



Elgin City Council Meeting Agenda Item Executive Summary

ITEM:

DEPARTMENT: Community Development

PROPOSED ACTION: Presentation of a public art plan for downtown Elgin.

BACKGROUND:

The Design Committee for the Elgin Main Street program spent the last 18 months engaging the public in a broad discussion of public art for the community. Public outreach and participation opportunities included the Snowflake showcase in December 2017 and the Love Elgin TX hearts project in Spring 2018 as well as small group discussions at Sip Shop and Stroll and other community events. The interactive public input meetings held at Elgin Body and Shine 28 North Main Street included a variety of examples of types of public art and the opportunity to vote on which types of art an individual wanted to see and where. These voting opportunities were provided on Facebook as well. At the Elgin Art Studio Tour in May 2018 the Design committee provided a pop-up art installation with colorful benches and another opportunity to vote on types of public art you would like to see. The committee worked to utilize all of this to create the Public Art Plan which can be used to guide community investment in public art. The community asked most for functional art and murals. A functional art project implemented in fall 2018 included painting the benches and trash cans in bright vibrant colors inspired by the brick found throughout the district and a desire to bring more visual vibrancy and energy to the district. At this time the committee is working with William Montgomery, a local artist and property owner at 116 Depot Street for a mural on the wall at the rear of his property, Melissa Ladd, local artist a property owner at 28 North Main Street, for a photography mural installation, and has received interest from the community for other projects in the district. May 18 – 19 at the Elgin Art Studio Tour, UT Art students presented public art proposals as part of their sculpture class and on June 13 the Design Team hosted a mural slide show pop-up with Sip Shop & Stroll. The plan includes a review process and clarifies that any public art installations in the historic district would be reviewed by the Historic Review Board. Property owner participation and approval is required in the process as well. The plan requires that maintenance of the art installation and professional expertise of the artists involved be addressed. The Main Street Board and Historic Review Board recommend the plan to city council in hopes that it will help guide future investment, provide a process for reviewing and selecting public art projects, and acknowledge the interest the community has in supporting public art in Elgin.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding for this item was { X } included { } not included in the current-year budget { } N/A

At this time public art projects are being funded through the Main Street program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Take action to adopt the Public Art Plan for the downtown district.

ATTACHMENTS:

Request letter attached.

{ X } Staff will be making a detailed presentation on this agenda item at the meeting.

{ } Staff will provide brief comments and answer questions on this item at the meeting.

{ } This is a routine procedural item and no presentation is planned for the meeting.

Councilmembers who have any detailed questions or would like to request additional information regarding this item are encouraged to contact the City Manager at their earliest convenience.