



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 25-213

Meeting Date: 3/6/2025

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 select one (1) art design (Attachment 1) to be placed for installation on box number (4) four.

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.

On February 6, 2025, the Arts Commission approved eleven of the twelve designs presented. The twelfth design selected, by artist Craig Barker, was tentatively approved pending a redesign to address concerns from the Arts Commission. Staff requested Mr. Barker, submit a redesign for the twelfth box, however, the artist declined and a re-submittal was not provided.

ANALYSIS:

Staff is requesting review and approve an additional design for the 12th and final box. The following are the alternates as approved by the review panel.

#	Artwork Options for Box #4 Victoria St. & Pomona Ave.
1	Evan Chaffee
2	Kimberly Duran
3	Kingsley Aarons

Location assignment is tentative, pending Arts Commission review and approval.

LEGAL REVIEW:

No legal review is required for this item.

FISCAL REVIEW:

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.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the Arts Commission select one (1) art design (Attachment 1) to be placed for installation on box number (4) four.