



Monrovia
California



1995 ★ 2024

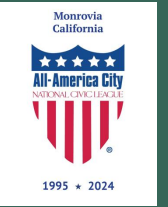
MONROVIA CITY COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC ART
IN CANYON PARK
AUGUST 6, 2024

OBJECTIVE



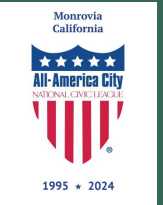
- Tonight staff is requesting City Council authorize a contract with Daniel Stern and Lost Men Productions, Inc. to commission the artist to design and fabricate a public art piece for Canyon Park.
- Tonight we are requesting a contract be approved so staff can begin to work earnestly with the artist on the design.
- In addition, we are seeking Council's feedback if we are moving in the right direction with these early concept designs.
- Final review of the proposed art will come before City Council at a future date.

BACKGROUND

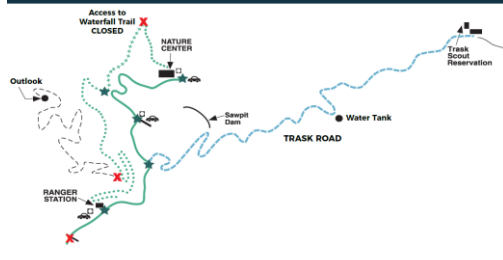
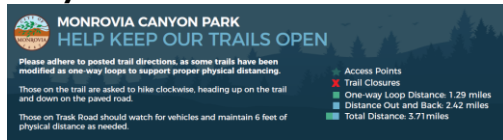


- Why?
- Since 2020, Canyon Park has been closed down for 4 separate emergency events:
 - COVID - March 2020
 - The Bobcat Fire - September 2020
 - First Significant Rain Event - December 2021
 - Second Significant Rain Event – January 2023
- Throughout these tragic events, the community stayed strong and worked tirelessly - together - to respond to each emergency as they occurred.
- Canyon Park is such a special place for our community and telling the story of resiliency and how each challenge was faced with great fortitude is important.
- We want to pay tribute to those who helped to protect our beloved Park and neighborhoods as well as those staff, volunteers, and key stakeholders who again and again showed up to rebuild our trails and repair our Park.
- A plaque or interpretive sign seems too simple in telling this compelling story.

BACKGROUND



May 2020



May 2020



September 2020



September 2020



September 2020



September 2020



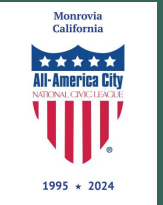
December 2021



January 2023



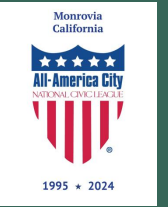
BACKGROUND



- March 2024, City Council awarded a contract to Pokrajac Corporation for the Canyon Park Infrastructure Project totaling \$15.4 million.
- Work commenced immediately and construction is well underway with a target completion date of December 2024.
- The scope of work includes significant infrastructure repairs to the sewer system, water service, roadways, parking lots, culverts, as well as several enhancements to the Park.



BACKGROUND



- As part of the project, the City identified several enhancements to the park including the following:
 - Enclosing the entrance kiosk
 - Expanding parking in some areas, including addition of ADA accessible spaces
 - Providing fiber conduit throughout the project, ensuring fiber/wifi connectivity
 - Adding a gazebo near the streambed
 - Adding a public education center, similar to a small outdoor “amphitheater”
 - Enhancing the public lookout at the top of the park
 - Upgrading signage, parking areas, and picnic areas
 - Making necessary design changes to ensure the park is prepared for future effects of climate change
 - ***Adding public art to the park entrance***



VETERANS MEMORIAL



OVERLOOK



CANYON PARK EDUCATIONAL CENTER



PARKING LOT REST AREA



ENTRANCE KIOSK



NEW PARKING STALL AND ADA ACCESS



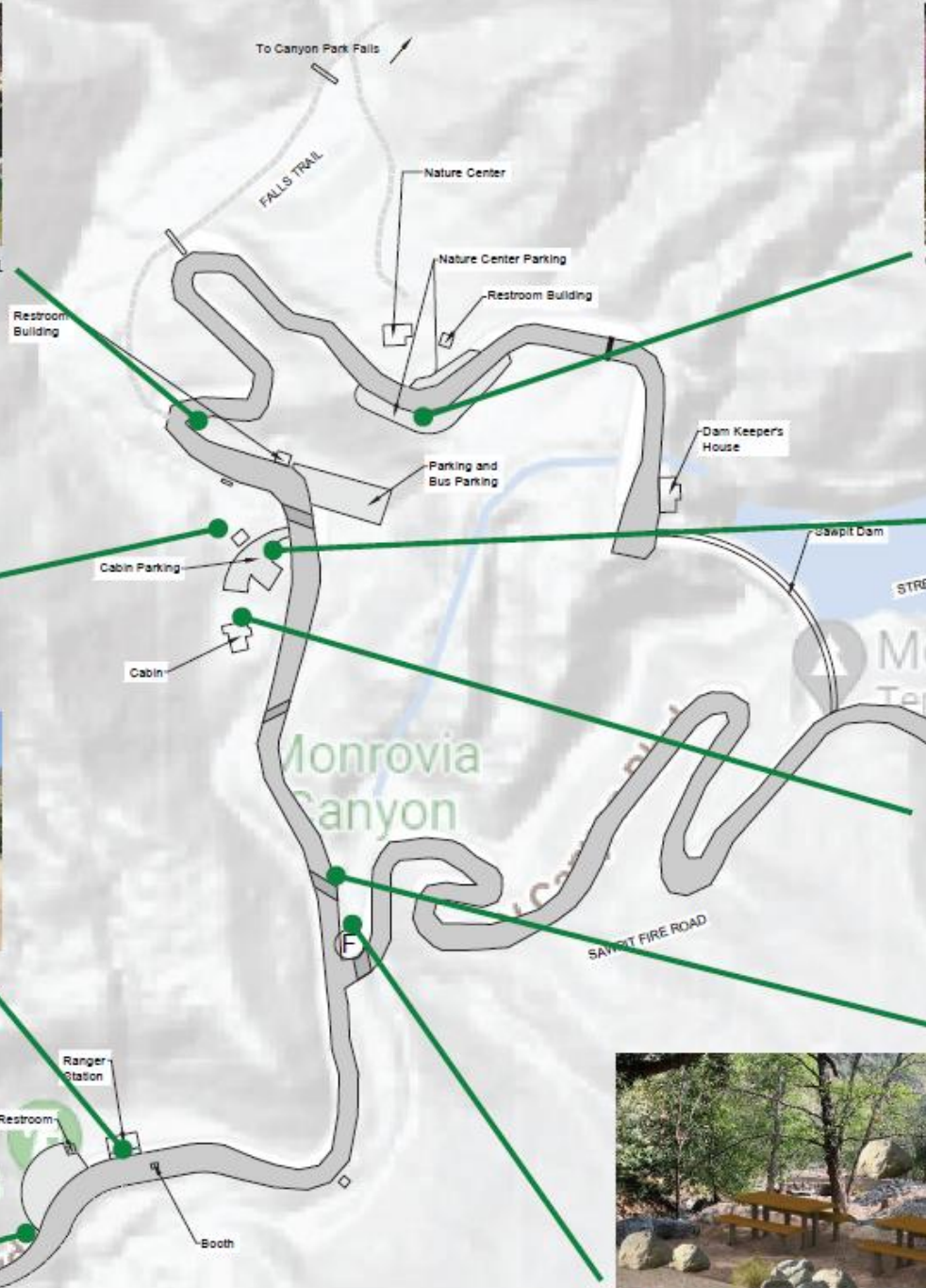
RAISED DECK



ENTRANCE AND ART PIECE



NEW PARKING AND PICNIC AREA



To Canyon Park Falls
FALLS TRAIL

Nature Center

Nature Center Parking

Restroom Building

Parking and Bus Parking

Dam Keeper's House

Sawpit Dam

Cabin Parking

Cabin

Monrovia Canyon

STREAM

SAWPIT FIRE ROAD

Ranger Station

Restroom

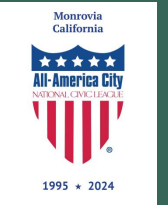
Booth



BEFORE



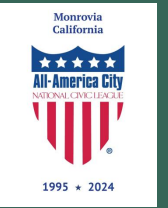
ANALYSIS



- With the construction in Canyon Park underway, and anticipating 6-9 months to design and fabricate a sculpture, staff recognized we are already behind on a timeline to have the public art completed at the Parks opening.
- Staff drew upon past projects to identify a potential artist who may be a good fit for this venture.
- Actor Daniel Stern, whose reputation as an artist has distinguished him in the San Gabriel Valley, was identified as a possible partner.
- Monrovia is already home to one of his distinguished pieces, “Action,” a City-commissioned bronze statue in Old Town.
- This artwork was commissioned in 2015 using Art in Public Places funding and is deeply appreciated for being interactive, for telling stories through art, and for honoring Monrovia’s past.



ANALYSIS



ANALYSIS



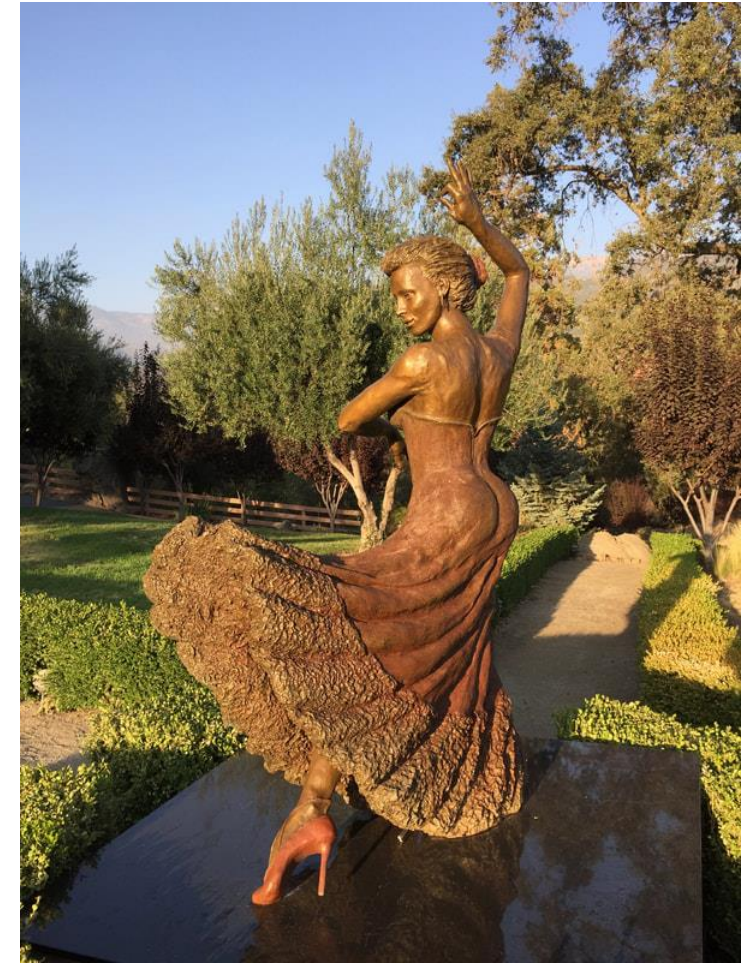
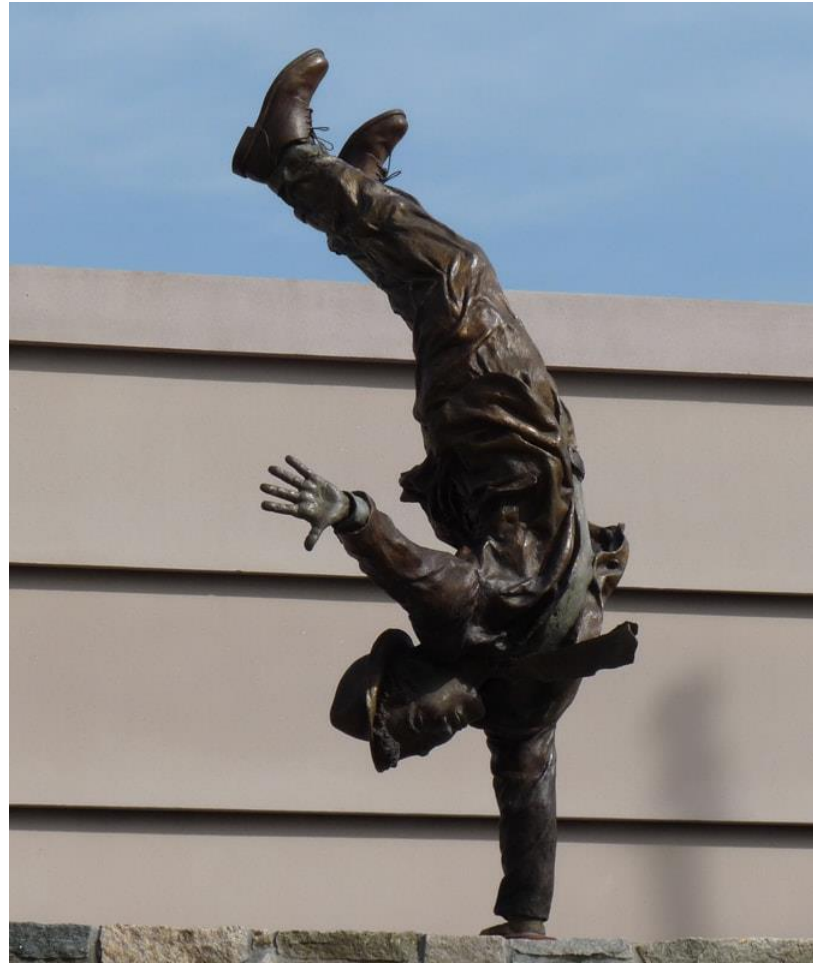
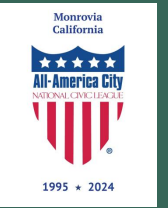
- Mr. Stern has completed many similar projects in cities throughout California.
- Mr. Stern's sculptures capture a moment in time, exhibit movement, and defies gravity.
- Mr. Stern prides himself in creating interactive sculptures where the community becomes an actor in the frozen scene.

"I am a Storyteller.

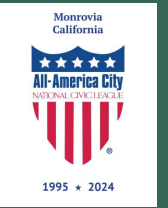
As an actor, director and writer, I have spent my entire life telling stories to audiences. My sculpture work is no different.

I see each one as a single frame of film, a moment in the story of a life. And just like in my performing arts career, my hope is that these works of art connect with you and spark a little story in your mind filled with action, humor, drama and humanity."

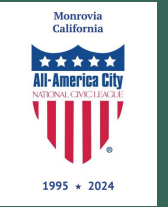
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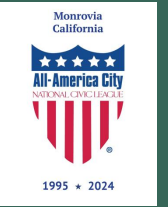


ANALYSIS



- Staff met with Mr. Stern on several occasions to see the Park, to discuss the Park's history, and to identify what types of stories the City wanted to tell through public art.
- Inspirational photos were shared with Mr. Stern depicting the heroism displayed by Monrovia Fire Department and the resiliency and commitment displayed by the Canyon Park Volunteers and the Park Naturalists.
- Mr. Stern has been moved by Monrovia's story and impressed with the community's collective response to this local disaster.
- Identifying one sculpture to fully embody our story was just not enough.
- Mr. Stern is proposing our story be told through three individual sculptures that are unified in their design, but can also stand alone.
 - Each statue includes a spot or two where visitors can sit to take in the sights and sounds of the Park or snap a selfie.
 - Each statue highlights a different segment of our community who have made a meaningful impact on the Park.
 - Each statue is proposed to be life size and exhibit movement.

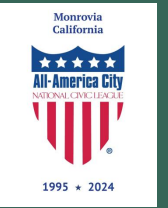
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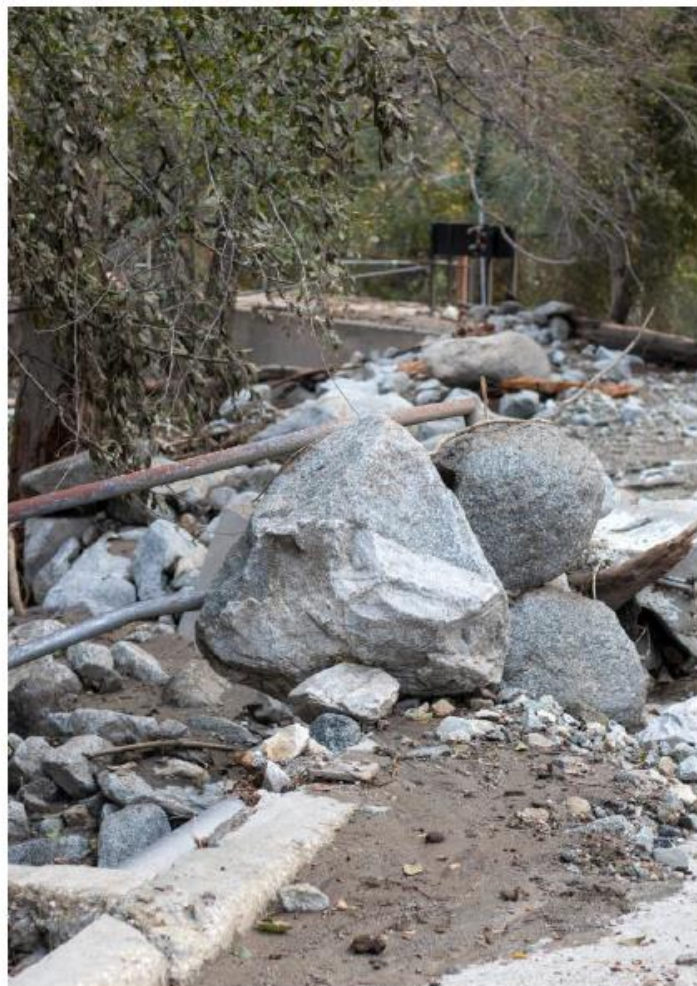


Inspirational Photos

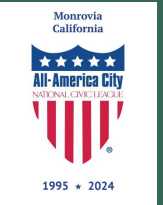


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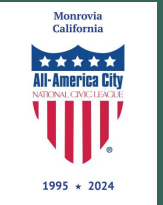
Firefighter Statue

Name: "Always Ready"

- This piece honors the service of firefighters, rangers and trail crew volunteers for their work and dedication in protecting Canyon Park against the Bobcat Fire (2020) and always being on the lookout to protect our community, our park, and our cherished public spaces. More importantly, they also keep watch by protecting our homes and our community.



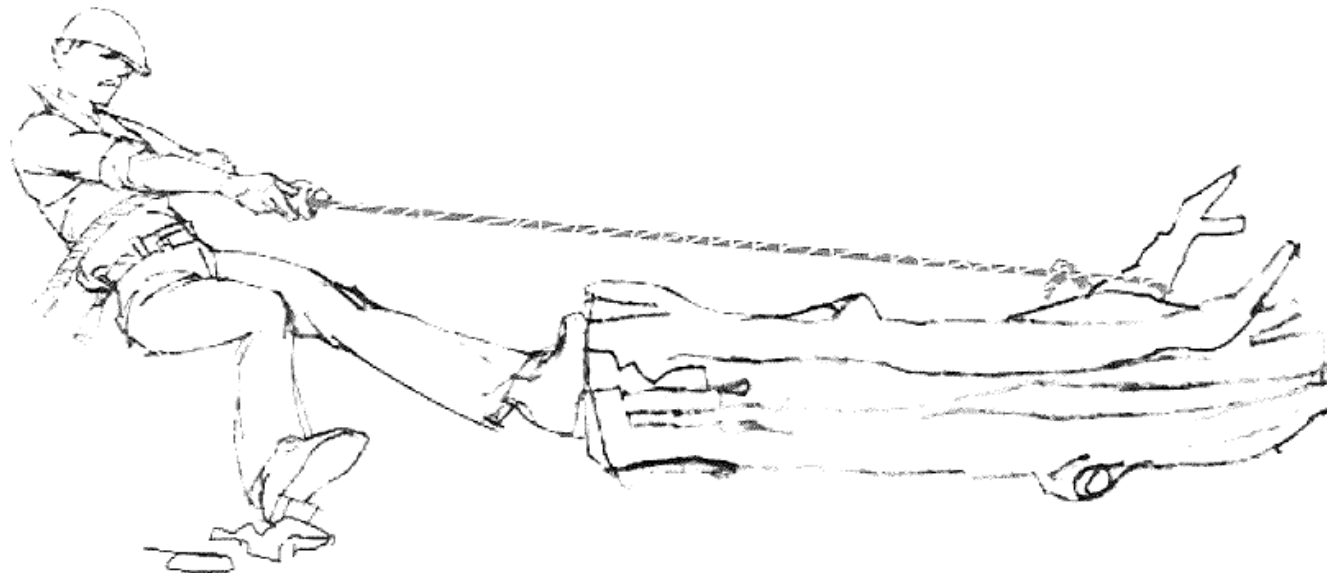
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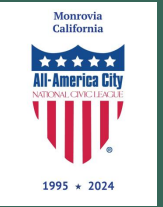
Canyon Park Volunteer / Trail Crew Statue

Name: "Clearing the Way"

- The Bobcat Fire (2020), December Rainstorm (2021), and January Rainstorm (2023) all caused catastrophic damage to the park, resulting in countless trees lost, damaged public lands, and washed out trails. Trees have now been cleared and buried deep in the hillsides of Canyon Park to provide nutrient-rich soil that will help the land recover in time. The fallen trees tell a story of recurring damage, but also a story of building anew, of creating new life and growth. The volunteers who make up the Canyon Park Trail Crew have played an important role in clearing the trails following the Fire and the subsequent Rainstorms.



ANALYSIS



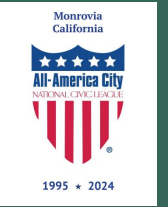
Park Naturalist Statue

Name: "Precious Cargo"

- Canyon Park's history includes generations of Park Naturalists and volunteers who care for the park, flora and fauna, and provide public education and outreach to all. Park Naturalists are knowledgeable about the local environment and are known for helping all in times of need, including animals. This piece, which depicts a Park Naturalist carrying a small animal over a fallen log, is intended to be an interactive piece for family photos and a gathering space.

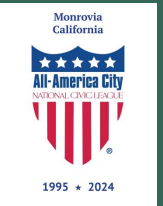


ANALYSIS



- Initially, the Project plans called for the installation of public art in the lower parking lot as a part of the expanded and enhanced picnic area, taking full advantage of the large Oak tree canopy.
- With three statues being proposed, we may want to consider breaking the three sculptures up, allowing there to be one at the lower parking lot entrance, a second one near the Cabin and new Amphitheater, and the third by the Nature Center.
- This would create additional destinations within the Park and allow for the story of Canyon Park to be slowly discovered by visitors as they hike through the park.

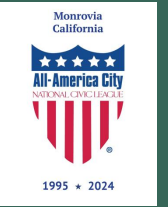
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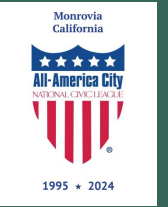
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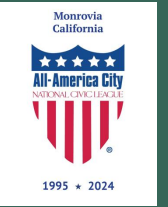
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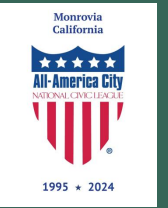
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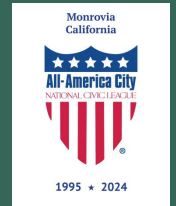
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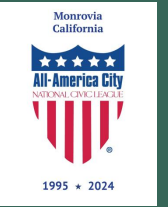


FISCAL IMPACT



- The total cost for this commissioned artwork will be \$95,000 per sculpture, with a total amount not to exceed \$285,000.
- This includes the costs to design, create, cast, and deliver the large sculptures to the park.
- In recent years, when the City has solicited cost information for large bronze artwork, prices for full-size pieces range from \$80,000-\$100,000.
- Because public art is highly specialized and unique in nature, this contract award is an exception to bidding and quotation requirements per the Monrovia Municipal Code.
- Funds for this artwork will come from monies set aside for “Contingency and Allowances” previously approved with the Project. On March 19, 2024, City Council approved a contingency amount of \$1,209,521.71, and a cash allowance of nearly \$800,000.
 - These funds were budgeted to account for unforeseen costs and possible changes/additions to the overall Project.

NEXT STEPS



- Staff is seeking feedback from the City Council on these early concepts and looking for input related to the general direction staff is headed.
- Assuming Council approves the contract, staff will begin working more closely with the artist to incorporate the feedback received.
- Even though this project is not being funded through the Art in Public Places fund, staff recommends that it may be prudent for AIPP to conduct a cursory review of the proposed art.
- Staff will bring back to the City Council the final proposed design for review.

RECOMMENDATION



- Approve the commission of Public Artwork by Daniel Stern and Lost Men Productions, Inc., for Monrovia Canyon Park as part of the Monrovia Canyon Park Infrastructure Improvement Project in an amount not to exceed \$285,000.00.

QUESTION / DISCUSSION

