



Arts, Culture & Heritage Commission Staff Report

Date: November 19, 2025

From: Erika Valentine, Arts & Culture Program Coordinator

Subject: Boones Ferry Park Public Art Project Update and Motion

Recommended Action

Make a motion to approve the 2nd highest ranked design proposal/artist, Pete Beeman.

Background

At the October 15th, 2025 ACHC meeting the ACHC scored, ranked, and reviewed the three design proposals for the Boones Ferry Park Public Art Project 'Essence of the River' from artists: Pete Beeman, Todji Kurtzman, and Lin McJunkin/Milo White (team).

Todji Kurtzman was the awarded artist with a 5 (yes) / 3 (no) vote. Commissioner comments included that staff should connect to The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to seek their involvement and support, as well as review it for cultural and historical accuracy.

Staff met with the Arts Administrator from The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as well as visited the Chachalu Museum in Grand Ronde, Oregon. Representatives from The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde did not approve any part of the project proposal to move forward and found the proposal very problematic. They did not see any path forward with the artist.

Based on the input received directly from The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, staff recommends awarding the Boones Ferry Park Project to the 2nd highest ranked artist, Pete Beeman. The ACHC previously scored and ranked all proposals.

Next Steps

Staff will issue a notice of intent to award as well as update Artists.

Staff will also explore bringing a representative from The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to a future ACHC meeting for additional education.