



AGENDA REPORT

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: July 22, 2024

Subject: *RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM*

Fiscal Impact: The establishment of the utility box art program will require an artist stipend or material/supply reimbursement for each box. It is recommended that a stipend be considered not to exceed \$1,000. Additionally, ongoing maintenance costs for the complete Utility Box Art Program (16 boxes) are estimated at \$3,500 annually. There is no funding identified within the adopted FY 2024-25/26 Annual Budget. Staff recommends that the City/Committee seek external funding sources to support this program re-establishment.

Summary: Staff recommends the Committee discuss the Utility Box Art Program provide feedback to the organization of the program; establish a subcommittee to finalize the details of the program and further seek out funding partners. This project was added and approved on the Arts and Culture Committee 2024 Work Plan.

Background: In 2011, the City initiated a pilot program to artistically enhance five traffic control boxes. Staff collaborated with the San Clemente Art Association ("SCAA") and renamed the program *Street Art*. The painted boxes depicted elements of San Clemente's culture, history, and character.

After the pilot program, it was determined that it was worthy to continue the program based on the widespread positive feedback received from the community.

In 2012, the City Council approved five additional boxes to be painted designated as "Street Art Phase 2", followed by "Phase 3" in 2013 with six additional boxes.

The previous Phases of the *Street Art* program appropriated funds for supplies, marketing, and an honorarium of \$500 per artist. In totality, the *Street Art* program has cost roughly \$16,450.

In late 2019, the Council approved a fourth phase of five final boxes, however, the phase was never brought to fruition due to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. If this phase would have been completed, a total of 16 boxes would have been painted.

Discussion: Staff is requesting the Committee consider re-establishing this valuable program by forming a subcommittee to finalize the details of the program, including the artist stipend, locations, themes, and funding sources.

Recommended

Action: STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the Arts and Culture Committee discuss and provide feedback on the Utility Box Art Program; and establish a Utility Box Art Program subcommittee to finalize the details and further seek funding partners.

Attachments: None.

Notification: None.