



Department Source: Cultural Affairs

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 3, 2021

Re: Traffic Box Art Program

Executive Summary

In the coming months, the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) intends to address another 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 deterred vandalism, 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. To date, 13 traffic signal boxes have been addressed downtown as part of this program.

In 2021, a 14th installment of the program is set to get underway at the corner of Fifth and Broadway Streets. Mid-Missouri artist Lisa Franko has been selected by the city's Standing Committee of Public Art for her design concept. Ms. Frank has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from University of Toledo, and a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from the University of Missouri. She has completed a number of artist-in-residence programs and served as an artist educator. Her work has been exhibited both locally and across the Midwest.

Lisa Franko's design has been approved by the Standing Committee on Public Art. The design was also recommended by the Commission on Cultural Affairs at its April 12, 2021 meeting. Pending Council approval, Lisa Franko 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 CVB, and the downtown CID. Funds already appropriated.

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



Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

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

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Economic Development, Secondary Impact: Livable and Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation

Legislative History

Date	Action
4/1/21	Standing Committee on Public Art recommended Lisa Franko's traffic box art design proposal.
4/12/21	Commission on Cultural Affairs recommended acceptance of Lisa Franko's traffic box art design proposal.

Suggested Council Action

Approve this legislation.