



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

October 26, 2020

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Colorado Springs City Council
107 North Nevada Avenue, Suite 300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear City Council Members,

During our regular October meeting, the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board heard a presentation from Matt Mayberry regarding the proposed Public Art Master Plan. Vice Chair David Siegel added additional comments as he served on the steering committee during the planning process. This presentation was for information purposes only, since the city's Public Art Commission has more direct oversight of the public art process and will make a formal recommendation on the plan. However, the Parks Board is keenly interested in this topic, since many public art pieces are proposed to go in our parks, impact park operations and planning, and are maintained by the Cultural Services Division. For that reason, the board offers unanimous support for the plan.

The Parks Advisory Board appreciates the comprehensive nature of the plan and its recommendations for a more proactive, sustainable, and strategic approach to the city's public art program. Public art plays a unique and essential role in creative placemaking that helps to define community identity. There is perhaps no better example of this than the Julie Penrose Fountain in America the Beautiful Park. In order to replicate the success of that project and to expand public art into other parts of the community, there is a real need for improved administrative and policy support for development and implementation of new art projects. This is also need for the long-term support for the maintenance of these pieces once they become part of the city's collection.

We encourage you to give careful review to the Public Art Master Plan and then vote to adopt it. I appreciate your consideration and all you do on behalf of the City of Colorado Springs.

Sincerely,

Ron Ilgen

Chair

Cc: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board