



NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

July 8, 2025
Agenda Item No. 7

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Arts Orange County to Manage Phase X of the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park

ABSTRACT:

The Newport Beach City Arts Commission requests City Council approval of a professional services agreement with Arts Orange County for \$135,080 for Phase X of the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park. This amount includes project coordination and management fees, in addition to installation and de-installation fees.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Arts Orange County for project management of Phase X of the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park for a total amount not to exceed \$135,080 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement.

DISCUSSION:

The Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park is an ongoing public art display that is a primary feature of the Newport Beach Civic Center. The City Arts Commission (Commission) determined that a rotating exhibition was the optimal approach for bringing a variety of sculpture to Newport Beach in a cost-efficient manner. In August 2013, the City Council authorized the Commission to implement an inaugural rotational sculpture exhibit in Civic Center Park. Since 2014, the City has exhibited nine sculpture phases in the park with Phases VIII and IX currently on display. At its November 12, 2024 meeting, the Council approved extending the exhibit period from two to three years, beginning with these two phases and continuing through subsequent phases.

Arts Orange County (ArtsOC) has provided public art coordination and site management services through professional services agreements since the beginning of the Sculpture Exhibition. ArtsOC was established in 1995 as the nonprofit, countywide arts council of

Orange County, California. The organization has been recognized by the California Arts Council as a model agency based on the quality of its work and has served as the officially designated arts agency and state-local partner of the County of Orange since its inception. The ArtsOC project team has successfully managed all previous phases of the exhibition and has strong working relationships with the Commission and City staff.

At its May 8, 2025 meeting, the Commission reviewed and approved a timeline with ArtsOC for Phase X of the Sculpture Exhibition. Pending Council approval, ArtsOC will open the call for entries on August 1, 2025, and it will close on September 29, 2025. The Commission and guest jurors will review and rank the received submissions. ArtsOC will present the rankings at the Commission's October 9, 2025 meeting to determine the qualified submissions for the public survey. ArtsOC will launch the online public survey on October 15, 2025. The public, through the survey, will choose 10 artworks and three to five alternates, which will be presented to the Commission at its December 11, 2025 meeting. The most popular pieces, as determined by the online survey, will be selected for Phase X, pending final approval by the City Council.

The Commission requests City Council approval of a contract with ArtsOC for a not-to-exceed amount of \$135,080 for Phase X. This amount includes both project coordination and management fees in addition to installation and de-installation costs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The adopted budget includes sufficient funding for this agreement. It will be expensed to the Sculpture Exhibition account in the Cultural Arts Division of the Library Services Department, 01060603-811059.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

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

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – Professional Services Agreement with Arts Orange County – Phase X