

City Council Regular Meeting

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Meeting Date: 09/03/2019

Recommended by: Gloria Leija, City Clerk

Council approval was unanimous

Prepared by: Gloria Leija, City Clerk

Finance Director Review: Celina Morris

City Attorney Review: Brett Wallace

Approved by: Larry Rains

Date Submitted:

Type of Action Requested: Formal Action/Motion

SUBJECT:

Consider Union Pacific Railroad Art Elements

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Mayor and Council approve the Arts and Humanities Commission's recommendation for placement of art elements at the Union Pacific Railroad underpass site.

DISCUSSION:

In 2017-18, CG Creative Communities Team was selected by the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts to participate in an opportunity to explore the many ways creativity can be put to work for positive community impact and to collaboratively design a project for the community. The team culminated their learning experience with a CG Mosaic Festival that included creative experiences for all ages. This free event was held Sunday, November 4, 2018, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Historic Downtown's Arts and Culture District (Florence Blvd. and Sacaton Street).

The CG Creative Communities Team was also selected by the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Arizona State University's Herberger Institute to receive \$15,000 to continue the Mosaic Theme in Casa Grande with the creation and installation of Art Pieces at the Union Pacific Railroad underpass on Gila Bend Hwy. The Team has partnered with the City of Casa Grande and Casa Grande Arts and Humanities Commission to beautify a highly traveled and visible area of the community known as the "Casa Grande Union Pacific Railroad Underpass." This area leads into the community from the west. Efforts to significantly beautify this area will have an environmental impact by cleaning up a blighted area, which is part of the Council's Strategic Plan and will promote commerce and enhance economic and community development by enhancing the area with creative art.

The Team hired Lisa Swanson as the Artist and Consultant to develop a conceptual design

for art elements to be included at the Union Pacific Railroad Underpass. Through her efforts, numerous public input sessions were held with various organizations to seek input on possible art to be placed at the Union Pacific Railroad Underpass site. The Team presented the conceptual design to the Arts and Humanities Commission, which they have recommended for the Council's consideration, and is attached in a PowerPoint presentation for Council's consideration.

After the Council's consideration, the Team will continue efforts to get approval from ADOT to construct the art elements. The first phase will include cleanup and construction of art for the cement side panels. Thereafter, the art elements will be constructed as funds are available.

FISCAL IMPACT:

- Arizona Commission on the Arts and Arizona State University's Herberger Institute - \$15,000 Grant
- Casa Grande Arts & Humanities Commission Partnership Grant - \$10,000
- City of Casa Grande – CIP Budget \$50,000
- Applications for Prop 202 Native Grants have been submitted

ALTERNATIVES:

- Offer recommendations to include other art elements at the Union Pacific Railroad underpass site.