



Date: October 12, 2024

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Riley Powers – Assistant Engineer

Title: **Public Art Commission of Truckee (PACT) Artist Recommendation for the Church Street – Truckee Way Roundabout Public Art Project**

Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: Council to authorize Town Manager to execute a contract with Jake Balcom Structures to design, fabricate, and deliver a sculpture for the Church Street / Truckee Way Roundabout for a total compensation amount of \$82,000 and authorize the Town Manager and Town Attorney to approve the final form of the artist agreement.

Discussion:

After the completion of the Brockway Wall Public Art Project, the Public Art Commission of Truckee (PACT) shifted their focus towards identifying the next public art project within the Town of Truckee. The PACT originally identified the space designated for public art at the newly constructed phase of the Mobility Hub Project on Church Street as the next site. However, at their March 5, 2024, meeting, the PACT identified the Church Street/Truckee Way Roundabout as the preferred site. Some of the rationale behind the change in location was the space offered at the Mobility Hub was a good location for temporary art installations or temporary art pilot project and that a permanent art piece should be delayed until the site is fully developed with the currently planned mobility hub building.

The decision to choose the Church Street/Truckee Way roundabout was partially influenced by a survey initiated in the fall of 2023. When given a choice between the Church Street/Truckee Way, Glenshire Drive/Church Street, or McIver roundabout, the majority of the public preferred Church Street/Truckee Way roundabout. A follow-up survey was also conducted from February 2, 2024, to March 31, 2024, to solicit additional feedback from the public on art concepts for the Church Street/Truckee Way roundabout space. The results of each survey are summarized in **Attachment A**. After review of the survey results, PACT discussed that the surveys would be more appropriate to present to potential artists as suggestions rather than guidance on any future art concepts/proposals.

In April 2024, and after review by the PACT, Town staff published the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Church Street – Truckee Way Roundabout Public Art Project (**Attachment B**). Nine submittals were received and reviewed by the PACT:

- Dominic Panziera and Daniela Garofalo (ARTECLETICA) – Truckee, CA
- Graham Carraway (J Graham Studios) – Denver, CO
- Erik and Isreal Nordin (Detroit Design Center) – Detroit, MI
- Jake Balcom (Jake Balcom Sculpture) – Kansas City, MO
- Jose Trejo Maya – Baldwin Park, CA
- Peter Hazel (Peter Hazel Art) – Reno, NV
- Justin Buonanoma (Reno Forge) – Reno, NV
- Sean Orlando (Engineered Artworks) – Richmond, CA

- Terrance Martin (Jagged Edge Metal Art) – Pilot Hill, CA

Consistent with the process outlined in the RFQ, the PACT selected the following three finalists to develop concept proposals, for which each artist was reimbursed \$2,000: The Nordin Brothers of Detroit Design Center, Jake Balcom of Jake Balcom Sculptures, and Sean Orlando of Engineered Artworks. Each of the three finalists presented their concept proposals to the PACT Commissioners on August 6, 2024, to receive feedback to develop their final proposals. A summary table of the initial concept design received by the three artists is included as **Attachment C**.

Upon receiving the final proposals, at their October 1, 2024, meeting, the PACT Commissioners were unable to come to a consensus on which artist to select but did narrow the finalists down to two artists: Jake Balcom and Sean Orlando. PACT requested staff to provide some additional feedback to the artists on their concept proposals and provide them an opportunity to revise their submittals. Updated proposals were provided by both artists and a special meeting was held on October 29, 2024, to discuss the updated proposals from the final two artists.

During the October 29 meeting, the PACT reviewed and discussed the updated proposals. During the discussion, the commissioners expressed concerns with the revised designs submitted by both artists in that there was a preference for the original designs. However, it was also noted that the revisions indicate a willingness of the artist to collaborate with the PACT and Town on the final design. Ultimately a motion was initiated to recommend to the Town Council that Jake Balcom be selected to design, create/fabricate, and deliver the art for the Church Street/Truckee Way Roundabout. The motion was approved by six commissioners with one voting no.

Jake Balcom's original and revised submittals are shown in **Attachment D** and represent a general design concept. If the Town enters into an agreement with Jake Balcom, the PACT and Town staff believe that there will be further refinement to Jake Balcom's current concept, including changes to the plant species used in the roundabout and a form that more closely matches his original submittal. To streamline the process some of the PACT Commissioners have volunteered to assist Town staff in the review of future submissions.

Attached is the draft artist agreement (**Attachment E**). Staff anticipate changes to the agreement may necessary, such as the agreed upon submittal, completion, and payment schedules. As such, staff is recommending that Council authorize the Town Manager and Town Attorney to approve the final form of the agreement.

Priority:

<input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Service

Fiscal Impact:

The proposed sculpture will cost \$82,000, which includes sculpture design, foundation design, material purchase, fabrication, and delivery, The Town would be responsible for installing the foundation and the sculpture itself, which will likely require the services of an outside contractor. The foundation and installation are anticipated to cost approximately \$20,000. CIP 2308 (Public Art Master Plan Implementation) includes \$165,500 in General Fund (\$128,000) and American Rescue Plan Act Funds (\$37,500), which is adequate to funds both the artist contract and the Town-led foundation and art installation.

Public Communication:

The following is a summary of the numerous PACT meetings regarding the RFQ and artist selection that occurred in addition to the public surveys:

- Survey Number 1 (October 30, 2023-January 12, 2024, 293 responses): Preferred Roundabout Location (in addition to feedback on the Mobility Hub Site)
- Survey Number 2 (February 2, 2024 – March 31, 2024, 334 responses)– Solicited feedback on art concepts for the Church Street/Truckee Way Roundabout.
- March 5, 2024 – Selection of Next Art Installation Site
- April 2, 2024 – Review of RFQ
- June 4, 2024 – Selection of Top Three Applicants/Artists
- August 6, 2024 – Concept Presentations of Top 3 Artists
- October 1, 2024 – Review of Submittals from Two Finalists
- October 29, 2024 – Final Artist Selection

Attachments:

Attachment A: Summary of October 2023 & February 2024 Public Art Surveys

Attachment B: Church Street – Truckee Way Roundabout Request for Qualifications

Attachment C: Summary of Artist Final Submissions

Attachment D: Jake Balcom Art Submittal Packages

Attachment E: Draft Artist Agreement