



# Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 25-173

Meeting Date: 02/06/2025

**TITLE:** APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

**DEPARTMENT:** PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**PRESENTED BY:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Arts Commission approve the following 12 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).

#	Artwork By:	Box #	Location
1	Craig Barker	4	Victoria St. & Pomona Ave.
2	Harlow Brezeale	98	Fairview R. & Paularino Ave.
3	Karin Gallo	113	Harbor Blvd. & Date Place
4	Oshianna Garcia	109	Hotel Way and Bristol St.
5	Tori Haas	83	Sunflower Ave. & S. Plaza Dr.
6	Bud Herrera	11	E. 17 <sup>th</sup> St. & Westminster Ave.
7	Bob Hogue	16	W. 19 <sup>th</sup> St. & Anaheim Ave.
8	Lisa Korrine Kelsen	33	Baker St. & Fairview Rd.
9	Kate Snow	84	Sunflower Ave. & Park Center Dr.
10	JJ Swartz	123	Randolph Ave. & Baker St.
11	Alba Torres	40	Placentia Ave. & Fairview Park
12	Lorena Tuinenburg	89	Anton Blvd. & Park Center Dr.

All location assignments are tentative, pending Arts Commission review and approval.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Costa Mesa owns over 120 utility boxes at signalized intersections throughout the city and is dedicated to incorporating art into public spaces. A Utility Box Art Program was launched in early 2015 to spotlight a handful of utility boxes as beautiful art pieces. The city currently has over 60 utility art boxes that display artwork created by local artists; and 10 boxes designed by graphic designers from local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

For fiscal year 2024-25, a review panel was formed to review all designs and make selections to present to the Arts Commission. The review panel consisted of two (2) Arts Commissioners and one (1) local artist.

**ANALYSIS:**

The Arts Division receives an annual budget for the Arts & Culture Master Plan implementation, which includes the utility art box program. The 2024-2025 budget allows for the installation of 12 new box designs. Staff is presenting the following designs for approval this fiscal year. If an artist's design is not chosen during this cycle, they can re-apply in July of 2025 for the fiscal year 25-26. In addition, seven (7) older vinyl wraps will also be removed in an effort to maintain or replace boxes that are older than three (3) years and/or are damaged.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Arts Commission can choose to deny one or more of the recommended designs and select alternative designs.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is required for this item.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

No fiscal review is required for this item.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommend the Arts Commission approve twelve (12) designs by artists, for a total of 12 new designs to begin installation on utility boxes in late February of 2025.