

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 02/19/2008

Reviewed by: *BP*

SUBJECT: Arts Committee request for inclusion of public art in the Public Safety/Civic Center retrofit/remodel project

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consider request following receipt of construction bids and review of project budget funds available and/or after receipt of public art funds from private development projects in the City.

BACKGROUND

The Public Safety/Civic Center project has been under design development since shortly after the passage of Measure F 2002. The project was modified to incorporate additional sustainable building elements and public safety modifications following the passage of Measure C in 2006. The project is going out to bid shortly, with bids due in this spring.

In Fall, 2007, the City Council adopted an ordinance establishing an “Art in Public Places Program”. The ordinance requires certain public and private construction projects to include public art elements and/or set aside a certain percentage of the project budget for public art.

Because the Public Safety/Civic Center project was under development prior to adoption of the ordinance, this project was not considered subject to the requirements of the arts ordinance.

DISCUSSION

On June 4, 2007, the City Council discussed the idea of establishing 1 percent of the Public Safety/Civic Center project construction estimate for an arts component in the project. At that time, the majority of the Councilmembers indicated their concern about the overall project costs and their preference to consider the matter of including public art once the project costs were clearer. Attached is a copy of the minutes from that discussion.

ANALYSIS

As noted in the City's arts in public places ordinance, public art is an important element in the City's aesthetics and quality of life for the community. As such, incorporating public art in the Public Safety/Civic Center project would be a visual improvement to these public buildings.

The issue at this time is a source of funding for a public arts component in the building project. The City Council will have a better idea of the potential for there to be funds within the budget it has approved if bids come in lower than the engineer's estimate. The Council could also consider deleting one or more of the "bid deduct" items from the project. It should be noted that the certainty of funds available within the budget, if any, will not be completely clear until completion of the project.

Another source of revenue for public art is the receipt of funds required of private development projects in the City. If/when those funds are received, the City Council could consider dedicating those revenues to the Public Safety/Civic Center project. The Council could also at this time indicate this project as the first priority for use of the public art development funds that the City will receive in the future.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The value of the required public art is calculated on construction costs detailed in the Master Fee Schedule. If the public arts ordinance was applied to this project, the public art fund set aside of 1.75 percent would be \$66,127.

Attachments:

1. Letter from Arts Committee
2. Excerpt City Council minutes, June 4, 2007