



Arts, Culture & Heritage Commission Staff Report

Date: November 19, 2025

From: Erika Valentine, Arts & Culture Program Coordinator

Subject: HeARTs of Wilsonville: Many Cultures, One Heart: Auction Preparation

Recommended Action

The Commission should finalize which hearts to keep in the City's Public Art Collection and which ones to put up for auction.

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 bicyclists.

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.

Revised Timeline:

The original Community Enhancement Project Grant application which funded this project called for the hearts being installed for at least 6 months which would be until end of October 2025.

Since the Auction has not been finalized by the ACHC yet, Staff recommends holding off and doing the auction around Valentines Day (February 2026) in order to tie the hearts into the holiday, which may help with marketing. This also gives staff time to get everything up and running for the auction.

Library:

An idea came about from the Wilsonville Public Library to print Library Cards with images of some of the Hearts on them. The hearts would be available around the time of the auction. Which hearts to print on cards will be at the discretion of the Library staff.

Staff Recommendations:

The following are staff *recommendations* regarding which hearts to keep in the City's collection vs Auction. The ACHC should review and make a motion / vote if they propose any changes.

Hearts to keep viewable to the public/in the City's Collection:

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 current location)

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

Wilsonville Public Library



Triesta and Chris Zuber (Keep at current location)

Ubuntu (faces and glued mosaic pieces)

Town Center Park



Eileen Begley (Keep – relocate to City Hall)

Wilsonville & Kitakata: Sister Cities(Japan theme)

Memorial Park / tennis courts

Hearts to Auction:



Elle Knight (Auction)

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



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/>