



Department Source: Cultural Affairs

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 5, 2023

Re: Accepting Gift of Art sculpture from Children's Grove

## Executive Summary

The nonprofit organization Children's Grove has submitted an artwork proposal for a sculpture to go in Columbia's Stephens Lake Park. Per the Accepting Gifts of Works of Art ordinance, the proposal was presented to the Commission on Cultural Affairs who have recommended to City Council to accept the proposal. Should Council accept, an agreement to authorize the acceptance of the sculpture for display in the park needs approval.

## Discussion

Per the Accepting Gifts of Works of Art Ordinance, found in Chapter 2 of the City Code of Ordinances, section 2-237, persons who wish to donate works of art to the City submit proposals to the Office of Cultural Affairs. Proposals can include existing artwork or work yet to be completed. The Commission on Cultural Affairs reviews the proposal and makes a recommendation to the City Council on whether to accept the gift.

At its February 13, 2023 meeting, the Commission on Cultural Affairs reviewed the proposal from Children's Grove for accepting a donated sculpture for Stephens Lake Park, summarized below. The Commission voted to recommend acceptance of this gift of art by City Council. Should Council accept, an agreement to authorize the acceptance of the sculpture needs approval.

### Overview of Project and Design

Children's Grove, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is proposing a sculpture donation in Stephens Lake Park. The artwork would be located in the northeast section across the path from the area of the park that was dedicated as the Children's Grove in 2014. The gift to the City is a sculpture by artist Ben Pierce. The intent of the artwork installation is to further Children's Grove's mission to inspire a culture of kindness and to support the mental and emotional well-being of youth.

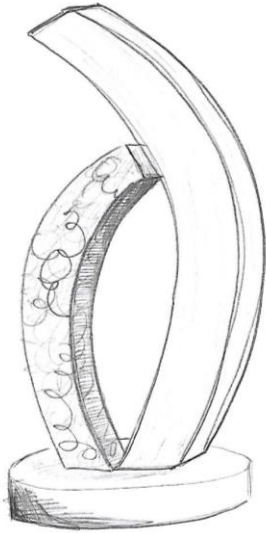
Children's Grove has commissioned artist Ben Pierce from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The artist has many years of experience designing and fabricating sculptures for outdoor settings. The unique design is meant to contribute to the beauty of the park as well as enhance the grove as a gathering place and an area of reflection and connection. About the design, artist Ben Pierce stated: "When I design and fabricate sculptures, I attempt to create from a place of childlike wonder. I want my work to be appropriate for all ages, but I especially hope to inspire children and young adults."



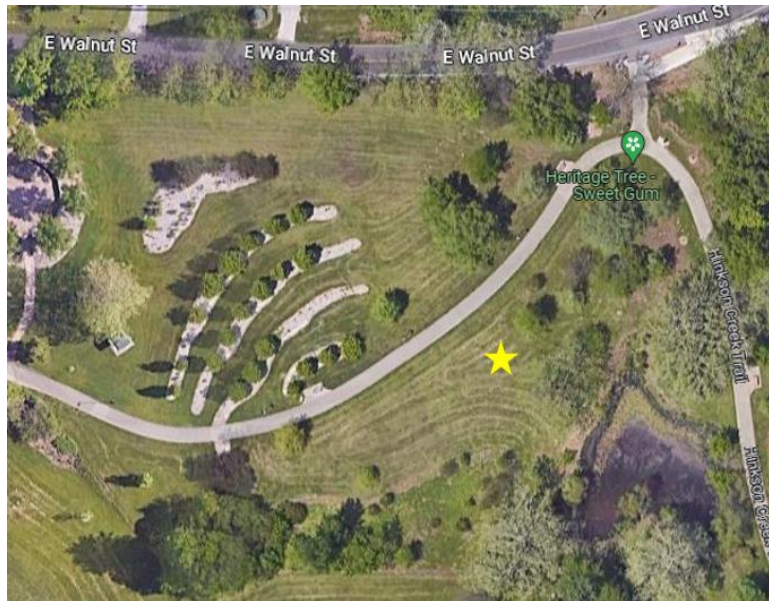
# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

The sculpture will measure 10 feet tall by 4-6 feet wide, made from "low-to-no" maintenance stainless steel, which will have different textures on the intersecting pieces. The approximate value of the sculpture, base, and installation is \$28,000.



*Artist rendering and selected finishing*



*Proposed location of sculpture in Stephens Lake Park*



### Installation & Maintenance

The City's Parks & Recreation department will handle preparation of the site as well as engineering for the sculpture base. The Children's Grove will pay for the costs of construction and installation of the base and installation of the sculpture at the site. The City will handle any surrounding landscaping around the sculpture as well as installation of a plaque for the artwork.

Maintenance is expected to be minimal. Generally, stainless steel only needs the occasional cleaning with a soft cloth and soap and water. A maintenance guide has been provided. If any future maintenance issues need to be addressed, the Office of Cultural Affairs has public art maintenance funding available.

### Agreement

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an agreement with Children's Grove for the project. The Office of Cultural Affairs, Parks & Recreation, and the Law Department have reviewed the terms of the agreement.

### Schedule of Project

If Council approves the project, the sculpture would planned to be installed sometime over the upcoming summer months.

### Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None.  
Long-Term Impact: None.

### Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

#### Strategic Plan Impacts:

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

#### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

### Legislative History

Date	Action
2/13/23	Commission on Cultural Affairs recommended acceptance of gift of art from Children's Grove.

### Suggested Council Action

If Council agrees, city staff recommends approval of the resolution as proposed.