most cost-effective option. Should PACT support pursuing Option 1, Staff is prepared to reach out to TTUSD and non-profits to spread the word and report back at the December PACT meeting. To expedite the process and provide additional support to staff, a PACT subcommittee could help review and select the next exhibit. Depending on the success with utilizing teachers and youth-oriented non-profits, the PACT could also consider administering future competitions for art that reflects Town priorities, similar to the Dark Skies Photo Contest.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the PACT select Option 1 - Simplified Process described in this staff report to oversee the second-floor hallway temporary art space.

Attachments:

None