



Agenda Report

Arts Commission

Item #: 25-576

Meeting Date: 11/06/2025

TITLE: APPROVAL OF UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM DESIGNS
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 12 utility box art designs (Attachment 1).

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 70 utility art boxes that display artwork created by local artists; and 10 boxes designed by graphic designers from local businesses and nonprofit organizations. The Arts Division receives an annual budget for the Arts & Culture Master Plan implementation, which includes the utility art box program.

ANALYSIS:

For fiscal year 2025-26, 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. The 2025-2026 budget allows for the installation of 12 new box designs. Staff is presenting the following designs for approval this fiscal year.

#	Artwork By:	Box #	Location
1	Kingsley Aarons	62	Fairview Rd. & Newport Blvd.
2	Kimberly Duran	20	W. 19 th St. & Harbor Blvd.
3	Adam Ereth	120	W. 19 th St. & Wallace Ave.
4	Michelle Ford	38	W. 16 th St. & Placentia
5	Gabrielle Jimenez	104	Bristol St. & Santa Ana Ave.
6	Kathy Leland	78	Wimbledon Way & Sunflower Ave.
7	Emily Neely	91	Anton Blvd. & Sakioka Dr.
8	Nicole Pete	85	Sunflower Ave. & Avenue of the Arts

#	Artwork By:	Box #	Location
9	Jaz R.	21	Harbor Blvd. & Mesa Verde
10	Nancy Ross	15	Santa Ana Ave. & E. 17 th St.
11	Maria Shevchenko	42	Newport Blvd. & 22 nd St.
12	Kathie Warren	47	Harbor Blvd. & Merrimac Way

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

If an artist's design is not chosen during this cycle, they can re-apply in July of 2026 for the fiscal year 26-27. 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 recommends the Arts Commission approve 12 utility box art designs.