

Arts, Culture & Heritage Commission Staff Report



Date: October 15, 2025

From: Erika Valentine, Arts and Culture Program Coordinator

Subject: Boones Ferry Park Public Art Project 'Essence of the River' – Project Award Presentations and Project Award

Recommended Action:

Prior to the meeting:

Review Staff Report in its entirety as well as each attachment.

After reviewing each of the three design proposals, complete your scoring spreadsheet and return scores to Erika Valentine at EValentine@WilsonvilleOregon.gov

Scoring spreadsheet must be completed and turned in by Monday, October 13th at 9:00am.

At the meeting:

The ACHC will receive three presentations from each of the Artists/Artist Team and have an opportunity to ask questions. While the ACHC may ask questions, they are not authorized to make major design revision requests. Following all presentations, staff will show the scores/rankings. The ACHC will then be able to deliberate and discuss.

The ACHC is expected to then make a motion and hold a vote in order to award the project to one of the finalists.

Overview:

Thank you for participating in the Boones Ferry Park Public Art Project 'Essence of the River' Review process. Reviewing Public Art initiatives for the City is a noble community service of providing your time, experience, and vision for how future generations will be inspired and engaged.

The process of the Boones Ferry Park Public Art Project is outlined in the following meeting agendas: 8/20/2025 and 4/16/2025. These agenda packets are accessible at:

<https://www.wilsonvilleoregon.gov/meetings>

This project RFQ received 147 applications upon closing deadline, February 12, 2025. The qualified and eligible applications (105 applications) were then narrowed down to the top ten through a scoring and review process meeting which took place on February 27, 2025. That Panel consisted of ACHC members, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members, and staff. The determined top ten applications were then forwarded to the full ACHC who reviewed them at their April 16, 2025 meeting. The ACHC selected three Artists/Artist Team to advance to the proposal design stage. Those chosen artists include:

Pete Beeman; Todji Kurtzman; and Lin McJunkin & Milo White (Team)

Following that meeting, Valentine worked with the City's Legal Department to provide contracts for this stage, wherein each participant was compensated \$1,500 upon successful submission of a completed proposal bundle. There was also an in-person site visit with Artists and City Staff held on June 10, 2025.

Staff also facilitated a survey through 'Let's Talk Wilsonville' wherein the Artists provided their own inquiry questions to help craft their designs. All finalists successfully submitted their completed proposals on-time to Valentine by August 25, 2025.

Best practices as you begin the review process:

1. **Please score independently.** While information is public record, please do not share or disclose application materials, contact information, nor scores with other members. This is to keep the review process itself non-biased.
2. **Prioritize your time and energy to focus on your duty as a reviewer.** Find a comfortable space, and try to limit distractions.
3. Remember, **you are a steward for the entire Wilsonville community.** It is not about what you *personally* like, but about what the community will come to love over time. Consider how Park visitors will engage with the new artwork installation.
4. **Exercise Fairness, Impartiality, and Remove Personal Bias or rigid subjectivity.**
 - a. **Utilize the following criteria for evaluating, which was outlined in the Design Proposal Contracts:**
 1. **Artistic excellence and quality** – *Strength of the concept, design, craftsmanship. Unique Artwork.*
 2. **Relevance to theme ('Essence of the River')** - *It is desired that the artwork(s) celebrates and pulls inspiration from the river and surrounding natural areas in the park.*
 3. **Engaging** - *The artwork(s) should be site-specific and engaging for users of all ages, backgrounds, etc.*
 4. **Consideration to site** - *The park today has several distinct areas with their own special characteristics. South of Tauchman Street, which borders a portion of the park's northern side, is an expansive lawn sloping gently down to a wall of trees that occupy the steep bank next to the Willamette River. A natural wooded area divides the old and new sections of the park and pulls the wildness of the river bank up and through the park and into the adjacent neighborhood to the north. A new playground was completed in 2024 with river-inspired elements aligning with the Boones Ferry Master Plan, such as a blue winding 'river' throughout the turf, depictions of local wildlife, and signage depicting historic events. The playground emphasizes universal design, which gives community members of all abilities from across Wilsonville and the region a place to play, explore, and grow.*
 5. **Maintainability** - *Structural and surface soundness, durability, resistance to vandalism, theft, weathering, excessive maintenance, and repair costs*
 6. **Feasibility** - *Ability to successfully manage all aspects of the project such as budgets, installers, fabricators and other construction and administrative logistics; Credentials including experience, past clients, training, etc.*
 7. **Safety** – *protective of the safety of the public in structure and siting*
 - b. Exercise Fairness and Impartiality by honestly self-regulating [your] favoritism to a particular candidate; style; medium; and/or race, color, national origin, immigration or refugee status, heritage, culture, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, mental and physical ability, age, and economic status. It is not only good practice as a steward for the City's interest, but also with respect to personal characteristics, required under law.
 - c. Each artist will have a unique voice in their portfolio. Approach scoring objectively by evaluating their submission materials to the Review Criteria.

5. Reference the original project RFQ.

- a. Consider the goals/themes of the project and what is outlined within the RFQ.
6. Before beginning the actual scoring process, **look at all three proposals.**

Reviewing and Scoring:

Panelists will be utilizing an excel spreadsheet for scoring. Panelists will be scoring in 7 different criteria categories (see above), which are also included within the excel spreadsheet. Panelists will score 1 – 5 (1 is low and 5 is high) for EACH of the 7 categories. Each of the three proposals will receive 7 scores to then provide a total score.

Scoring spreadsheet must be completed and turned in by Monday, October 13th at 9:00am.

This exercise will provide a ranked list as a starting point for October 15 meeting deliberations. This will ensure meaningful and efficient conversations. Through receiving the presentations from the Artists as well as through discussions, Panelists may also adjust their scores, if desired, during the meeting.

Next Steps:

Once the ACHC awards the project to one of the Artists' at this meeting, staff will begin working with the Legal Department to execute a comprehensive Public Art Contract. Upon execution of contract, Artist will be able to begin acquiring all City requirements and begin fabrication of their proposed design(s). Valentine will be the Artists' point of contact during entire process now through installation. Valentine will provide the ACHC with status updates as needed.

Attachments:

1. Boones Ferry Park Public Art RFQ as published and responded to
2. Boones Ferry Park RFP Exhibit B Scope of Work
3. Score Sheet

Artist Proposals

4. Pete Beeman
- Todji Kurtzman
5. Lin McJunkin & Milo White (Team)