



== CITY OF ==

NEWPORT BEACH

PB&R Commission Staff Report

Agenda Item VII-C
August 4, 2026

TO: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

FROM: Justin Schmillen, Recreation & Senior Services Director
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TITLE: Permanent Placement of Newport Beach Arts Commission Sculpture
at Sunset View Park

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommend that the Parks, Beaches and Recreation (PB&R) Commission consider the Newport Beach City Arts Commission's recommendation to permanently place the sculpture, *Metallor*, near its previous location at Sunset View Park.

DISCUSSION:

Staff received a request from the City Arts Commission (CAC) to permanently install sculpture, *Metallor*, at Sunset View Park, near its previous location. The CAC acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council on all matters pertaining to artistic, aesthetic, historical and cultural aspects of the City

Staff reviewed the request in accordance with Council Policy I-11, Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach, which requires the CAC to advise the City Council on art placement "in conjunction with the City commission, committee, board and/or department which has responsibility for planning or maintaining the proposed location." As Sunset View Park falls under the Parks, Beaches and Recreation (PB&R) Commission's purview, PB&R's site approval is required before this item proceeds to City Council for final action.

If approved by PB&R, staff will bring the CAC's recommendation to City Council to approve its placement in Sunset View Park.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

The estimate for installation costs, including the pouring of a concrete pad and transporting the piece to the site is \$8,500 to be expensed from the Cultural Arts Professional Services account in the Library Services Department, 01060603-811008. Annual maintenance is budgeted and expensed from the Cultural Arts Maintenance and Repair account in the Library Services Department, 01060603-851037.

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BACKGROUND:

In 1986, Warren Hancock, a Newport Beach art collector, donated the sculpture, *Metalfor* to the City of Newport Beach. Created by Bret Price, *Metalfor* was originally placed outside the Newport Beach City Hall on the Peninsula for part of 1986 and 1987, until it was moved to the front of the Newport Center Library.

The royal blue painted steel abstract work, which weighs 1,400 pounds and is 8 ½ feet tall, was the centerpiece of the 22nd Annual Newport Beach City Art Festival in 1986. Intense heating of the metal to make it malleable, created its curvilinear form. The steel was repeatedly bent and rolled during this period of elasticity to give it “a sense of softness (and an) illusion of flexibility,” sculpture Price explained.

When the Newport Center Library closed in 1994, the City relocated *Metalfor* to a grassy area beneath the bluff at Sunset View Park on the east side of the intersection of Superior Avenue and West Coast Highway (Attachment A). Because of the construction of the pedestrian bridge at Sunset View and Sunset Ridge Park in 2023, *Metalfor* was removed and placed in storage until the project was complete and a new location could be determined.

The Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee met to determine a site for *Metalfor* and recommended, on the bluff above where it used to sit at Sunset View Park. City Staff met with the City’s Municipal Operations Department to determine the best place on the bluff to site *Metalfor* (Attachment B). The current Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommended to site *Metalfor* in the proposed location at Sunset View Park and the CAC approved the recommendation at their June 11, 2026 meeting.

NOTICING:

All residents within 500 feet of the proposed location and the agenda item have been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Photo of *Metalfor* location at Sunset View Park 1994-2023

Attachment B – Aerial photo of proposed permanent location for *Metalfor*