



Department Source: Cultural Affairs
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: May 20, 2019
Re: Traffic Box Art Program

Executive Summary

In the coming months, the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) intends to address an 12th 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. 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; the eighth box completed in July 2015 by Lisa Bartlett; the ninth box was completed in July 2016 by Madeleine LeMieux; the tenth box was completed by Brittany Williamson in 2017; the eleventh box was completed by Amanda Harms in 2018. They, too, have remained untouched by vandalism since completion.

In 2019, a 12th installment of the program is set to get underway at the corner of Sixth Street and Broadway. Mid-Missouri artist Christine Doerr has been selected by the city's sub-Committee of the Standing Committee of Public Art for her design concept. Ms. Doerr is a prolific artist from Columbia who is a painter, having completed a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and MFA from the University of Missouri. She has exhibited her work in Columbia, and across the state, as well as collaborated on various community-focused public art projects.

Ms. Doerr's design has been approved by the same sub-committee of the Standing Committee on Public Art that selected her. The design was also recommended by the Commission on Cultural Affairs at its April 8, 2019 meeting. Pending Council approval, Ms. Doerr will execute a contract and will undertake the actual execution of the artwork



City of Columbia

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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
3/26/19	Standing Committee on Public Art recommended Christine Doerr's traffic box art design proposal.
4/8/19	Commission on Cultural Affairs recommended acceptance of Christine Doerr's traffic box art design proposal.

Suggested Council Action

Approve this legislation.