

STAFF REPORT

Date: June 12, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of artist James Dinh for the North Valleys Sky Vista Roundabout Public Art Project in an amount not to exceed \$120,000. (Room Tax and Grant Funds)

From: Megan Berner, Arts and Culture Manager

Department: City Manager's Office – Arts and Culture

Summary:

On May 20, 2024, the Reno Arts and Culture Commission (RACC) approved the recommendation from the Public Art Committee (PAC) to commission artist James Dinh for the North Valleys Sky Vista Roundabout Public Art Project. The artist was rated the highest out of the three finalists in the community survey and by the PAC.

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:

On April 26, 2023, Council accepted a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a Grants for Art Projects grant for public outreach, a call for artists, community engagement, design, and fabrication and installation of a public artwork in the roundabout at Sky Vista

Boulevard and Silver Lake Road at the entrance to North Valleys Regional Park in the amount of \$35,000. On August 9, 2023, Council accepted a grant from Washoe County in the amount of \$15,000.

Background:

The RACC allocated an additional \$70,000 in funding from the Room Tax allocation for Public Art for this project.

City staff worked with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Washoe County to include a pad and footing for the public artwork in the center of the newly constructed roundabout at Sky Vista Boulevard and Silver Lake Road as part of their street widening and improvement project.

In August 2023 a survey went out to the community to gather initial input on what residents would like to see for artwork in the selected location. The community gave feedback on what they love about their neighborhood, why it is unique, and what themes and characteristics they might like to see in the artwork. This input was put into a call for artists that went out on December 4, 2023, and closed on February 11, 2024. A total of 50 eligible applications were received in response to the request for qualifications (RFQ) for the North Valleys Sky Vista Roundabout Public Art Project.

At their meeting on March 11, 2024, the PAC reviewed and discussed the 50 applications and recommended 3 finalists to move forward to be interviewed and collect community input prior to selecting an artist for the commission. The RACC approved the PAC's recommendation at their meeting on March 18, 2024.

On April 22, 2024, the community was invited to a public meeting to join in presentations from the finalist artists on their past work and process. The community was allowed to ask questions of each finalist. Following the three artists' presentations, a second community input survey was opened online. The community was asked to rank the artists and give any feedback on which artist they would like to see commissioned based on their ability to work with the community and the appropriateness of their past work. The community ranked James Dinh higher than the other two artists by a slight margin. The comments received also favored Dinh's past work and approach and were reflected in the thematic preference for artwork in that space.

At their meeting on May 13, 2024, the PAC reviewed the community input survey and the artists' presentation and made a recommendation to the RACC to select artist James Dinh for the commission.

Instead of asking for a proposal upfront from the artist, once approved, they will work with City

staff to conduct community engagement sessions in the neighborhood where the artwork will be installed. Staff will collaborate with Washoe County on engagement sessions at the North Valleys Regional Park. Community engagement sessions will take place in July and August and will inform the design of the artwork. The artwork is expected to be installed in the spring of 2025.

Discussion:

The North Valleys Sky Vista Roundabout Public Art Project followed the required public art process approved and adopted by Council in 2009. The PAC and RACC took the selection process seriously, selecting an artist with experience to successfully execute this project and with experience working with the community to bring artwork that is responsive to and reflective of the community to this space. Selecting the artist before creating the design will allow for more in-depth and meaningful community engagement to happen in the creation of this new artwork.

Financial Implications:

\$35,000 was awarded by the NEA and \$15,000 was awarded by Washoe County to fund this project. The remaining \$70,000 will come from the Room Tax fund allocated to Public Art.

Legal Implications:

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

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve artist James Dinh for the North Valleys Sky Vista Roundabout Public Art Project.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Call for Artists – Sky Vista Roundabout

James Dinh Call for Artists RFQ Submission

James Dinh Finalist Presentation

James Dinh North Valleys Sky Vista Roundabout Public Art Agreement