



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

May 14, 2026
Agenda Item No. 5

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

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

TITLE: Application for Review and Consideration of Art – *Newport* by James Jarvis, donation request by Courtney Watson

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission review and reject the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee’s recommendation to accept an application for donation of *Newport* by artist James Jarvis, donated by Courtney Watson.

DISCUSSION:

In 1976, artist James Jarvis created a metal wall hanging that was purchased by Newport Beach residents Mr. and Mrs. James Watson. Their daughter, Courtney Watson, filled out an application to donate the piece to the City of Newport Beach. A previous iteration of the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc subcommittee met and recommended that the City Arts Commission accept the donation.

Newport is four feet tall and seven feet wide and weighs approximately 180 pounds. The piece requires restoration as well as a new frame with a plexiglass shield to safely display in a public area due to the nature of the sharp metal construction. Staff reached out to two art restoration contractors to obtain quotes for restoring the piece. Neither contractor was able to provide a cost without seeing the piece, which is currently located in a private residence. Peter’s Custom Framing and Gallery requested the piece be brought to their studio for evaluation. Unfortunately, they were unable to pick up the art, and the City could not transport art that it does not own. Art Installation Remedies provided a quote of over \$1,000 to deliver and install the piece once it was restored and reframed. There has not been a recent appraisal of the art.

Due to the criteria in Council Policy I-11, *Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach*, which states in part: “...The Art should be of satisfactory physical condition...should not require restoration or extensive long term conservation, and should be of a physical size and weight that the Art can be managed in storage, transport, and public display without difficulty.”, Staff is recommending the Arts Commission reject the Ad Hoc Subcommittee’s recommendation to accept the donation.

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: Courtney Watson’s Application for Review and Consideration of Art