



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

City of Palo Alto Staff Report to Public Art Commission

Meeting Date: August 18, 2022

RE: Agenda Item 3 – - Allocation of funds in the amount of up to \$90,000 to begin the process for integrating public art into Boulware Park.

Discussion:

The City of Palo Alto Public Art Program operates in accordance with Chapter 2.26 Visual Art in Public Places Policy of Palo Alto Municipal Code. The [Municipal Percent for Art Policy](#) specifies that the City will budget one percent (1%) of its construction costs to include public art for City capital improvement projects that have a visual impact on the surrounding environment by altering a site through new construction or reconstruction, at the initial stages of design, thereby ensuring that art elements become an integral part of the overall design.

In 2015, in order to strengthen its ongoing commitment to the City's municipal public art program, the Palo Alto Council amended the Palo Alto Municipal Code to add Section 2.26.070 "[Public Art for Municipal Projects](#)" to Chapter 2.26 (Visual Art in Public Places). The Ordinance enhanced the funds available for public art and increased flexibility to provide art experiences that are timely and relevant throughout the community. According to the Ordinance, one percent (1%) of the City's annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget devoted to public art is deposited into the Public Art Fund. Funds may be used at any appropriate site within Palo Alto for permanent or temporary public art projects. Additionally, funds from two or more CIP projects may be pooled to fund a single work of art.

The Boulware Park Renovation Capital Improvement Project was initially set up to focus improvements on the existing Boulware Park parcel. With the recent purchase of the Birch Street Property the scope of the park project has expanded to include this new parcel. The City has coordinated a community-based design process on how to combined the two parcel and which park amenities would be included. The new larger Boulware Park design contains the following amenities:

- Basketball Court
- Dog Park
- Accessible Playgrounds for children (5-12) and Tots (2-5)
- Restroom
- Open Grass Area
- Group Picnic Area
- Covered Picnic Pavilion
- Loop Walking Path
- Bocce Court

Runoff Filtration Basin
Lighting and
Accessible and Additional Parking Along Lambert Ave.

To combined both parcels a section of Ash Street was removed and a cul-de-sac at the end of Chestnut Avenue was created with a drop off at the park side. A 65' set back along Matadero Creek was also created for any future creek restoration work that could take place as part of the North Ventura Coordination Plan. For more information regarding the previously held community meetings and presentations to the Park and Recreation Commission, visit the project [website](#).

While the 1% municipal public art budget allocated for the project is \$29,000, staff recommends that the Commission approve up to \$90,000 for the art allocation at Boulware Park. This will allow staff and stakeholders to explore multiple types of artwork integration into the site as well as ensure that impactful public art is being integrated into this south Palo Alto site.