

ITEM #: 13
DATE: 10-22-24
DEPT: ADMIN

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **CAMPUSTOWN BRICK PIER ART**

BACKGROUND:

In June 2024, FUEL, the young professionals organization affiliated with the Ames Regional Economic Alliance, approached the Public Art Commission (PAC) with a project to paint four surfaces on the brick and concrete pier located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Welch Avenue and Chamberlain Street in Campustown. The pier is approximately eight feet tall and contains 24"x40" flat concrete surfaces on each face, which have historically been used by the public to post flyers.

Following a discussion with PAC, FUEL sent correspondence to the City Council on August 6. The City Council referred the correspondence to staff and requested a more thorough proposal, which is now presented to the City Council for consideration. FUEL has arranged for an artist, Jordan Brooks, to paint the four flat surfaces of the pier with four distinct images (see attached Artist Proposal). FUEL will cover the artist's fees.

An agreement granting permission by the City for the artist to install the painting is necessary to proceed. Staff has prepared an agreement using prior mural installation agreements as a model. The agreement grants a license to the artist to install the mural. The City retains the right to revoke the license and remove the paint immediately for breach of the contract, or with 10 days' notice for any reason (for example, if the City wishes to remove the work due to deterioration in the future).

During the staff evaluation of the site prior to preparing the agreement, staff noted that the pillar was in need of cleaning and minor repairs. Staff has arranged for a contractor to complete the repairs and clean the surfaces of the pillar for painting prior to the project commencing.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the attached agreement with Jordan Brooks for the installation of four painted murals on the surface of the Campustown brick pier.
2. Do not approve the agreement.
3. Refer this item to staff for further information.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This project presents the opportunity to revitalize an underutilized noticeboard in the Campustown area with a fresh, vibrant look. The professionals from FUEL have undertaken the work to raise funds and select the artist. This project aligns with the City Council's adopted value of a fun, vibrant, and healthy community that attracts and retains people. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Artist Proposal.pdf](#)

[Campustown Pillar Artist Agreement.docx](#)