



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Cultural Affairs

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 15, 2026

Re: Authorizing artist commission agreements with Glory Hartsfield, Matthew Moyer, and William Edgar associated with the North Village Park art benches project.

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

Executive Summary

The North Village Park intends to have multiple public art components that will be installed in different locations throughout the park. An art benches project is one of the components, and three Missouri artists have been selected to create designs. Commission agreements with the three artists require approval so the artists can begin work on the design proposals.

Discussion

The Parks and Recreation department is overseeing the North Village Park project, which will have multiple public art components. The former brownfield site is being revitalized as a public park focused on art and music. The park will be used as a primary location for residents and visitors to view a variety of outdoor public art displays that will be installed in multiple locations throughout the park.

The Office of Cultural Affairs has overseen the various public art project components in the North Village Park. One of the opportunities for permanent public art in the park is art benches. The sculptural benches will serve both functional and artistic purposes.

A request for qualifications was issued in January 2026, and Missouri artists submitted applications to be considered for the art benches project. The Standing Committee on Public Art selected three artists to move forward with commissions for this project at its April 8, 2026 meeting. The artists selected are Glory Hartsfield, Matthew Moyer and William Edgar. All three artists have experience creating outdoor sculptures with durable materials, working with budgets comparable to this project. Each artist will receive \$5,000 per bench, and the amount must include all artist fees, materials, fabrication, shipping and installation costs. City staff will designate the final installation locations within the park after completion of the park project.

The Commission on Cultural Affairs approved the Standing Committee on Public Art's recommendation of artists at its April 13, 2026 meeting.

To advance the project forward, Council approval is needed to authorize the City Manager to execute contracts with the three artists. Once the contracts are signed, the three artists will start work on design proposals for the benches. The designs will go through the same

approval process as the artists' selections have; from Standing Committee on Public Art to the Commission on Cultural Affairs to City Council. There will also be a public comment period on the designs ahead of those public meetings, which provides additional opportunities for public engagement.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$15,000 (\$5,000 per artist per bench) funded by Parks & Recreation as part of the North Village Park project.

Long-Term Impact: N/A

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
5/18/25	B132-26 : Amending the FY 2026 Annual Budget by appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,425,000.00 associated with development of the North Village Park located at 210 Orr Street.
3/18/24	B53-24 : Naming North Village Park; approving the North Village Park Master Plan; authorizing construction of improvements at North Village Park; calling for bids for a portion of the project through the Purchasing Division.

Suggested Council Action

Staff recommends that Council authorize execution of the artist agreements and authorize the appropriate City officials to sign all related documents.