

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 23, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of artist John Fleming for the Public Safety Center Plaza Public Art Project in an amount not to exceed \$175,000. (Public Art Fund) [Ward 1]

From: Megan Berner, Arts and Culture Manager

Department: City Manager's Office – Arts and Culture

Summary:

This item is for approval to commission artist John Fleming for the Public Safety Center Plaza Public Art Project. On March 17, 2025 the Reno Arts and Culture Commission (RACC) approved the recommendation of artist John Fleming from the Public Art Committee. John Fleming was selected from three finalists for the commission based on his initial proposal and response to community input and stakeholder engagement. The artist will work with the community and stakeholders through engagement sessions and surveys to refine the design for the artwork. The project is included in the Public Art Fund budget and the artwork is scheduled to be installed in June of 2026. Staff recommends approving the recommendation of artist John Fleming in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		x
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		x
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	x	
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	0.0002%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

Per Reno Municipal Code Chapter 22, 2% of total eligible project costs for the Public Safety Center (PSC) capital improvement project was set aside for artwork. As required by code, 15% of the 2% funds was allocated for administrative purposes and 10% was allocated to maintenance. The rest of the funds were designated for five different art opportunities at the Public Safety Center.

In July 2024, a call for artists was opened for the PSC Plaza Public Art Project opportunity and closed on July 31, 2024. A total of 36 artists applied to the call for artists. 35 of those applicants met the requirements for eligibility. At their meeting on November 18, 2024, the Public Art Committee (PAC) reviewed 35 eligible applications and recommended 3 finalists to move forward to present an initial approach for the artwork. The PAC's recommendation was approved by the RACC at their meeting on November 18, 2024.

In July 2024, a survey went out to the community to gather initial input on what residents and stakeholders would like to see in artwork for the selected location. The community gave feedback on connections to the neighborhood where the new PSC is located, what is unique about the area, and what themes and characteristics they would like to see in the artwork. This information was passed on to the 3 finalist artists to incorporate into their initial proposal.

On February 10, 2025, the finalist artists presented their proposals to the PAC and the public during a hybrid meeting. After the presentations, the artists' proposals were shared online and with stakeholders to get feedback. The PAC met on March 10, 2025 to discuss the finalist proposals and recommend an artist for the PSC Plaza Public Art Project. After discussion, they unanimously voted to recommend artist John Fleming, in line with stakeholder input received. On March 17, 2025, the RACC approved the recommendation.

The attached proposal is an initial design idea that will be refined through community and stakeholder engagement.

Discussion:

The Public Safety Center Plaza Public Art Project call for artists followed the public art process approved and adopted by Council in 2009. The PAC and RACC, along with stakeholders, took the selection process seriously, selecting an artist with experience to successfully execute this project and respond to site-specificity and engage the community in the design process.

Financial Implications:

\$175,000 is allocated to this project in the Public Art Fund as part of Reno Municipal Code (RMC) Title 22 - 2% for Public Art.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve artist John Fleming for the Public Safety Center Plaza Public Art Project and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve artist John Fleming for the Public Safety Center Plaza Public Art Project.

Attachments:

Call for Artists Public Safety Center Plaza Public Art Project

PSC Plaza Project Proposal – John Fleming

Artist Agreement – John Fleming Public Safety Center Plaza Sculpture