



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 26-283

Meeting Date: 5/7/2026

TITLE: SIDEWALK POETRY PROJECT POEM REVIEW AT KETCHUM-LIBOLT PARK

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:

1. Review and approve new poems selected by an external review panel for the Sidewalk Poetry Project at Ketchum-Libolt Park (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The sidewalk poetry project brings poetry to parks by imprinting poems into concrete walkways, and addresses the following two (2) goals as outlined in the Arts and Culture Master Plan, Attachment 2:

Goal #2: Expand public art throughout the City

Goal #3: Professionalize and elevate the status of arts and culture in city government, Objective 3.1.4: to appoint an Artist Laureate (Poet Laureate)

The City's inaugural Poet Laureate, Danielle Hanson has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the literary arts in Costa Mesa. The sidewalk poetry project is part of these efforts.

The Parks and Community Services Department has two (2) ongoing park renovations occurring in 2026, as part of the CIP (Capital Improvement Project) list; Ketchum-Libolt Park and Shalimar Park.

The Ketchum-Libolt Park renovation is currently underway, with Shalimar Park to follow sometime in the fall of 2026. Both park projects, , will include the additional community inclusion component by administering a call for poems application for Costa Mesa constituents to participate in. Poems will be reviewed and selected from the pool of applicants by a review panel, and with final approval by the Arts Commission. Number of poems, placement and themes will vary by park.

ANALYSIS:

On April 29, 2026, a review panel comprised of Arts and Parks and Community Services commissioners, convened to select poems to be imprinted into newly cemented sidewalks for Ketchum-Libolt Park. A call for poems was administered from April 10 until April 27, 2026 to solicit poems from the community.

The park is currently undergoing renovations and will include four (4) new poems. An outside vendor will create heavy vinyl molds/imprints of the selected poems, to be pressed into the sidewalk as part of the renovation in the next couple of months.

FISCAL REVIEW

There are currently no costs associated with this process.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission:

1. Review and approve new poems selected by an external review panel for the Sidewalk Poetry Project at Ketchum-Libolt Park.