

**To:** Members of Dublin City Council  
**From:** Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager  
**Date:** June 22, 2021  
**Initiated By:** Matt Earman, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Matt Stiffler, Director of Finance  
**Re:** Art In Public Places (AIPP) Project

## Background

As Council is aware, every year, \$75,000 is set aside in the hotel/motel tax fund to realize public art. These funds are held within the overall Hotel/Motel tax fund. In 2021 City of Dublin committed \$150,000 of Art in Public Places (AiPP) hotel/motel tax funds for Dublin Arts Council's (DAC's) general operating expenses in response to the pandemic. As a result of this direction, \$75,000 from 2020 and \$75,000 from the 2021 AiPP funds were allocated to Dublin Arts Council's general operating fund as an emergency measure and were not added to the existing fund balance of \$300,000.

Staff and DAC have been in discussions regarding the possible allocation of a portion (\$150,000) of the remaining \$300,000 AiPP funds to begin the commissioning process for the next AiPP artwork, which would leave a remaining balance of \$150,000 for future projects. The commissioning process will take 1.5 to 2 years from the issue of the call for artists to the public dedication of new artwork. DAC will manage the first six months of the selection/jurying process, with an expectation that up to 15%, or up to \$22,500 above and beyond the commission price of \$150,000, will be reimbursed for direct administrative costs of operating an artist and artwork selection process. Invoices with receipts will be submitted at the end of the selection process.

Once Council approves the jury's final selection, Council would then authorize City staff to enter into a \$150,000 contract with the chosen artist. For this commission, the contract would not be executed until 2022. The contract will have milestones that must be met before payments are released. The \$150,000 is not paid in one lump sum and final payment would not be anticipated before 2023.

As Council is aware, the AiPP program was initially delayed by foundry issues with the Feather Point sculpture, departure of City public art staff and creation of the Dublin Public Art Master Plan, resulting in the accrual of a \$300,000 balance at the beginning of 2020. Effects of the pandemic resulted in further delay. Public art has become a vital tool for community engagement, transformation, healing, and innovation across the globe during the pandemic. DAC believes, and staff concurs, that public art is vital to their mission as they continue to create programming that is innovative and responsive to the community's needs. While the commission process will result in a permanent public artwork, the 2-year process is community-driven and provides many opportunities for lifelong learning and creative engagement for Dublin residents.

### **Recommendation**

Staff seeks Council's direction regarding a restart to the AiPP process. Staff recommends Council allocate \$22,500 to enable the 1.5 to 2-year process to commission an AiPP artwork to begin to move forward in 2021. The intended cost of the full commission will not exceed \$150,000. The fiscal condition of the Hotel/Motel Bed Tax Fund and associated funding intended for this artwork will be closely monitored throughout the process, and Council will retain authority for the final authorization to move forward with a proposed artwork.

The site of any proposed artwork will be at the previously directed location, the M.L. "Red" Trabue Nature Reserve. DAC will use the jury process previously used for AiPP artist and artwork selection and will work with staff simultaneously to develop the processes contemplated in the recent Public Art Master Plan, adopted by City Council, for future AiPP artwork projects. If staff's recommendation is approved, the process would begin in July of 2021, with the new public artwork's installation and dedication anticipated in the summer of 2023.