



Department Source: Cultural Affairs

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: 4/4/2016

Re: Traffic Box Art Program

Executive Summary

In the coming months, the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) intends to address a ninth downtown traffic signal box via its Traffic Box Art program as part of the city's overall graffiti abatement program. In advance of that, a contract with the artist needs to be executed.

Discussion

In 2007, the OCA was part of a working committee meeting with the Police Department to address the problem of graffiti. With similar projects in other cities nationwide serving as examples, one traffic signal box in downtown Columbia was selected to be painted. At the time, it had been repeatedly vandalized with graffiti. That September, local artist David Spear painted the box, using materials recommended by the OCA for outdoor use. The box has not been vandalized since and the OCA has observed that the materials used stand up to outdoor elements.

Since then, OCA staff developed guidelines for additional boxes to be addressed by artists; the Commission on Cultural Affairs approved the guidelines in September 2008. In 2009, local artist Dennis Murphy was selected to paint a second box; a third was completed by local artist Kate Gray in July 2010; the fourth completed in the summer of 2011 by Stephanie Foley; the fifth completed in the summer of 2012 by Andrew Glenn; the sixth completed in September 2013 by Ben Chlapek; the seventh completed in October 2014 by Peggy Guest; and the eighth box was completed in July 2015 by Lisa Bartlett. They, too, have remained untouched by vandalism since completion.

In 2016, a ninth installment of the program is set to get underway. Mid-Missouri artist Madeleine LeMieux has been selected by the city's sub-committee of the Standing Committee of Public Art for her design concept. Ms. LeMieux is a prolific artist from Columbia who is a painter as well as Executive Director of Resident Arts in the North Village Arts District. She has exhibited her work in Columbia and New York City.

Ms. LeMieux's design has been approved by the same sub-committee of the Standing Committee on Public Art that selected her. Pending Council approval, Ms. LeMieux will execute a contract and will undertake the actual execution of the artwork proposed, likely starting in May, weather depending. Program guidelines stipulate the materials to be used. The sealant is an anti-graffiti product. The guidelines for the project also state that the final design may not contain representations of traffic lights, signs or signals; may not be used to promote a business, product or viewpoint; and should not mimic or take the style of graffiti.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$2,000 shared by OCA, the Columbia Police Department, the CVB, and the downtown CID.

Long-Term Impact: Minimal maintenance cost covered by the OCA.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Community Character, Secondary Impact: Arts and Culture, Tertiary Impact: Community Pride and Human Relations

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Economy, Tertiary Impact: Social Equity

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve this contract.