



Public Art Final Approval

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Cocklebur Reimagined

Public Art Process – Background & Purpose

- Public Art Master Plan approved in 2013.
 - Guide to selecting the most appropriate public art that reflects the community's values and culture.
 - Identifies action items and funding mechanisms to implement and sustain the Public Art Program.
- Public Art Funding Program established by Ordinance 2037 in January 2015.
 - 1% of construction costs of all CIP projects over \$50,000 go towards public art. 10% of those costs go towards maintenance.



Public Art Selection Process

Cultural Council

Step 1: Identify a site,
budget & theme and
forms Art Selection
Committee

Art Selection Committee

Step 2: Develop a
background
understanding, and
create selection criteria

Art Selection Committee

Step 3:
Issue a Call to Artists

Art Selection Committee

Step 4: Review
Application Materials

Art Selection Committee

Step 5: Select 3-5 semi-
finalists to interview

Art Selection Committee

Step 6: Select finalist(s) &
provide recommendation
to Cultural Council

Cultural Council

Step 7: Votes to provide
recommendation to City
Council

City Council

Step 8:
City Council votes on
project approval



Cocklebur Project Overview

- Previous Cocklebur statue was stolen from the site (after multiple prior attempts) in 2023
- Cultural Council voted unanimously on May 21, 2024 to do a public art call for a replacement piece of art that honors Cocklebur, but differs in format from the original statue design.
- Replacement art installation would be placed in the same location at the northeast corner of Pioneer Park, across the street from Conter Estates.



Cocklebur History

- Cocklebur was the horse of Catherine Conter, who was reprimanded by the city for keeping the horse on her property in the 1970s. The horse became a symbol of defiance and was eventually welcomed back to the farm property. Cocklebur and Catherine were intertwined and spent more than 18 years together. No one is still living from the Conter family line, but Commerce City still honors the family's history and their long-lasting impact on the area.
- Additional historical information can be found through the Commerce City Cultural and Historical Society at cchistoric.com.



Cocklebur Art Selection Process

- Cultural Council established Art Selection Committee
 - Comprised of five residents, local artists, and Cultural Council representatives
- Art Selection Committee met January, February, April, and May
 - Set artist selection criteria
 - Reviewed and juried applications, selected three semifinalists to interview
 - Selected final proposal and artist (based in Lakewood)
- Cultural Council reviewed and unanimously approved recommendations on May 20.
- Artist has been in contact with Public Works to ensure success of install.



“Cocklebur Reimagined” at Pioneer Park

A 4 Panel 3D Mural by Robert Bell



Artist Statement

- Concept for the 3D art installation features a series of four steel panels, each ¼ inch thick, standing approximately 8' tall and 10' wide, and spaced 8-12 inches apart. Anchored securely into the ground with concrete pylons and reinforced with metal tubing between panels. The installation's scale and construction will ensure long-term durability and stability in outdoor conditions.
- Each panel will have a coating of UV-protective anti-graffiti layered on top of the artwork for easy cleaning using a power washer.
- Design also includes a small plaque nearby outlining the history of Catherine Conter, Cocklebur, and the significance of their story to the community.



Cocklebur Art Budget and Timeline

- **AVAILABLE PROJECT BUDGET: \$20,000**
- **ARTIST FEES, MATERIALS, FABRICATION, INSTALL, LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE: \$20,000**
- Estimate includes five years of annual maintenance and a one-time replacement of a damaged panel.
- Artwork to be installed later this summer (likely in August), with an unveiling celebration to follow.





Questions?
