



City Council Communication

AGENDA DATE: July 21, 2025

LEGISTAR ITEM #: Res 2025-093

PRESENTER: Melissa Sumner

DEPARTMENT: Community Relations

☐ Ordinance	☒ Resolution	☐ Public Hearing
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REQUEST

The Commerce City Cultural Council is requesting City Council approval of a replacement public art piece for the stolen bronze Cocklebur statue in Pioneer Park at the corner of E. 60th Avenue and Monaco Street. The new piece, "Cocklebur Reimagined," aims to continue honoring the horse and its owner while changing the format/medium to avoid vandalism and theft issues that plagued the original piece. The selected art was unanimously approved by the Cultural Council, which advances tonight's resolution for City Council approval.

BACKGROUND

The city's public art program funds include a 10% contribution from CIP projects for maintenance costs associated with city-owned public art pieces. Due to multiple instances where the previous statue was damaged and/or stolen, the Art Selection Committee chose to replace the stolen statue by soliciting a different art medium. Cocklebur was the horse of Catherine Conter, who kept the horse on her Commerce City property for nearly 20 years. Cultural Council oversees the art selection process and convened an Art Selection Committee for CALU Park from January through May. The committee set the art selection criteria, reviewed artist proposals, and selected semifinalists to interview. Semifinalists presented their proposals to the committee and artist Robert Bell's 3D mural was the selected piece. On May 20, 2025, the Cultural Council voted unanimously to approve the artwork and formally advance the recommendation to City Council for final approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Contractor	Robert Bell (artist)
Amount of Request/Contract	\$20,000
Amount Not To Exceed	N/A

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

Amount Budgeted	\$20,000
Budget Year	N/A
Funding Source	CIP Public Art Fund
Additional Funds Needed	\$N/A
Funding Source (if funds needed)	N/A

PROJECT TIMELINE

Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date
Q3 2025	Q2 2025; likely Aug.-Sept.
Years and Months of Contract	Number of Times Renewable
N/A	N/A

JUSTIFICATION

☒ Council Goal	☒ Strategic Plan	☐ Work Plan	☐ Legal
Citation	City Council Goal #5: Promote City Unity and support our diverse community by encouraging community connectivity, fostering civic pride, and improving resident health and wellness. Strategic Plan Strategy 5.5: Beautify the city's physical space to encourage community pride through MyC3 and other strategies, Objective 5.5.1: Expand and bolster Public Art program to celebrate city heritage and culture		

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ASSIGNED

Board or Commission	Cultural Council
Recommendation	Unanimous Vote for Approval
Date of Recommendation	May 20, 2025

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public Outreach included solicitation of residents and other community members to sit on the public art selection committee, the participation of those members, and opportunities to public comment on the process and/or selected art at meetings of the Cultural Council.
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CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

AVAILABLE ACTIONS

- Available Action #1: Approve the resolution as submitted.
- Available Action #2: Request that the Cultural Council reconsider/revise the art recommendation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends option #1, approval of the resolution.