



City Council Agenda Item

Joint City Council/Beautification Commission Meeting Date: February 20, 2024

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Brian Halvorson, AICP, Planning Manager
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Sean O'Neil, Urban Forestry Supervisor
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SUBJECT: Review and Direction Requested from the City Council Regarding a Draft Utility Box Art Program

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the City Council and Beautification Commission review and provide direction to staff on a draft Utility Box Art Program (Attachment 1).

Background:

In 2023, the Lompoc Streetscape Multimodal Improvement Plan (Plan) was approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. As part of the Plan, the installation of utility (i.e. traffic control boxes in the Caltrans right-of-way) box art was encouraged along Ocean Avenue and H Street as a way to improve the aesthetics of the City's primary transportation corridors. There are approximately twelve Caltrans utility boxes in the project area that could receive art installations. Following approval of the Plan, City staff researched several other utility box programs in surrounding cities, met with the Beautification Commission, and discussed a draft program (Attachment 1). In addition, a pilot utility box art was installed last year along the 100 block of West Ocean Avenue during the City's 135th Anniversary Celebration (Attachment 2).

Discussion:

Before moving forward with a formal program, input is needed to provide direction and next steps to Staff regarding this important beautification effort.

Some items to consider during this review include:

1. Approval of art boxes by Beautification Commission or City Council;
2. Type of application (Vinyl Wrap and/or Paint);
3. Consider adding the Old Town Area to the program (areas not along Ocean/H);
4. Maintenance of Art boxes (City Staff and/or Artists);
5. Artist responsibilities;
6. Input on Draft Artwork Themes; and

7. Caltrans encroachment permit requirements (Master Encroachment Permit Required).

The topics above are meant to be a starting point in the discussion of implementing a utility box art program. The City Council and staff may bring up other issues or topics as well during the meeting that may be applicable to the program. Following input at the meeting, revisions to the program would be brought back to a future City Council meeting for adoption consideration.

Fiscal Impact:

Installing art on utility boxes would be funded through existing and future budget allocations from the Beautification & Appearance Commission. In addition, fund raising programs and donations would also be a method of funding each utility box art installation.

Conclusion:

Staff requests input from the City Council regarding the attached draft utility box art program. Input and direction from the City Council will then be incorporated into a revised program which would be brought back for adoption consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Halvorson, Planning Manager

Sean O'Neil, Urban Forestry Supervisor

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Christie Alarcon, Community Development Director

Michael Luther, Public Works Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Draft Utility Box Art Program
2) Pilot Utility Box Art Installation