



CITY OF HARRISONBURG OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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TO: Ande Banks, VI, City Manager
FROM: Kristin McCombe, CDBG Program Coordinator
DATE: 05/10/2023
RE: North End Gateway Public Art Installation Presentation

Summary:

Staff has worked over the past year to gather funding, receive public input, solicit qualifications from artists, and to finally receive bids from artists. The art evaluation team is bringing a proposal for recommendation tonight and would like to have city council consider approval of this installation before moving into a contract with the artist.

Background:

City staff is proposing that the council consider approving a proposed art installation at the convergence of North Main and Noll Streets, located at the northern end of Downtown Harrisonburg. This proposed project involves the collaboration of several community organizations and city departments. The Arts Council of the Valley has agreed to donate their time and expertise towards the oversight of this project. Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance (HDR) has committed funding towards the art installation. NENA has volunteered time on the evaluation team. Both the Community Development Block Grant and Public Works departments will also give financial, time and staff resources towards this project.

Key Issues:

n/a

Environmental Impact:

A full NEPA environmental assessment has been completed.

Fiscal Impact:

None

Prior Actions:

n/a

Alternatives:

- (a) Approve this amendment to the CDBG program; or
- (b) Do not approve this amendment to the CDBG program

Community Engagement:

A public hearing was held on 5/24/22 to begin the process of transferring \$50,000 of CDBG funding to this project. Funding was transferred in June, 2022.

During the latter part of last summer and into the fall, we conducted a public input campaign. We had a fantastic response and heard from about 450 individuals through the online survey, and an additional dozen or so at a public forum held at the Lucy Simms building. We received a large amount of feedback and information.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that council consider approval to move forward with the contract for this installation.

Attachments:

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.