



## **Arts, Culture & Heritage Commission Staff Report**

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**Date:** August 20, 2025

**From:** Erika Valentine, Arts & Culture Program Coordinator

**Subject:** HeARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart Debrief

### **Recommended Action**

The Commission should discuss the HeARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart Public Art Project which had its reception on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and then installation on April 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

The Commission should discuss and evaluate the project including the upcoming auction.

Part of the ACHC's charge is to:

- Advise the City on future Public Art program plans and serve as the City's review body for public art projects as they move through the approval process
- Complete temporary and permanent Public Art projects

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Budget

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

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 bicyclists.

### Upcoming Auction

Staff is waiting for potential feedback from City Leadership regarding the auction. Due to the project receiving such positive support from the community, staff recommends not auctioning off all of the hearts, but keeping some in the City's Public Art Collection. Staff recommendations are in purple in the parenthesis.



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

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

Wilsonville Police Building



**Addie Boswell (Keep at Library)**

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

Wilsonville Public Library



**Triesta and Chris Zuber (Keep and relocate to City Hall)**

*Ubuntu (faces and glued mosaic pieces)*

Town Center Park



**Elle Knight (Auction) (Option to keep and put at Town Center Park)**

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

Sofia Park (Villebois)



**Cathy Rowe (Auction)**

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

Tranquil Park



**Eileen Begley (Auction)**

*Wilsonville & Kitakata: Sister Cities(Japan theme)*  
Memorial Park / tennis courts



**Abhinaya Sudharsanam (Auction)**

*Unity in Diversity (Bright colors, kids faces)*  
City Hall



**Lonnie Garcia (Auction)**

*Pacific Northwest Folklorico (Mexican dancers, nature themes like river, fish)*  
Memorial Park / nature play area



**Zak Ostertag (Auction)**

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

Tivoli Park (Villebois)



**Charlie Correales (Auction)**

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

Engleman Park

#### Explore Wilsonville Links

<https://explorewilsonville.com/big-hearts-bold-stories-a-first-look-at-wilsonvilles-community-art-project/>

<https://explorewilsonville.com/explore/hearts-handcrafted-flavors/>

#### Upcoming Projects

Based on the positive response of this type of project (smaller scale, multiple locations) staff is recommending pursuing a Utility Box Art Project in the future, if the ACHC has interest in developing one. This would be on a future ACHC Agenda(s) to discuss but it would consist of artwork on City-Owned Utility Boxes. This project would not require purchasing something to paint (such as the hearts) as the boxes are an existing piece of City infrastructure.

#### Attachments

1. City Council Presentation