

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

Agenda Date: September 4, 2012

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Additional Art in Public Places Funding needed for the restoration of the Herons Sculpture at the Albany Bulb

REPORT BY: Isabelle Leduc, Recreation Supervisor

ARTS COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council approve Resolution No. 2012-53 allocating additional Art in Public Places Funding not to exceed \$4,250 to restore the Herons sculpture at the Albany Bulb.

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 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.

In February 2012 the Arts Committee recommended, and the City Council approved the use of Art in Public Places funding in the amount of \$2,750 for the restoration of the Herons sculpture at the Albany Bulb.

The Herons sculpture 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 had submitted a proposal for on-site restoration which consisted of cutting, welding, grinding and applying primer and enamel paint in antique bronze/semi-gloss. The proposal also included portable arc welder and generator rental.

DISCUSSION

The artist has since decided not to move forward with the restoration of the Herons per the proposal he had submitted due to high insurance costs and the logistical difficulties

associated with restoring the art piece on site. The artist stated that he had underestimated the cost of the project and could no longer restore the piece on site and for the amount he had originally proposed. He further suggested that the only way he would restore the piece would be in his studio leaving the responsibility to the City for removing the Herons, transporting them to his studio and re-installing them at the Bulb. This proposition made the restoration cost prohibitive as removing the Herons would add additional labor and supplies costs to the project.

Subsequently, staff and the Arts Committee Chair met with Berkeley Choate from Walter Mork Company Inc., a metal fabricator located in Berkeley referred by the staff from the Albany's Public Works Department. Mr. Choate inspected the Herons and provided a quote for restoring the Herons. Per the quote, the repairing process will include stripping all paint and loose rust from the sculpture, painting the metal with "rust converter", welding in patches to cover holes in the sculpture, grinding smooth and applying primer and two coats of finish paint. All materials, tools and supplies will be brought on site daily and nothing will be left overnight. Signage will be erected to advise the public to stay clear of the area while repairs are underway.

The Arts Committee reviewed the quote at their meeting in July and by motion is recommending that the Council approve additional funding from the Art in public Places fund so that Walter Mork Company Inc. can proceed with the Herons restoration.

ANALYSIS

The proposed project falls within the scope of the Art in Public Places Ordinance in that the Herons sculpture will be restored. The quote from Walter Mork Company Inc. is higher than the quote provided by the artist, but Walter Mork Company Inc. is fully insured and has the capabilities and expertise for restoring the piece on site.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

Repairs are expected to be performed in a professional manner that is safe for the environment and respectful of its surroundings.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The original amount approved by the Council for the restoration of the Herons was \$2,750. The Arts Committee and staff are recommending that the Council approve allocating additional Art in Public Places funding not to exceed \$4,250 for a total of \$7,000 to complete the restoration of the Herons on site according to the quote provided by Walter Mork Company Inc.

Attachments

- A. Quote from Walter Mork Company Inc.