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# MEMO

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Brian Phillips, Assistant City Manager  
**Date:** February 12, 2021  
**Subject:** Transformer Paint/Wrap Project

In response to City Council's direction, the Public Art Commission (PAC) has investigated options for painting or wrapping electrical transformers in the Downtown area.

## **Paint vs. Wrap**

PAC explored the possibility of hiring artists to paint directly on the transformers. The transformer enclosures are powder coated. Electric Services staff expressed concern about certain colors of paint; large areas painted dark colors could increase the temperature inside the enclosure during warmer months and cause the equipment to overheat. Additionally, paint may be susceptible to fading on the transformer cabinets.

PAC inquired with a vinyl wrap installer about the prospects to wrap the transformer cabinets rather than paint them. The installer indicated that wraps can be expected to have a 7-10 year life expectancy. The installed cost ranges from approximately \$400-\$850 per transformer, excluding any artist fees/honoraria to be provided.

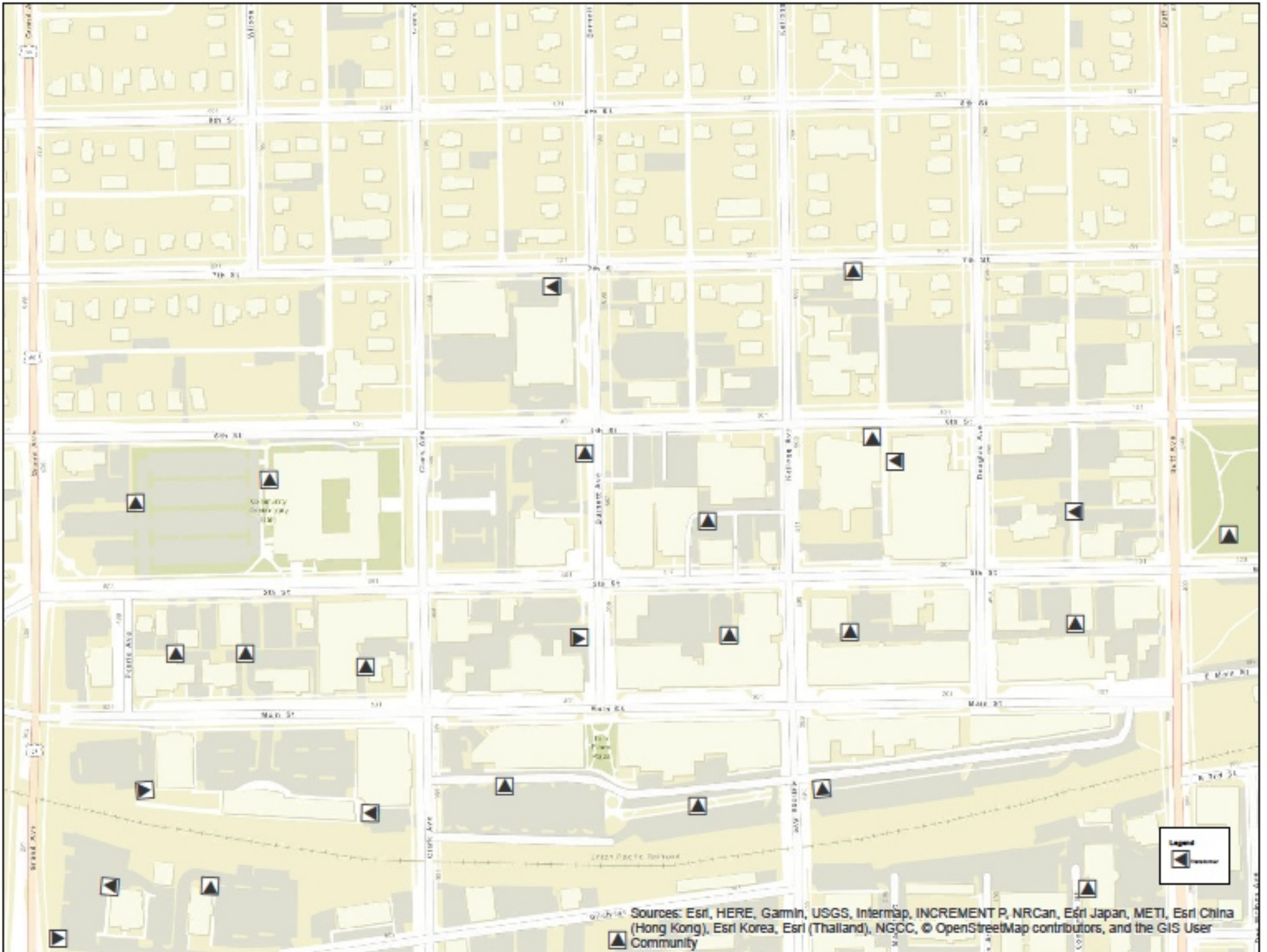
Wraps would be created using works submitted by artists, which are then scanned and enlarged. The wraps can be created so they show a unique image on each face or can be copied to create a repeating pattern on each face of the transformer. The installers would trim the wrap away from components of that transformers that cannot be covered, such as serial number, warning labels, latches, hinges, cooling fins, and lifting lugs. **Based on the options available, PAC recommends the use of vinyl wraps rather than paint for the transformer enclosures.**

## **Locations**

Electric Services has provided a map of downtown transformers (attached) that may be utilized for the project, although not all of these are highly visible. These enclosures vary in size.

**Next Steps**

Unless the Council wishes to provide alternative direction, PAC will proceed with preparing a call for artists to submit proposals for the identified transformers. The \$10,000 budgeted for this project will be used to finance the installation of the wraps and artist honoraria.



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community