



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: June 18, 2024

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Sean O'Neil, Urban Forestry Supervisor
s_oneil@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6676(24) Approving a Utility Box Art Program, as Recommended by the Beautification and Appearance Commission; Establish the Beautification and Appearance Commission as the Art Selecting Body for the Utility Box Art Program.

Recommendation:

The Beautification and Appearance Commission recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6676(24) Adopting a Utility Box Art Program (Attachment 1) and establish the Beautification and Appearance Commission as the art selecting body for the Utility Box Art Program.

Background:

On July 19, 2022, at a joint meeting, the Lompoc Streetscape Multimodal Improvement Plan (Plan) was approved by the City Council and the Planning Commission. As part of the Plan, the installation of utility box art was encouraged along Ocean Avenue and H Street to improve the aesthetics of the City's primary transportation corridors. In August 2023, the Planning Division presented a Draft Utility Box Art Program to the Beautification and Appearance Commission (Commission) at their regular meeting. On February 20, 2024, staff presented the Draft Utility Box Art Program to the joint City Council and Beautification and Appearance Commission meeting for discussion and further direction. Direction from the City Council included simplification of the application process, allowing only Vinyl Wraps, and approval of submitted art by the Commission.

Discussion:

After receiving direction from the City Council, staff revised the Draft Utility Box Art Program and brought it back to the Commission for additional input and support. Staff worked with the Commission to revise the Draft Utility Box Art Program, with the following considerations:

1. Focus on utility boxes along East and West Ocean Avenue, North H Street, and in the Old Town Area;
2. Staff will submit the applications for Caltrans encroachment permits, when required;

3. Program funding will come from a combination of existing budgeted line items and Commission fund raising efforts;
4. Maintenance responsibilities of art wraps, after installation; and
5. Reduce the requirements of the program to shorten the overall length of the document and the application process.

The items above were all considered, and changes are reflected in the Final Utility Box Art Program (Attachment 2 contains the redlined changes).

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact, as the Beautification and Appearance Commission is self-funded through donations and project fund-raising.

Conclusion:

Approval of the Final Utility Box Art Program will allow the Commission, along with staff, to implement art contests for selecting art to be installed on predetermined utility boxes throughout the City, increasing community pride and overall aesthetic appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean O'Neil, Urban Forestry Supervisor

Michael Luther, Public Works Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Resolution No. 6676(24)
2) Utility Box Art Program, redlined