



AGENDA REPORT

ART & CULTURE MEETING
Meeting Date: May 20, 2024

Department: Beaches, Parks and Recreation
Prepared By: Samantha Wylie, Beaches, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: *CONSIDERATION OF LIFEGUARD SCULPTURE INSTALLATION AT PARQUE DEL MAR
PROPOSED BY THE SAN CLEMENTE LIFEGUARD AND JUNIOR LIFEGUARD STATUE*

Fiscal Impact: None.

Summary: Staff recommends that the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the installation of a lifeguard sculpture at Parque Del Mar donated by the San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Lifeguard Foundation.

Background: In 2017, the City Council approved the Artwork on Public Property procedure. This policy allows for individuals or organizations to apply to create and establish artwork on public property by going through a formal review process, ending with City Council approval and acceptance.

The Beaches, Parks, and Recreation Department received an application for public art from the San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Lifeguard Foundation (Attachment 1) with a request to install a sculpture within the Parque Del Mar vicinity (north side).

This art request consists of one 8' sculpture depicting two lifeguards, one male and one female, guarding the waters and beginning a rescue into the waters off the pier. The location is proposed within the north Parque Del Mar grass. The applicant has provided three location options for consideration and is further seeking feedback from the Committee on the ideal location



Per the Art on Public Property process, a 30-day public notice has been posted at the proposed sculpture site and will remain posted until Monday, April 6, 2024. No comments or feedback were received from the public regarding the posting or proposal.

On April 9, 2024, the Beaches, Parks & Recreation Commission reviewed this application and voted (4-3) to recommend approval of the art installation to the City Council, in support of the location marked in yellow on the Location Map identified in Attachment 1.

On April 24, 2024, the Design Review Subcommittee reviewed the applications and unanimously supported the project and provided support to the location marked in red on the Location Map.

Discussion: The sculpture is designed by Bill Limebrook a local artist who designed the Marine Monument at Park Semper Fi, as well as the sculptures located in the City of Dana Point along Pacific Coast Highway.

The stated goal and significance of the artwork is to honor the San Clemente Lifeguards' heritage and history within the city, serving the community for over 90 years and ensuring that visitors and residents enjoy a safe day at the beach, year-round. The statue is intended to honor the invaluable contributions of lifeguards to our community and serve as a symbol of safety and vigilance for beachgoers. The applicant has provided detailed plans outlining the design, dimensions, and materials of the statue, as well as its proposed location, in Attachment 1.

Although the City does not have adopted design guidelines when it comes to public art, City art projects typically reflect the character of San Clemente, enhance the Spanish Village by the Sea character, and are consistent with the design of the surrounding community. This design is consistent with these measures.

A primary component of the Committee's review and recommendation should be the proposed location of the sculpture. The Foundation has proposed three locations at Parque Del Mar, noted in Attachment 2, with a red, yellow, and white flag. Staff has provided an alternate location near the pay station, noted with a checkered flag, that may require the relocation of an existing tree. The Foundation would prefer a location that is adjacent to the bluff. As with all public projects, the impact on public right of way and access is taken into strong consideration.

The placement of the lifeguard statue at Parque Del Mar may have implications for public ocean views. Given the pier's significance as a scenic overlook and gathering spot for residents and visitors alike, it is essential to evaluate how the installation could affect sightlines and visual aesthetics. Consideration should be given to potential obstructions or alterations to the existing landscape and whether mitigation measures can be implemented to minimize adverse impacts on ocean views.

Recommended

Action: STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Arts and Culture Committee provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the installation of a lifeguard sculpture at Parque Del Mar donated by the San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Lifeguard Foundation.

Attachments:

- 1) Art on Public Property Application – San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Lifeguard Foundation
- 2) Location Map

Notification: None



**SAN CLEMENTE LIFEGUARD & JUNIOR GUARD FOUNDATION
ART ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY APPLICATION
MARCH, 2024**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Donor/Organization Name:	The San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Guard Foundation
Primary Contact	Greg Hulsizer, President
Primary Contact Phone:	[REDACTED]
E-mail Address	[REDACTED]
Mailing Address	[REDACTED]
Non-Profit ID#	EIN 84-4716433
SC Business License	N/A
Website	www.scljgfoundation.com

ARTWORK INFORMATION

Title of Artwork:	"The Rescue"
Artist Name/Company:	Limebrook Studios - Bill Limebrook, sculptor
E-Mail Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]
Proposed Location:	Parque Del Mar (see attached photo of potential locations)
Description of Work:	The San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Guard Foundation, a San Clemente based 501c3 non-profit organization, would like to work with the City to donate a sculpture or "cultural touchstone" representing the City's 90-plus year commitment to the safety of our beach and beachgoers. We are referring to the sculpture as a cultural touchstone, as we expect that this will be a place of great cultural and community significance for residents and visitors. Approximately 8 feet in height (including the

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base) and set on an approximately 6–8-foot square (or rectangular) base, the proposed sculpture will be a slightly larger than life-size depiction of a male and female lifeguard observing and responding to rescue a swimmer in need of assistance. Pavers (like existing), concrete, decomposed granite (DG) or drought-tolerant landscaping will be placed around the base. We propose that the installation would include appropriate low-voltage lighting.

We propose to locate the sculpture in Parque Del Mar, near the Avenida Del Mar sidewalk, in a location that can be viewed as pedestrians are walking toward the pier. The sculpture will be placed so that the depicted lifeguards are looking toward the ocean. We will work with the City on the precise location and placement.

We anticipate having a commemorative plaque as part of the installation. We anticipate that the plaque will be approximately 20 inches by 20 inches, placed on a low-profile pedestal in front of the sculpture.

The proposed inscription on the plaque would read:

“The Rescue”
Celebrating the City of San Clemente’s commitment to the safety of all who visit our beaches. Dedicated to all San Clemente lifeguards, past, present, and future.
This __ day of __, 2025
Donated by the San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Guard Foundation and [name of funding sponsor(s)].

If there is enough room on the plaque, additional information could be added, such a reference to the July 1931 date that the City Council approved the formation of the Lifeguard Department.

The sculpture will be commissioned to be sculpted, cast, and finished by renowned local sculptor, Bill Limebrook. Mr. Limebrook designed and produced the Marine sculpture that stands in Park Semper Fi and the 50th anniversary Triton monument at San Clemente High School. Mr. Limebrook has also recently completed six sculptures representing historical surfing leaders for the City of Dana Point and has been contracted for several more for the City’s Waterman’s Plaza. We envision that the sculpture base and surrounding area will be completed by a separate contractor and will be coordinated with the sculpture design and installation process.

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	<p>A depiction of what the sculpture and plaque will look like and an overview photo showing options for the sculpture location are attached to this application. The sculpture depiction in the photos is based on a model or clay “maquette.” The final sculpture will reflect more refined features, added during the sculpting process. Examples of the sculptor’s similar works are attached to this application.</p> <p>The cost to design, complete and install the sculpture is expected to be \$250,000 to \$300,000. Our foundation intends to raise the funding from private donations or private or public grants. We envision that once the sculpture is installed, it will be given to the City, who will provide for maintenance and upkeep.</p>
<p>Goal of the Artwork/Significance to the Community:</p>	<p>In July 1931, at the request of the Santa Fe Railroad, the City Council formally established the City of San Clemente lifeguard service. In the 90-plus years since that time, the City has continued its unwavering commitment to the safety of San Clemente residents and visitors to our beach, by funding and supporting what is today one of the most professional ocean lifeguard services in the country.</p> <p>Each year, more than 2.5 million people visit our beach. Our lifeguards perform more than 2,000 rescues and administer first aid and provide other assistance to more than 100,000 beachgoers each year. Since the founding of the lifeguard service in 1931, our City lifeguards have rescued well over 100,000 swimmers from treacherous rip currents and other ocean hazards. Our Lifeguard Department has an enviable record of more than 45 years without a drowning on a guarded beach.</p> <p>The San Clemente Lifeguard and Junior Guard Foundation’s mission statement reads:</p> <p><i>The San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Guard Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the safety and well-being of visitors to the beach through education, developing and building community partnerships, and obtaining resources to directly support the San Clemente Marine Safety Division’s Lifeguard and Junior Lifeguard programs. The Foundation also supports the celebration and preservation of the history and memorabilia of San Clemente Lifeguarding.</i></p> <p>Just as the Park Semper Fi Marine monument celebrates the City’s relationship with Camp Pendleton and the Marine Corps, this unique work of art will be a place for residents and visitors alike to celebrate the City’s commitment to beach and ocean safety and the professionalism and commitment of all San Clemente lifeguards, past, present, and future.</p>

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	<p>We expect that locals and visitors will want to have their pictures taken with the lifeguard figures. The sculpture will also be captured in photos and paintings by local artists, postcards, social media posts, and other media, bringing recognition to our City. Distinctively, this public art installation will be the first of its kind in the nation to recognize the significant contributions of female lifeguards.</p> <p>During the past year, we have met with City representatives and adjacent property representatives, including Casa Romantica and San Clemente Cove timeshare property. We have also met with pier bowl stakeholders such as Pier Pride and Mr. Wayne Eggleston, and with various service organizations. All have reacted favorably to the proposed sculpture.</p>
Materials/Medium:	Bronze sculpture. Concrete base. Pavers (similar to existing), concrete, decomposed granite (DG) or drought-tolerant landscaping around the base. Low-voltage lighting.
Dimensions:	Approximately 8 feet tall (including base). Approximately 6–8-foot square (or rectangular) base, with an approximately 20”x 20” pedestal/plaque in front of the sculpture. The area around the base will be sized appropriately.
Appraised Value:	\$250,000 - \$300,000.
Is the Artwork Commissioned?	Yes. To be commissioned by the San Clemente Lifeguard & Junior Guard Foundation.
Is the Artwork Donated?	Yes. The artwork will be donated to the City.
If Commissioned, Please Provide the Artists SC Business License #	If required, the artist will acquire and provide this once the foundation’s application is approved, prior to commencement of work.

Proposed Sculpture

- Title “The Rescue”
- Celebrates San Clemente’s 90-plus year commitment to safe beaches
- Bronze sculpture with concrete base
- Features will be refined during the sculpting process
- Sculptor – Bill Limebrook
- Target unveiling date – late 2025/early 2026
- Projected cost \$250-\$300K
- Looking for 1-2 donors
- Donors will be recognized on plaque



Perspectives



Proposed Plaque Inscription

“The Rescue”

*Celebrating the City of San Clemente’s
commitment to the safety of all who
visit our beaches. Dedicated to all San
Clemente lifeguards, past, present,
and future.*

This ___ day of ____, 2025

*Donated by the San Clemente
Lifeguard & Junior Guard Foundation
and [name of funding sponsor(s)].*



Proposed Location

- Located in Parque Del Mar
- Highly trafficked area approaching the municipal pier
- Sculpture will be facing the ocean
- Three potential location options shown in picture



Examples of Sculptor's Work



