



Arts, Culture & Heritage Commission Staff Report

Date: March 18th, 2026

From: Erika Valentine, Arts & Culture Program Coordinator

Subject: HeARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart: Auction Follow Up

Recommended Action

Receive information from staff.

(New information not previously presented starts at the “Auction” section.)

Background

In November 2023 staff brought the ACHC several public art project ideas that could potentially be funded through the Wilsonville-Metro Community Enhancement Grant. The ACHC liked the idea of a fiberglass project on hearts the best so staff pursued the grant. The grant presentations took place in February 2024, with funding becoming available in July 2024. Staff worked with the ACHC to develop the Call for Art Application, as well as theme, which was “Many Cultures, One Heart.”

The Call for Art application was released in September 2024 and responses were due in November 2024. 29 designs were received by 20 artists. An internal review narrowed the applications down to the strongest 18. The ACHC made up the selection panel, along with 2 members from DEI. The panel reviewed applications, scored them ahead of time, and then discussed them at a meeting to ultimately recommend what designs/artists to award a heart to.

Each artist received a contract and had to get insurance. All artists were responsible for picking up their heart and delivering it back, as well as completing an anti-graffiti coating. The Parks Maintenance team built the bases for the hearts. Staff also ordered signage for each heart. Staff determined locations, to be in City parks or near City facilities. Staff worked with the marketing department to create a map to show all 10 locations. Marketing staff also visited artists’ home studios to create short videos of them working and talking about their process.

An opening reception event at the Stein Boozier Barn was held on April 30th in the evening. All 10 hearts were on display and multiple artists were in attendance. The installation took place the next day and the hearts are still installed.

The Grant application calls for the hearts to be installed for at least 6 months (October 30, 2025). Following installation, the hearts or some of the hearts will be auctioned off through an online platform. Funds generated through the auction will help offset future programs.

Staff presented about the hearts project and hearts auction at the [August 20, 2025 ACHC meeting](#). This included staff recommendations for which hearts to keep or auction. At this meeting, the ACHC requested comparable funding information from other programs as well that the Kitakata Sister City

Advisory Board determine what to do with the Kitakata Heart. There was also talk about the idea to do a potential survey but this was not finalized.

Budget

Artist Stipends	10 Artists X \$1,350 = \$13,500
Hearts	10 hearts X \$1,350 = \$13,500
Shipping	\$2,000
Total	\$29,000

The Project was awarded \$29,000 from the Metro Community Enhancement Grant. Other expenses included materials for the base installation as well as signage on each heart. These expenses were covered through the Public Art Maintenance Budget. There were also expenses for the reception event.

Miscellaneous

SMART collaborated with Parks and Rec staff to host a Community Bike Ride to see all 10 hearts. Attendance was at least 50 cyclists.

Updated/New Findings

Following the August ACHC meeting Staff reached out to the Town of Danville in California which did an identical project which consisted of the same exact heart from the same manufacturer. Their project consisted of 16 hearts and generated \$82,000 which breaks down to about \$5,125 per heart.

Staff also came across another fiberglass hearts project which ended with an auction, which took place in Armonk, New York. This fiberglass heart was about half the size of the Wilsonville Heart (in high/width and depth). Their auction generated \$17,300 for their 12 hearts which breaks down to about \$1,442 per heart.

Staff also notes that the painted fiberglass Coraline Cats done in Portland, OR generated \$324,500, breaking down to about \$10,451 per Cat (31 Cats). However, this was a fundraiser for OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Regarding the Kitakata Heart, staff provided the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board information about the heart project, auction, etc. At their October 15th Meeting they made a motion recommending that the City keep the Kitakata themed heart in the City's Collection and not auction it.

Auction Overview

The auction was held online through Auctria, an online auction platform. Bidding began on February 12th and closed on March 6th. 23 people registered to create an account in order to bid.

Auction Marketing

Marketing for the auction included the following: Social Media Posts on City Accounts, City Email Blasts, City Press Releases, Email Blast through City Business E-Blast (Economic Development Dept.), flyer, A-Frame Signage at Library, Direct E-mail blasts to various contact schools, School District, Portland Street Art Alliance (shared on their social media Instagram story), Regional Arts and Culture Council (shared on their social media instagram story), Clackamas County Arts Alliance (website, social media, Email Blast),

Other City Arts Managers, City Activity Guide, Boones Ferry messenger, and put a half page add in the Wilsonville Legacy Magazine.

Auction Funds Generated

The online auction of the 5 hearts generated a total of **\$4,050.**

Auction Winners

One winner is from Welches, OR the rest are Wilsonville residents/business owners.

Post Auction Location Info, funds generated, etc.:

Hearts that will remain viewable to the public/in the City's Collection:



Angenette Escobar with Wilsonville High School Art Students (Keep at current location)

Flores del Istmo de Tehuantepec (floral line work, looks like patchwork)

Wilsonville Police Building



Addie Boswell (Keep at current location)

For the Dreamers (night scape with buildings and kids reading)

Wilsonville Public Library



Elle Knight (Keep - Relocate to Town Center Park)

Heart of Belonging (says "You Belong" and bright colors)

Sofia Park (Villebois)



Eileen Begley (Keep – relocate to City Hall)

Wilsonville & Kitakata: Sister Cities(Japan theme)

Memorial Park / tennis courts



Lonnie Garcia (Keep – relocate to more prominent location at Memorial Park near new playground, tennis courts, fields)

Pacific Northwest Folklorico (Mexican dancers, nature themes like river, fish)

Memorial Park/ nature play area

Hearts that were auctioned:



Triesta and Chris Zuber

Ubuntu (faces and glued mosaic pieces)

Town Center Park

Sold for: \$450



Cathy Rowe

Season of Love (cherry blossoms on one side, sun flowers on other)

Tranquil Park

Sold for: \$1,250



Abhinaya Sudharsanam

Unity in Diversity (Bright colors, kids faces)

City Hall

Sold for: \$675



Zak Ostertag (Auction)

Wilsonville: Globally Grafted (Tree with primary colors and line work)

Tivoli Park (Villebois)

Sold for: \$1,025



Charlie Correales (Auction)

Heart in Bloom (anatomical heart, rainbow on one side)

Engleman Park

Sold for: \$650