

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

Agenda Date: February 21, 2012  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Allocation of Art in Public Places Fund

**REPORT BY:** Isabelle Leduc, Recreation Supervisor

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**ARTS COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council approve Resolution No.2012-9 allocating \$4,450 from the Art in Public Places Fund to:

1. Implement a Fire Hydrant Art Program
2. Restore the Herons sculpture at the Albany bulb
3. Purchase a zinc plaque for the Community Center Foyer Art Gallery

**BACKGROUND**

In October 2007, the City of Albany adopted the Art in Public Places Ordinance. The purposes of the Ordinance are to promote the acquisition, construction, installation, restoration, and maintenance of public art pieces in Albany that will foster creativity, freedom of expression, cultural awareness, civic pride, and strong sense of community. The ordinance provides for a 1.75%-for-art fee on new developments over \$300,000. This fee requirement can be satisfied with inclusion of public art in each project directly or paid into a Public Art Fund, to be used in focused areas throughout the city.

The Arts Committee subsequently recommended, and the City Council adopted, a Public Arts Master Plan to guide implementation of the ordinance.

**DISCUSSION**

The Arts Committee is recommending the following projects to further the implementation of the Public Arts Master Plan:

**Fire Hydrant Art Program**

The Arts Committee has developed a program for the artistic decoration of a selected number of existing fire hydrants in the City. The Committee is seeking creative designs for painting on existing fire hydrants in a way that adds interest, but does not compromise their functionality. Any fire hydrant in the City is a potential candidate, but hydrants on

Solano Avenue in existing sidewalk bulb-outs at Stannage and Talbot Avenues would appear to be particularly good candidates.

The Fire Hydrant Art Program has been reviewed and approved by the Fire Chief, subject to certain conditions, and his review and approval of each design for safety considerations. The Arts Committee will review all applications for artistic consideration and all final designs will be forwarded to the Fire Chief/Fire Marshal for final approval to ensure that design does not interfere with functionality.

The Arts Committee will review applications at its June meeting and selected artists will be expected to execute the work during the months of July and August 2012. A stipend of \$150 per hydrant from the Art in Public Places Fund will be paid to each artist upon completion of work. It is recommended that up to 10 hydrants be painted over the summer months.

#### Herons Restoration at the Albany Bulb

The Herons was created by Mark Canepa in 1999. The sculpture is now rusting and covered by graffiti. At the request of the Arts Committee, the artist submitted a proposal for on-site restoration which consists of cutting, welding, grinding and applying primer and enamel paint in antique bronze/semi-gloss to create original sheen. The proposal also includes portable arc welder and generator rental. An anti-graffiti coating will also be applied to the sculpture.

Because of its location near the Bay, Herons will always need some level of maintenance, which is true of most public art pieces. Applying enamel paint is an easier and less expensive option for restoration and ongoing maintenance because it can be completed on-site. A more costly option, also reviewed by the Arts Committee, consisted of reapplying the power coating technique currently on the sculpture which would require that the sculpture be removed and restored in a studio. After careful consideration, the Arts Committee chose the enamel paint option for its short and long term benefits regarding lower restoration and maintenance costs.

#### Zinc plaque for the Community Center Foyer Art Gallery

The Albany Community Center Foyer Art Gallery walls were renovated in 2011 using Art in Public Places Funding. A small plaque mentioning that the gallery walls were renovated in 2011 with Art in Public Places Funding is an effective way to let residents know how Public Art fees benefit the community.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The proposed projects fall within the scope of the Art in Public Places Ordinance in that the Fire Hydrant Art program will contribute to the promotion of art, the Herons sculpture will be restored and the plaque installed at the gallery will build awareness of how Public Art fees contribute to the community in a positive way.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Art work is expected to be created in a professional manner that is safe for the environment and respectful of its surroundings. Selected artists will be responsible for the purchase of appropriate paint and materials in accordance with safety and environmental guidelines established by the City.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Current balance of the Art in Public Places Fund is \$50,620.00. Allocation for the Fire Hydrant Art Program \$1,500.00, restoration of the Herons Sculpture \$2,750.00 and up to \$200 for the gallery zinc plaque add up to a total of \$4,450.00 which would bring the Art in Public Places Fund balance to \$46,170.00.

## **Attachments**

1. Draft Resolution No. 2012-9
2. Fire Hydrant Call for Artist