

ITEM #: 17
DATE: 12-19-23
DEPT: ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: CONTRACT FOR ART IN THE PARKS PROGRAM SCULPTURE FOR
TAHIRA AND LABH HIRA PARK**

BACKGROUND:

The Public Art Commission (PAC) allocates a portion of its funding each year to an Art in the Parks program. The funding is carried over until a sufficient balance has been accumulated to accomplish a larger art project.

In 2022, the City officially opened Tahira and Labh Hira Park. The park, located at 3622 Woodland Street, is on the grounds of a former elementary school property. PAC expressed a desire to place a sculpture at this park, and issued a call for artists to either place an existing work or fabricate a new work for the park.

The goals of the project, as stated in the call for artists, were: 1) provide a unique artistic work that celebrates and resonates with children of diverse backgrounds; 2) offer opportunities for interaction with children and/or provide informative elements that children may learn from; 3) enhance the experience of park users and residents of the surrounding neighborhood; 4) increase public awareness and appreciation for art; 5) obtain a safe, enduring art installation that requires minimal maintenance.

Thirty proposals were received. A team consisting of PAC commissioners and City staff evaluated the responses. **The team recommended a proposal by Kelly Tompkins of Enid, OK. At its meeting on December 5, 2023, the Public Art Commission recommended that the City Council approve a contract with that artist.**

The proposed work is entitled "Hearts of the Community." It is designed in the form of a paper chain of children and teachers made of brightly-colored powder coated sheet metal (see attached rendering). The sculpture would be approximately 11'6" across and 7'4" in height. The artist would warranty the work for a period of five years from the time of acceptance, which is standard for the City's sculpture acquisition contracts.

The fee to deliver a completed sculpture is \$24,000. Staff estimates the cost for the preparation of the concrete pad to be approximately \$1,000. The PAC Art in the Parks account has a current balance of \$30,844, which is sufficient to cover the expenses related to this contract.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a contract with Kelly Tompkins in the amount of \$24,000 for the fabrication, delivery, and purchase of "Hearts of the Community" for Tahira and Labh Hira Park.
2. Refer this item back to staff or the Public Art Commission for further information.
3. Do not approve the contract.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed sculpture meets the desires of the Public Art Commission to provide a unique, interactive, child-focused artwork for placement in Tahira and Labh Hira Park. Staff has prepared a contract outlining the terms for the delivery of the completed work. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Contract for Art in the Parks Program - Hearts of the Community.pdf](#)
[Hearts of the Community Rendering](#)