



Cathedral City

Staff Report

Public Arts Commission

Item No. 4

Meeting Date: December 13, 2021

Sponsors:

Title: Ofelia Bringas Memorial Bridge: Taking Definitive Steps Forward

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Public Arts Commission (PAC) discuss and provide a Council recommendation on the project themes, art mediums, artist engagement, timeline, and budget parameters.

BACKGROUND:

The Cathedral Canyon bridge project (Project) will replace the current Cathedral Canyon low-water crossing over the Whitewater River. Fourteen years in the planning and processing stage, the Project is under construction and expected to be completed in May 2022.

In 2019, the City Council voted to name the Cathedral Canyon bridge after former Cathedral City resident Ms. Ofelia Bringas in honor of the decades Ms. Bringas spent caring and mentoring hundreds of Valley youth.

There are twenty (20) pilasters located on the street-level portion of the bridge facing the roadway. These pilasters have been designed to provide a picture-frame style inset for the placement of public art. The inside dimensions of the inset are 3'6" wide by 3'8" tall. Engineer drawings are attached to this staff report.

Two (2) of the twenty pilasters will house a bronze plaque detailing the life and contributions of Ofelia Bringas. These plaques will be located near the center of the bridge on opposite sides of the bridge. Two (2) additional pilasters will house a portrait of Ms. Bringas.

DISCUSSION:

With construction anticipated to be completed in May 2022, the PAC is working with a tight timeline. Staff recommends the PAC discuss and decide on the following tonight:

1) Is the Commission interested in a cohesive installation or a patch work of art;

- 2) Should a common medium to be used across all works;
- 3) Is there a maximum number of artists to be engaged in the (i) idea generation for the various columns and (ii) creation of the actual works to be installed on the pilasters;.
- 4) What guiding themes should be required in the call to artists;
- 5) What are the timelines for: (i) Call for submissions, (ii) Selection of top candidates, (iii) Art creation, and (iv) Art installation;
- 6) How much is PAC willing to offer per pilaster; and
- 7) How much is PAC willing to spend on the overall installation?

With 18 pilasters and 16,620 vehicles traversing the bridge daily, the Bringas Bridge will become one of the City's most prominent art installations. Vice Chair Scott will lead the discussion concerning the need to think of this project not as 18 individual works but rather as one cohesive installation with 18 components. An element of cohesion may include consistent mediums across all 18 components. If some works are painted, some works are digitally printed, some works are in tile, and some works are mosaics, then the overall installation may appear haphazard.

An additional element of cohesion may include the total number of artists commissioned. Invariably, as the number of artists increases the cohesion of styles between the various columns will decline.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This project will be paid for through the Art in Public Places fund. For further information, please see the Art in Public Funds December 2021 fund balance report included in this evening's agenda package.

ATTACHMENTS:

Pilaster Engineering Detail_jac_approved
20200722 Council Agenda Item Elevation View
20200722 Council Agenda Item End barrier elevation
20200722 Council Agenda Item Farm Scene
20200722 Council Agenda Item Pilaster Elevation
20200722 Council Agenda Item Street Scene
20200722 Council Agenda Item colors