

Memorandum



To: Historic Preservation Commission

From: Rebecca Blume Rothman, Public Art Manager (480-350-2827)

Date: December 11, 2024

Subject: Agenda Item #6: Public Art Plan

PURPOSE

Staff will provide an overview of the Public Art Plan process, which has recently begun.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY

3.17 Quality of Community Services Programs: Achieve ratings of “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the “Quality of Community Services programs” greater than or equal to the top 10% of the national benchmark cities as measured in the Community Survey.

BACKGROUND

Tempe’s Public Art Program aspires to cultivate a unique community identity that advances Tempe as a vibrant and progressive destination. As the City of Tempe has grown, the Public Art Collection continues to expand to meet community needs; the current collection includes over 130 art pieces. A Public Art Plan is crucial at this time of growth, documenting previous efforts and processes, as well as helping prioritize the creation of artworks within the built environment through a set of principles and strategies that can be applied to future programming. Ultimately, the Public Art Plan will create a comprehensive plan that outlines the city’s vision for public art, identify potential locations for future public art projects, strategies for diversifying the public art collection to reach a boarder audience, and establish guidelines for the selection and commissioning of artworks.

In early 2024, the City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant with specific experience in public art planning to develop a Public Art Plan for the city. Designing Local, Ltd. was selected due to their experience and their proposed a methodology that includes utilizing a variety of engagement opportunities to include the public including a project website and a multilevel outreach approach to ensure that the process was as inclusive as possible. The team has created a survey and that will be shared with the public at engagement events such as Arts in the Parks, the Tempe Jam, pop up events at Tempe businesses, and through Board and Commission presentations.

RECOMMENDATION OR DIRECTION REQUESTED

For Information Only