



To: Members of Dublin City Council
From: Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager
Date: December 1, 2020
Initiated By: Matthew L. Stiffler, Director of Finance
Re: Funding for the 2021 Art in Public Places (AIPP) program

Background

Staff is seeking Council's guidance on if the 2021 Art In Public Places (AIPP) program should proceed in the amount of \$300,000? Should Council approve, an appropriation would be included in the 2021 first quarter supplemental? Should Council have concerns, some alternative policy options are available, but a decision on those alternatives is not necessary at tonight's meeting.

The Dublin Arts Council (DAC) recently began discussions with staff on proceeding with the AIPP program in 2021. Under their proposal, the DAC would launch a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the M.L. Red Trabue Nature Reserve public art commission. The proposed budget for this commission is \$300,000. This figure was determined based on the national average cost of public art commissions being \$253,251 and the size of the selected site stretching 90-acres. The DAC have the necessary funds accumulated in the Hotel Motel Fund and believe the scale of the public artwork installation should match the scale of the site and believe the approach will create a more powerful impact for the community.

The bed tax fund has a current fund balance of \$3.07 million, and of that amount \$300,000 is allocated to support the AIPP program. The City recently completed its 2021 Operating Budget and an appropriation of this funding for a new AIPP project was not discussed as part of that process. The \$300,000 AIPP allocation (\$75,000 per year for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019) was discussed as a potential funding source should the DAC need an additional operating subsidy in 2022 or 2023. As Council is aware, the AIPP allocation for 2020 and 2021 totaling \$150,000 was utilized to provide funding for operating expenses for the DAC in 2021 and revenues to the Hotel Motel Fund are not expected to fully recover in 2022 or 2023. Note: Should Council authorize utilizing this \$300,000 for AIPP programming in 2021, then the \$75,000 allocated to the AIPP program in 2022 would still be available to support the DAC's operations in 2022.

Because of the uncertainty in the Hotel Motel Fund, staff is requesting Council provide guidance on proceeding with this program in this amount in 2021. This funding is allocated for the AIPP program and is most appropriately utilized as part of that program, but it also remains a potential source of revenue to support future DAC operations as hotel motel tax revenues recover.

Recommendation

Staff is requesting Council's direction regarding the 2021 AIPP program. Staff recommend proceeding with the \$300,000 appropriation in 2021 or referring the 2021 AIPP program to a Council Committee or future Council Meeting for a discussion on policy alternatives.