



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Parks, Open Spaces, and Cultural Services

Subject: Consider selection of Mary Tartaro for Ben Lomond transfer station public art project

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Formal Title: Consider selection of Mary Tartaro as the public artist for the Ben Lomond Transfer Station Public Art Project, adopt resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$114,500, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Adopt a resolution accepting unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$114,500 from County Capital Project Funds for the Ben Lomond Transfer Station Public Art Project;
2. Approve the selection of Mary Tartaro as the public artist for the Ben Lomond Transfer Station Public Art Project;
3. Approve an agreement with Mary Tartaro for a total amount not to exceed \$103,000; and
4. Authorize the Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services to sign the agreement and take necessary actions related to the agreement on behalf of the County.

Executive Summary

The Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is requesting the approval to accept funds for the Ben Lomond Transfer Station Public Art Projects and the approval of an agreement with Mary Tartaro for a total not to exceed \$103,000 to design, fabricate, and install public artwork at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station (Project).

Discussion

Consistent with the Santa Cruz County Public Art and Design Guidelines, funds were designated to include public artwork for the Project and a “Call to Artists” was issued, inviting artists to submit proposals. The County Arts Commission formed an Art Selection Panel (Panel), which met in August and October 2023 to select an artist to continue in the process. The artists prepared detailed information about their proposals, including drawings and/or maquettes, which they presented to the Panel. Mary Tartaro was chosen to move forward in the selection process. At the December 4, 2023, meeting of the County Arts Commission, the Panel’s recommendation was reviewed and approved unanimously.

The Commission recommends your Board approve Ms. Tartaro’s proposal and agreement with the County for a public artwork at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station.

The Project will cultivate the arts and strengthen the culture of the County through public art, in accordance with Objective 3.2, Arts, of the Parks Strategic Plan.

Financial Impact

Funds in the amount of \$114,500 are to be accepted and appropriated in the Art in Public Places fund (GL 134909-86110/R13031). The source of the funding will come from bond proceeds issued for the Project. This amount will cover the artist contract of \$103,000, with an additional \$11,500 allocated for other relevant items related to this project.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - County Facilities & Infrastructure, Community Voices & Partnership
Operational Plan - Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Jeff Gaffney, Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.