



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

July 9, 2026
Agenda Item No. 4

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: Site Placement for *Metalfor*

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Arts Commission review and approve the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation to site *Metalfor* at Sunset View Park on West Coast Highway and Superior Avenue.

DISCUSSION:

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. When the Newport Center Library closed in 1994, the City relocated *Metalfor* to a grassy area beneath a bluff on the east side of the intersection of Superior Avenue and West Coast Highway.

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.

Because of the construction of the pedestrian bridge across Superior Avenue to Sunset Ridge Park, *Metalfor* was placed in storage until a new site could be determined. During this time, the piece was restored. *Metalfor* endured a great deal of exposure to the elements. The royal blue paint faded and there were signs of corrosion. There were patches of discoloration and oxidation.

Staff contracted with art restorer Mr. Hector Dominguez, who restored *Metalfor* and delivered the piece back to the City. The Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee met to determine a site for *Metalfor* and are recommending a location in Sunset View Park, on the bluff above where it used to sit on the corner of Superior Avenue and West Coast Highway.

Staff met with the City's Municipal Operations Department to determine the best place on the bluff to site *Metalfor* and have obtained a quote from an art installer for pouring a concrete pad, transporting the piece, and installing it at Sunset View Park. The estimate received is \$8,550.

If approved by the City Arts Commission, staff will present it to the Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission for their recommendation before taking it to City Council for final approval.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If approved, funds will be expensed out of the FY 2026-27 Professional Services budget.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Arts Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENT A: Photo of *Metalfor*

ATTACHMENT B: Photo of Proposed Site at Sunset View Park