



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Public Arts Commission

FROM: Lisa Hatchadoorian, Public Art Coordinator

DATE: October 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Boneyard Park Mural

Introduction and Background

Property owner Mike Hosier has approached the City of Urbana with a proposal for an artistic, painted mural on the side of his building at 208 W Griggs St which would face the newly developed Boneyard Creek. The mural would be on a 90 foot wide 16 foot tall wall that currently overlooks the western end of the Boneyard. This wall already represents a major visual element of the Boneyard, however in its present blank state, it is a visual detraction from the impact of the Boneyard beautification efforts it borders.

Mr. Hosier is recommending a mural design by local artist Langston Allston at a total cost of \$3,500. He has also requested that the City of Urbana provide a match his 50% funding commitment of \$1,750 to achieve the overall cost of the mural and realize the artistic enhancement of this prominent feature adjacent to the City's redevelopment and beautification of the Boneyard Creek.

Discussion

The wall at 208 W Griggs is presently a long, blank feature that visually punctuates the west end of the Boneyard redevelopment project (See Attachment A). While the City of Urbana does not often consider funding proposals that are outside of the budget, this particular project is a special case that will have a high level of visibility to the public users of the Boneyard. The City has made a large investment in the planning and constructing the Boneyard improvements. A tasteful mural at this location would enhance and tie together the overall impact of the Boneyard redevelopment and rehabilitation.

This mural project also presents the City with an opportunity to contribute toward the addition of a local artist's work to the Boneyard project. The Boneyard has featured the public art and landscape design artists from across the country in cities such as Seattle and Denver. The scale and visibility of the entire project would enhance any artist associated with it, especially one that makes their home and studio within

Champaign-Urbana. In terms of partnerships, this would be an excellent partnership for the City of Urbana to embark on as it relates to the Boneyard redevelopment, patronage of a local artist and the cultivation of public art in and around Urbana from private citizens that ultimately benefit the entire populace.

It should also be noted that Mike Hosier, owner of 208 W. Griggs and other businesses around town, is a strong supporter of the arts in Champaign-Urbana as well as the Boneyard Development. Mr. Hosier sponsored a piece of public art through the 2014 PAL (Public Art League) call and specifically requested that this sculpture be placed in the Boneyard as another visual point of play and aesthetic joy for the public experiencing the new and revitalized Boneyard Creek. Mr. Hosier also has prospective plans to bring in a restaurant, wine bar and/or retail store to 208 W. Griggs. The business entrance would overlook the Boneyard and contribute to a steady flow of people in and around the Boneyard.

The mural that Mr. Hosier is proposing to the City of Urbana is by local artist Langston Allston (See Attachment B). Mr. Allston recently completed murals behind Cafeteria & Company. The murals can be seen from the alley adjacent to the Courier Café on Race Street. For this project, Mr. Allston found inspiration in Japanese prints of crashing ocean waves (Attachment C). Mr. Allston reports that the mural can be completed within the next 6-8 weeks. The total budget for this project is \$3,500, with \$1,750 as the proposed amount from the City of Urbana.

Fiscal Impact

Total Mural Budget (Langston Allston)	\$3,500
City Contribution	\$1,750
Possible Funding Allocation budget)	\$1,750 (unspent Public Art TIF funds FY 13-14)

Funding for this project would come out of unexpended Public Art TIF funds from the FY 13-14 public art budget and not from the allocated budget for FY 14-15.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Public Arts Commission review the information above and be prepared to recommend whether to proceed forward with the mural project at 208 W Griggs Street adjacent to the Boneyard Creek.

Prepared by:



Lisa Hatchdoorian
Public Arts Coordinator

Attachment A.: Present Site at 208 W. Griggs

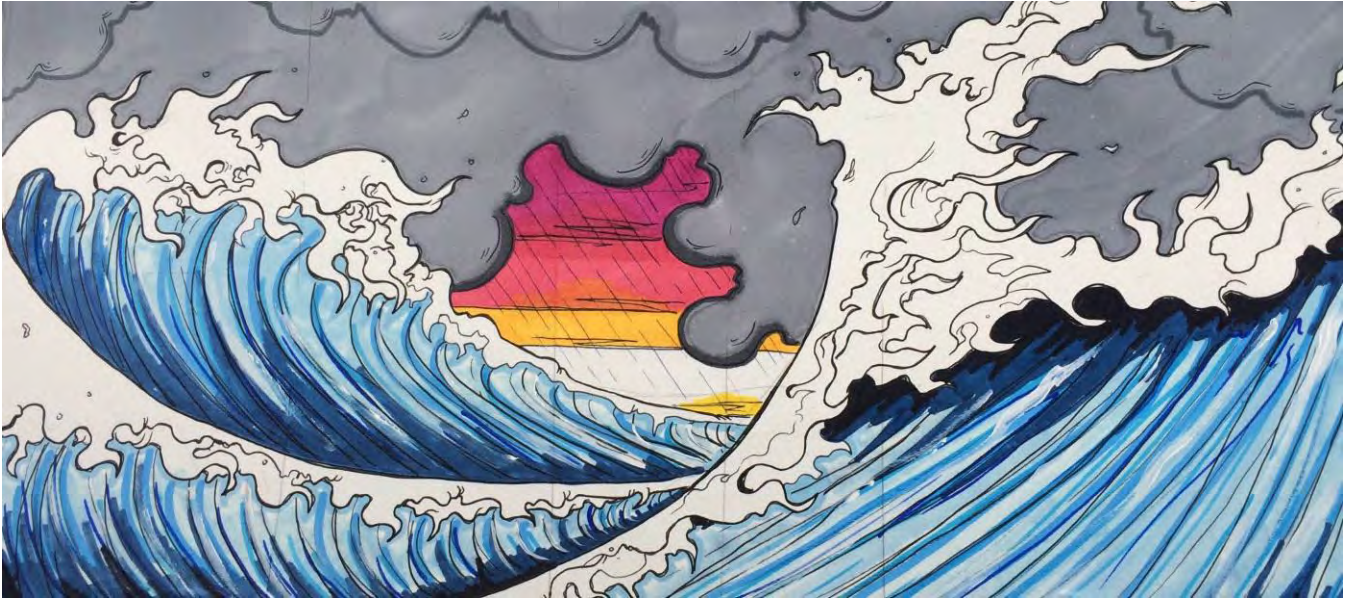
Attachment B.: Proposed mural design from Langston Allston

Attachment C.: Reference material from Langston Allston for his mural design

Attachment A.



Attachment B.



Attachment C.

