

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE CITY OF PALM DESERT MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Administrative Conference Room, City Hall

73-510 Fred Waring Drive

Palm Desert, CA 92260

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2449, this meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting and there will be in-person access to this location.

- To participate via Zoom, use the following link: <https://palmdesert.zoom.us/j/83338542730> or call (213) 338-8477, Zoom Meeting ID: 833 3854 2730
- Written public comment may also be submitted to cityclerk@palmdesert.gov. E-mails received by 5:00 p.m. one day prior to the meeting will be distributed to the Committee. Any correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Committee as soon as practicable and retained for the official record. **Emails will not be read aloud** except as an ADA accommodation.

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. NONAGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS

This time has been set aside for the public to address the Cultural Arts Committee on issues that are not on the agenda for up to three minutes. Speakers may utilize one of the three options listed on the first page of the agenda. Because the Brown Act does not allow the Cultural Arts Committee to act on items not listed on the agenda, members may briefly respond or refer the matter to staff for a report and recommendation at a future meeting.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be approved by one motion. The public may comment on any items on the Consent Agenda within the three-minute time limit. Individual items may be removed by the Cultural Arts Committee for a separate discussion.

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the consent calendar as presented.

4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Minutes of December 11, 2024.

5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

6. ACTION CALENDAR

The public may comment on individual Action Items within the three-minute time limit. Speakers may utilize one of the three options listed on the first page of the agenda.

6.a INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE CITY’S POET LAUREATE

9

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file informational report on the City of Palm Desert’s Poet Laureate.

6.b PALM DESERT LIBRARY ARTS PROGRAMMING UPDATE

19

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file informational report regarding arts programming at the Palm Desert Library.

**6.c 2025 STUDENT ART AND ESSAY CONTEST VINYL ART WRAP
ARTWORK SELECTION**

21

RECOMMENDATION:

Select and approve one artwork from the 2025 Student Art and Essay Contest for vinyl art wrap installation on a traffic signal cabinet.

6.d CONSIDER PURCHASE OF RISING INVERSION SCULPTURE

31

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Council approve expenditure in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of *Rising Inversion* by artist Cristopher Cichocki (cha-house-key), to be installed in Ironwood Park, upon approval of grant funding from the Arts in California Parks program.

**6.e REQUEST FOR DIRECTION ON INCREASED CONTRACT AMOUNT FOR
DUELING PALMS SCULPTURE**

57

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Council authorize an increase in the amount of \$106,267.25 to the contract with artist Kyle Absolom for *Dueling Palms* sculpture.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

- 7.a PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON
- 7.b ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION LIAISON
- 7.c CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- 7.d CITY COUNCIL LIAISON
- 7.e CITY STAFF
- 7.f ATTENDANCE REPORT

69

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

9. PUBLIC NOTICES

Agenda Related Materials: Pursuant to Government Code §54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with this meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, Palm Desert Civic Center, 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert. Staff reports for all agenda items considered in open session, and documents provided to a majority of the legislative bodies are available for public inspection at City Hall and on the City's website at www.palmdesert.gov.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the intention of the City of Palm Desert to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk, (760) 346-0611, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda for the Cultural Arts Committee was posted on the City Hall bulletin board and City website not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

/S/ Monique Lomeli, CMC
Senior Deputy Clerk

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

December 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Present: Vice-Chair Carol Adney, Committee Member Maureen Boren,
Committee Member Lori Flint, Committee Member Thomas Mitze,
Committee Member Pia Rose, Committee Member Ann Simley,
Chair Elizabeth Hauer

Absent: Committee Member Kristen Olson- Stone (alt.)

Liaison: Architectural Review Commission Liaison Wallace D. Colvard,
Planning Commission Liaison Lindsay Holt

Staff Present: Management Analyst Erica Powell, Recording Secretary Michelle
Nance

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Cultural Arts Committee was called to order by Chair Hauer on December 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in the Administrative Conference Room, City Hall, located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

2. ROLL CALL

3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by: Committee Member Mitze

Seconded by: Committee Member Rose

To approve the consent calendar as presented.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by: Committee Member Mitze

Seconded by: Committee Member Rose

Approve the Minutes of November 13, 2024.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

4.b PROJECT STATUS REPORT FOR THE DECEMBER 11, 2024, CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Management Analyst Powell, provided a staff report and responded to member inquiries.

Motion by: Vice-Chair Adney

Seconded by: Committee Member Simley

Receive and File Project Status Report for December 11, 2024, Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) Meeting.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

6. ACTION CALENDAR

6.a CONSIDER SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FROM DESERT X FOR THE 2025 EXHIBITION

Management Analyst Powell narrated a PowerPoint and responded to member inquiries.

Motion by: Committee Member Flint

Seconded by: Committee Member Rose

Recommend City Council approve sponsorship request in the amount of \$25,000 from Desert X for the 2025 exhibition.

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

7.a PLANNING COMMISSION LIAISON

Planning Commissioner Holt provided a reminder on the Palm Desert Civic Academy starting early 2025.

7.b ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION LIAISON

Architectural Review Commissioner Colvard provided an update on recent approvals of the Architectural Review Commission.

7.c CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Simley expressed appreciation to the Committee for the approval of the deaccession of the "Piano" sculpture at City Hall.

Vice Chair Adney requested potential location suggestions for a private mural called Unite.

Committee Member Boren recommended working with the Desert Recreation District with integrating art into the new remodel of the Palm Desert location.

7.d CITY COUNCIL LIAISON

None.

7.e CITY STAFF

Management Analyst Powell provided updates on the following items:

- Update on foundation base of sculpture *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Patricia Vader;
- Update on raised mid-block crosswalks;
- Dueling Palms sculpture update; and
- the cancellation of the January Cultural Arts Committee meeting.

7.f ATTENDANCE REPORT

Report provided; no action taken on this item.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Cultural Arts Committee adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

9. PUBLIC NOTICES

Michelle Nance, Deputy Clerk II
Recording Secretary

Erica Powell, Management Analyst
Secretary

DATE APPROVED BY CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

CITY OF PALM DESERT

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE CITY'S POET LAUREATE

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file informational report on the City of Palm Desert's Poet Laureate.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

In March 2023, the City Council established an honorary position of Poet Laureate to support Palm Desert's artistic and cultural initiatives. Following a competitive selection process, Lori Davis was appointed for a one-year term starting October 1, 2023. She has successfully completed all assigned duties, including:

- Recited an original poem for the City's 50th Anniversary (Nov. 18, 2023)
- Performed at the Veterans Day Ceremony (Nov. 11, 2023)
- Mentored Junior Poet Laureate
- Hosted a poetry workshop and reading at the Palm Desert Library (April 8, 2024)
- Performed at the State of the City (June 25, 2024) and Independence Day Celebration (July 4, 2024)

Given her successful contributions, at its May 23, 2024, meeting, the City Council approved a two-year contract extension with Lori Davis through September 30, 2026.

With this extended contract, Ms. Davis has developed Poet's Oasis, a free, twice-monthly poetry workshop at the Palm Desert Library designed to engage both new and seasoned poets in a supportive, generative writing group. Sessions focus on craft, poetry prompts, writing time, and feedback. The program averaged 9 – 11 attendees per session, with a peak of 13 attendees in December, and has received positive feedback.

Programming:

- **Poet's Oasis Showcase Reading** (April 16, 2025, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Palm Desert Library)
- A National Poetry Month celebration featuring participants from the workshop. The event will be free and open to the public, including live, acoustic music and refreshments.
- **Poet's Oasis Anthology** - A chapbook-style (pocket-sized booklet, 20 – 40 pages) poetry collection published by the Palm Desert Library debuting poems from workshop participants, to be released in conjunction with the April 16 showcase reading.
- **Remaining Poet's Oasis Dates This Season:**
 - March 19, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
 - April 2, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

- April 16, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Davis will provide quarterly updates on her programming to the Cultural Arts Committee. The Committee will have the opportunity to offer feedback and recommendations, which will be shared with the City Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Poet Laureate receives an annual honorarium of \$3,500, paid quarterly, as well as mileage expenses to and from events. Funds are paid from the Public Art Budget – Account No. 4364650-4309200.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Poet Laureate's Scope of Work
2. Poet's Oasis Workshop Flyer
3. Poet's Oasis Workshops Attendance Data
4. Poet's Oasis Participant Feedback

Poet Laureate's Scope of Work

Agreement C46360, October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2026

3. Terms.

3.1. Services. Section 2 of the Agreement is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

- City Poet Laureate is responsible for coordinating with City staff and Palm Desert Library staff to schedule work and shall keep City staff apprised on the progress.
- City Poet Laureate shall attend Cultural Arts Committee meetings in September, January, and May each year to provide updates on the Scope of Services.
- City Poet Laureate shall organize two monthly events from November to April for individuals aged 16 and above at the Palm Desert Library, including the following elements:
 - Poetry and writing techniques
 - Writing sessions
 - Sharing of work
- City Poet Laureate shall host an annual special event in April for National Poetry Month.
- City Poet Laureate shall plan and execute youth events from November to April.
- City Poet Laureate shall perform at a maximum of four City of Palm Desert events.

The scope of services is subject to change based on needs, with any adjustments requiring approval from the City.

Poems already exist inside your pen!



New and seasoned poets are invited to join this supportive, generative, *FREE* writing group.

The focus will be on craft, poetry prompts, writing time, and feedback, twice-monthly.

All levels of experience are welcome!



Facilitator: Lori Davis, Palm Desert Poet Laureate

Poet's Oasis Dates 2024-25

Wednesdays
1:00 - 2:30 PM

October 16
November 13
December 11
January 8
February 5
March 5
April 2

Wednesdays
5:30 - 7:00 PM

October 30
November 13
December 11
January 22
February 19
March 19

April 16 5:30-7 PM Showcase Reading!



PALM DESERT LIBRARY
73300 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert

Poet's Oasis	Time	Participants	Notes:
10/16/2024	1:00 - 2:30pm	0	
10/30/2024	5:30 - 7:00pm	6	All new
11/13/2024	1:00 - 2:30pm	8	5 new, 3 returning
11/13/2024	5:30 - 7:00pm	10	4 new, 6 returning
12/11/2024	1:00 - 2:30pm	13	7 new, 6 returning
12/11/2024	5:30 - 7:00pm	6	all returning, 3 came to both sessions
1/8/2025	1:00 - 2:30pm	11	1 new, all returning
1/22/2025	5:30 - 7:00pm	10	all returning, 3 came to both sessions
2/5/2025	1:00 - 2:30pm	15	5 new, 10 returning
2/19/2025	5:30 - 7:00pm	10	7 returning, 3 new
3/5/2025	1:00 - 2:30pm		
3/19/2025	5:30 - 7:00pm		
4/2/2025	1:00 - 2:30pm		
4/16/2025	5:30 - 7:00pm		

Poet's Oasis Participant Feedback 2024

1. Lori, Thank you for the opportunity to grow as a creative being. I find your mentoring style reassuring. I have always been interested in words, however I have never written nor read much poetry. Promising myself, I will read something out loud that I have written at the next meeting. W/gratitude - Laurie

2. I so appreciate your encouragement, patience, and preparation for the Oasis project. I have never had this experience before. It is quite wonderful. Thank you.

Jane

3. Hi Lori,

Thank you again so much for creating this space! I am so excited and grateful to be a part of this and to have an opportunity to be a part of the Poet's Oasis Anthology!! So excited!!

I'm excited to see what unfolds. See you soon!

Jessenia

4. Dear Lori, Unfortunately, I injured my knee yesterday and will not be able to come to either session today. If it is not a lot of trouble, I would love to know the prompts for today, as I find your approach so interesting. I wish you very happy holidays and look forward to joining the group in January.

Best regards,

Patricia

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst
Jose Garcia, Library Manager

SUBJECT: PALM DESERT LIBRARY ARTS PROGRAMMING UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file informational report regarding arts programming at the Palm Desert Library.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

At its November 13, 2024, meeting, the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) approved Palm Desert Library staff to oversee art programming at the Library. As part of the City's commitment to fostering an inclusive arts environment, the Palm Desert Library has been identified as a venue for community-oriented art exhibitions. Due to limited space, only small-scale displays, such as those on easels or free-standing structures, are feasible. The goal of this programming is to promote community art and provide accessible opportunities for local talent to showcase their work.

The Palm Desert Library has partnered with several regional arts organizations to highlight local artists. In doing so, the Library is meeting its strategic objectives by celebrating arts & culture and creating community connections.

Artists Council

The Library has partnered with the Artists Council to produce booklists associated with each of its 2024-2025 exhibits. This reciprocal relationship allows the Library and the Artists Council broader awareness of its programming and services.

Coachella Valley Watercolor Society

An ongoing partnership to display one piece of artwork produced by their artist of the month. A short bio and a pamphlet will accompany each piece of artwork. The partnership will provide local artists an additional venue to showcase their work and the Library benefits by enhancing our space.

Desert Cities Art Council

The Library has partnered with the Desert Cities Art Council to produce a Spring and Fall 2025 exhibit. The exact dates are yet to be determined. The partnership will provide local artists with an additional venue to showcase their work and the Library benefits by enhancing its space.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Public Art budget associated with this project.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

CITY OF PALM DESERT

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: 2025 STUDENT ART AND ESSAY CONTEST VINYL ART WRAP
ARTWORK SELECTION

RECOMMENDATION:

Select and approve one artwork from the 2025 Student Art and Essay Contest for vinyl art wrap installation on a traffic signal cabinet.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The annual Student Art and Essay Contest provides an opportunity for all Palm Desert students, K – 12, to participate by submitting class murals, individual artworks, and essays for display at UCR Palm Desert Center. At its regular meeting of July 10, 2024, the Cultural Arts Committee selected the theme *My Favorite Palm Desert Building!* for the 38th annual Student Art and Essay Contest.

Palm Desert schools, grades K – 12, participated by submitting 63 essays, 12 class murals, and 55 individual artworks. All of the artworks were judged, students and teachers were notified, and the awards ceremony was held at UCR Palm Desert Center on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Building on the success of last year's vinyl art wrap competition, the Cultural Arts Committee approved its continuation for the 2025 contest at its July 10, 2024, meeting. Top award winners, as well as first place winners, dependent on appropriate images would potentially have their artworks vinyl wrapped onto traffic signal cabinets.

After review of all submitted artworks, staff has prepared a list of recommended artworks and corresponding locations. Staff is hereby requesting that the Committee select one option from this list for approval of vinyl art wrap installation:

Option 1:

Proposed artwork: Palm Desert High School, 12th Grade, Keira Farmer, 1st place

Proposed location: Fred Waring Drive and College of the Desert

Option 2:

Proposed artwork: Washington Charter School, 4th Grade, Emily Ehsani, 3rd place

Proposed location: Portola Avenue and Highway 111

Option 3:

Proposed artwork: Sacred Heart School, 4th grade, Azalea Fiore, Mayor's Award Individual Art

Proposed location: Fred Waring Drive and Phyllis Jackson Lane

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The estimated cost for the vinyl art wrap is \$3,500 for a traffic signal cabinet. Funding has been included in the FY 24/25 Public Art budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. July 10, 2024, 2025 Student Art and Essay Contest and continuation of Art Wrap Competition Staff Report
2. Proposed artwork and locations for vinyl wrap

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

CITY OF PALM DESERT

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 10, 2024

PREPARED BY: Debbie Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Erica Powell, Management Analyst

REQUEST: SELECT THEME FOR 2025 STUDENT ART AND ESSAY CONTEST

RECOMMENDATION:

Select a theme for the 2025 Student Art and Essay Contest and approve continuation of the vinyl art wrap competition.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The 38th annual Student Art and Essay Contest provides an opportunity for all Palm Desert students, grades K-12, to participate by submitting classroom murals, individual artworks, and essays for public display. After 38 years of being held at Palm Desert City Hall, due to the growth of the event, beginning in 2025, the public display and awards ceremony will be held at University of California Riverside's Palm Desert Center (UCR). All entries submitted will be on display in the University Building (Building B) and the awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 5, at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Building B. Staff is looking forward to holding the events at UCR which will allow for adequate visibility of the artworks and essays and a larger venue for the awards ceremony.

Each year the Cultural Arts Committee is asked to choose a theme for the Student Art and Essay Contest.

Listed below are a few suggested ideas.

- When I feel a raindrop
- When I see a piece of trash
- Palm Desert would be better if...
- My first journey on a train
- How can I help my neighborhood

Staff will begin outreach to all Palm Desert schools at the beginning of the school year, and will work with each school to encourage participation. Entries will be due January 31, 2025 and are scheduled to be on display at UCR from **February 10 through March 28, 2025.**

Due to the success of the vinyl art wrap competition, staff recommends continuation of the competition for the 2025 contest. Once the entries are judged, staff would bring forward the top award winners, as well as the first-place winners, dependent upon appropriate images, for the Cultural Arts Committee members to select an artwork to be placed on a traffic signal cabinet.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Estimated costs for the vinyl art wrap are not to exceed \$5,000 and has already been approved as part of the FY 2024/2025 Public Art budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Past Years' Themes

STUDENT ART & ESSAY CONTEST
PAST YEARS' TITLES

<u>#</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1	1985	Palm Desert Through Children's Eyes
2	1986	Palm Desert Through Children's Eyes
3	1988*	The U.S. Constitution Through Your Eyes
4	1989	Art in Our City Parks
5	1990	Recycling in the 90s – How Palm Desert Makes it Easier
6	1991	Palm Desert – By The Young at Art
7	1992	The Active Life in Palm Desert – 1992
8	1993	Shake, Rattle or Ready?
9	1994	Palm Desert – The Next 20 Years
10	1995	Desert Animals and Their Habitats
11	1996	America Today and Tomorrow
12	1997	If I Could Design Public Art
13	1998	My Favorite Place In Palm Desert
14	1999	Community Services – How Can I/We Help Our Community?
15	2000	I Believe The Most Important Event, Person, or Invention of the Millennium Was....
16	2001	If I Were on the Palm Desert City Council, I Would.....
17	2002	Palm Desert, My All American City
18	2003	Palm Desert Fun Is....
19	2004	Flora and Fauna of the Desert
20	2005	A Day in the Park

21	2006	If I Could Design With Recycled Materials, It Would Be...
22	2007	If I Could Create an Artwork for El Paseo, It Would Be...
23	2008	Solar Energy
24	2009	How Would I Change the World?
25	2010	Palm Desert: Past, Present, Future
26	2011	Trees: Roots for Life
27	2012	My Hopes and Dreams for Palm Desert in 20 Years
28	2013	American Idols: Who is Your Role Model?
29	2014	What I Want To Be...
30	2015	Palm Desert Through My Eyes
31	2016	My Favorite Landmark
32	2017	When the School Bell Rings
33	2018	Surrounded by Nature
34	2019	A Special Memory
35	2020	This Makes Me Smile
36	2023	50 Years of Palm Desert – Where Did We Come From?
37	2024	My Favorite Desert Animal

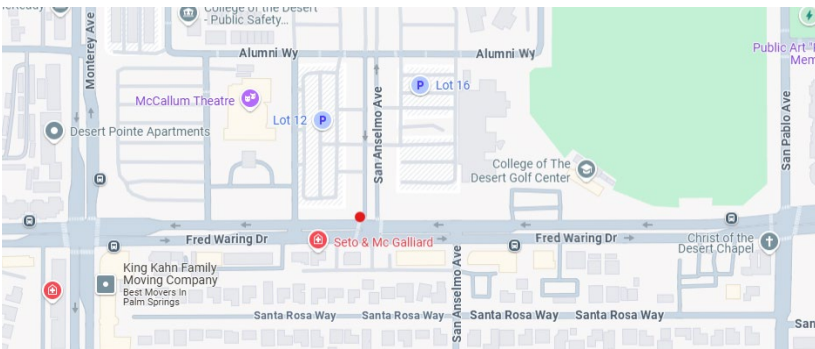
*This contest was held in November 1985 and 1986; however, in November 1987, it was determined that it should be held in the spring of each year instead of the fall/winter months. No contest was held in 1987. No contest was held in 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2025 Palm Desert Student Art and Essay

Proposed artwork and locations for vinyl wrap onto utility cabinets.

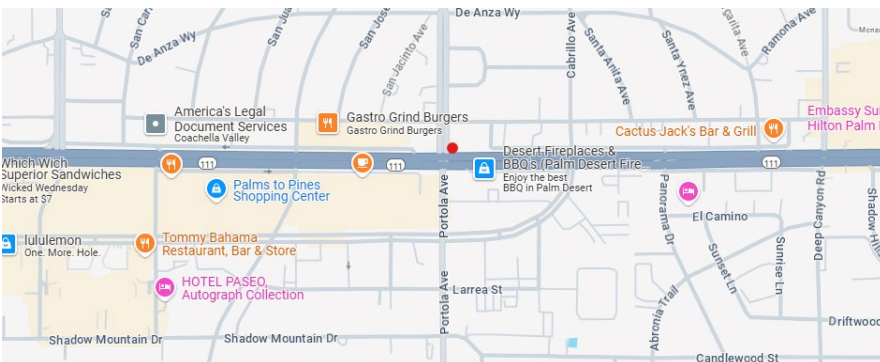
1. **Proposed artwork:** Palm Desert High School 12th Grade, Keira Farmer, 1st place

Proposed location: Fred Waring Drive and College of the Desert



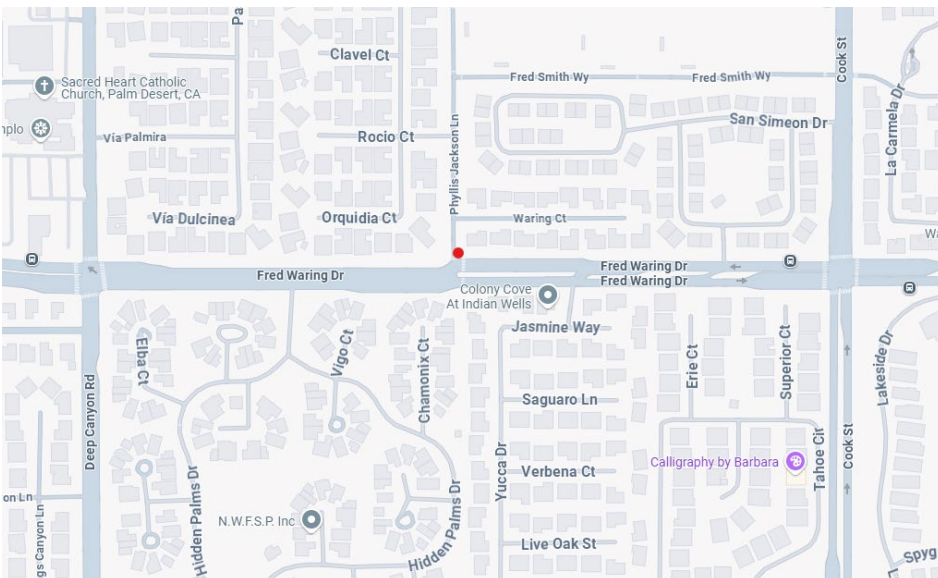
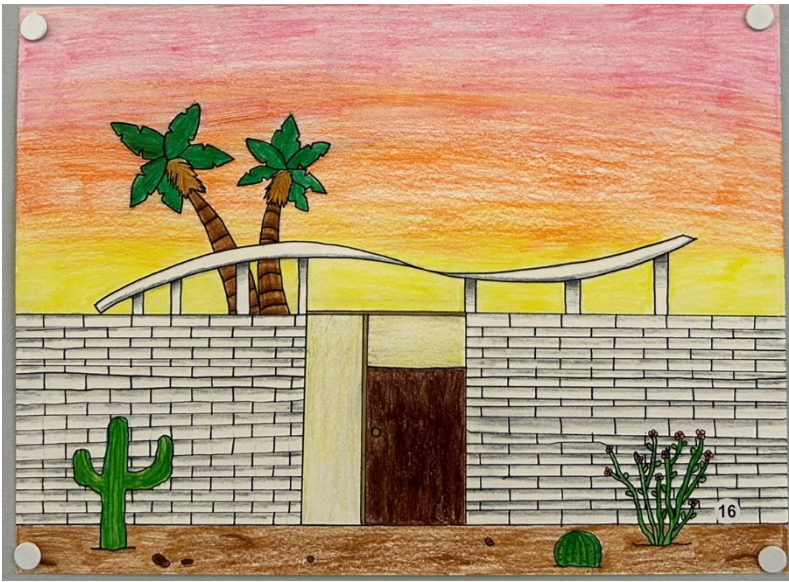
2. **Proposed artwork:** Washington Charter School, 4th Grade, Emily Ehsani, 3rd place

Proposed location: Portola Avenue and Highway 111



3. **Proposed artwork:** Sacred Heart School, 4th grade, Azalea Fiore, Mayor's Award Individual Art

Proposed location: Fred Waring Drive and Phyllis Jackson Lane



CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE

CITY OF PALM DESERT

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: CONSIDER PURCHASE OF RISING INVERSION SCULPTURE

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Council approve expenditure in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of *Rising Inversion* by artist Cristopher Cichocki (cha-house-key), to be installed in Ironwood Park, upon approval of grant funding from the Arts in California Parks program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

At its October 9, 2024, meeting, the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) reviewed the potential acquisition of *Rising Inversion* for inclusion in the City's Public Art program. The artist, Cristopher Cichocki, presented details about the sculpture, and staff introduced a matching grant opportunity through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town program, which supports projects integrating arts, culture, and design into community development. However, the City's application was deemed ineligible due to administrative criteria.

Staff identified an alternative funding source for this project through the Arts in California Parks grant program, which opened on February 18, 2025. The Letter of Intent is due March 19, 2025. This grant supports early-stage project development, emphasizing partnerships, community engagement, and planning.

Originally commissioned for the Laguna Art Museum's 11th annual Art & Nature program, *Rising Inversion* is a 3,000-pound sculpture measuring 12 feet tall by 40 feet long, with a depth ranging from five feet at the center to one foot at the edges, creating a visually striking, spherical form. The artwork is coated with a phosphorescent pigment, allowing it to absorb sunlight during the day and emit a soft glow at dusk, gradually fading as the evening progresses.

The suggested location for the installation of *Rising Inversion* at Ironwood Park is in a secluded desert area, allowing the land art to merge nature with creativity. This innovative installation would also bring public art to a park that currently has none.

Staff is seeking the CAC's support to recommend that the City Council approve matching funds for the purchase and installation of *Rising Inversion* at Ironwood Park, located at 47800 Chia Drive, contingent on approval of grant funding from the Arts in California Parks program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

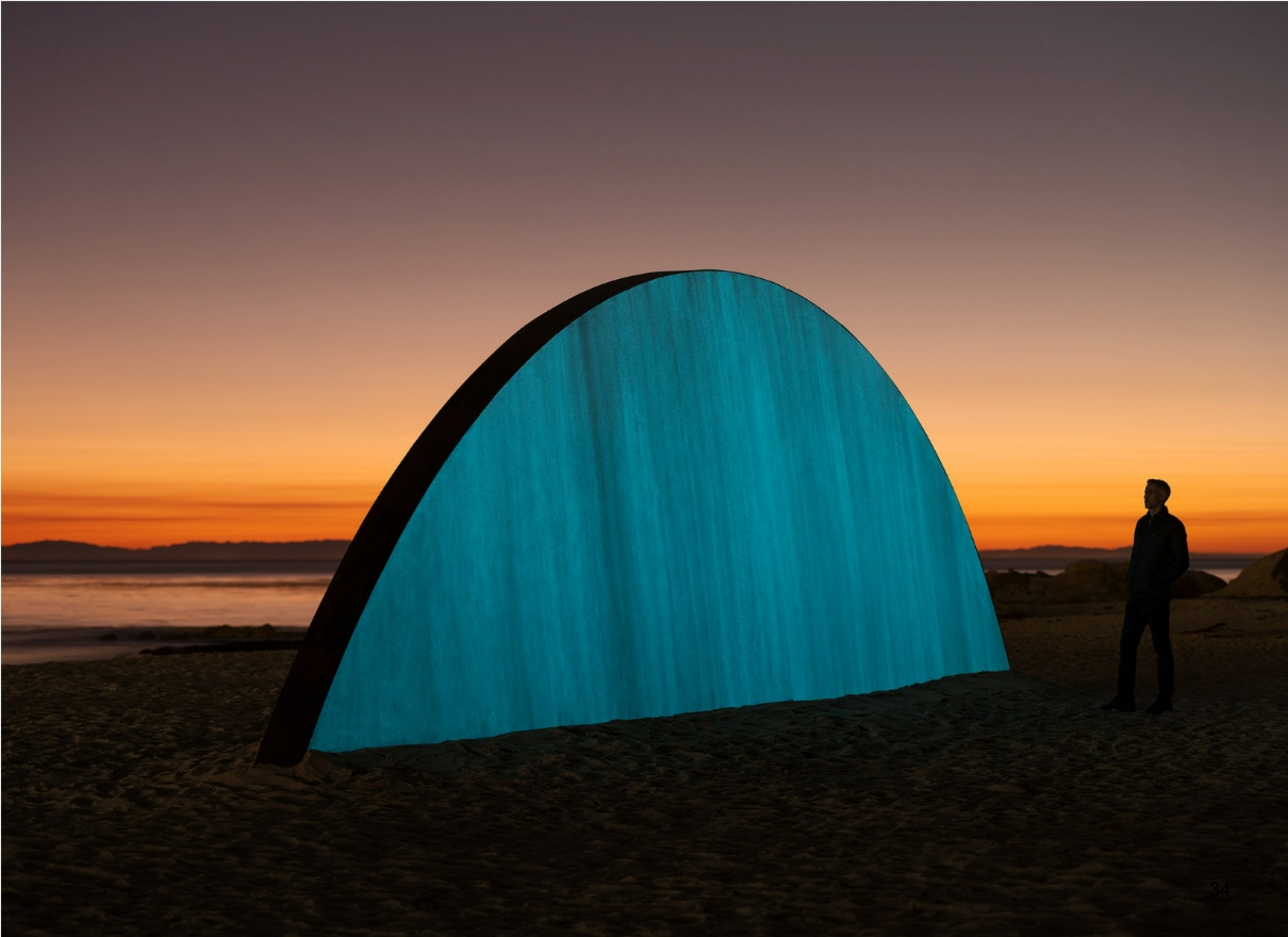
The total project cost, including acquisition and installation, is estimated at \$200,000. If the City is awarded the Arts in California Parks grant, staff recommends allocating \$100,000 from the Public Art Fund to meet the required matching contribution.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation of Rising Inversion by Cristopher Cichocki
2. Arts in California Parks Grant Program Information
3. *Rising Inversion* Proposed Location at Ironwood Park

CRISTOPHER CICHOCKI

RISING INVERSION











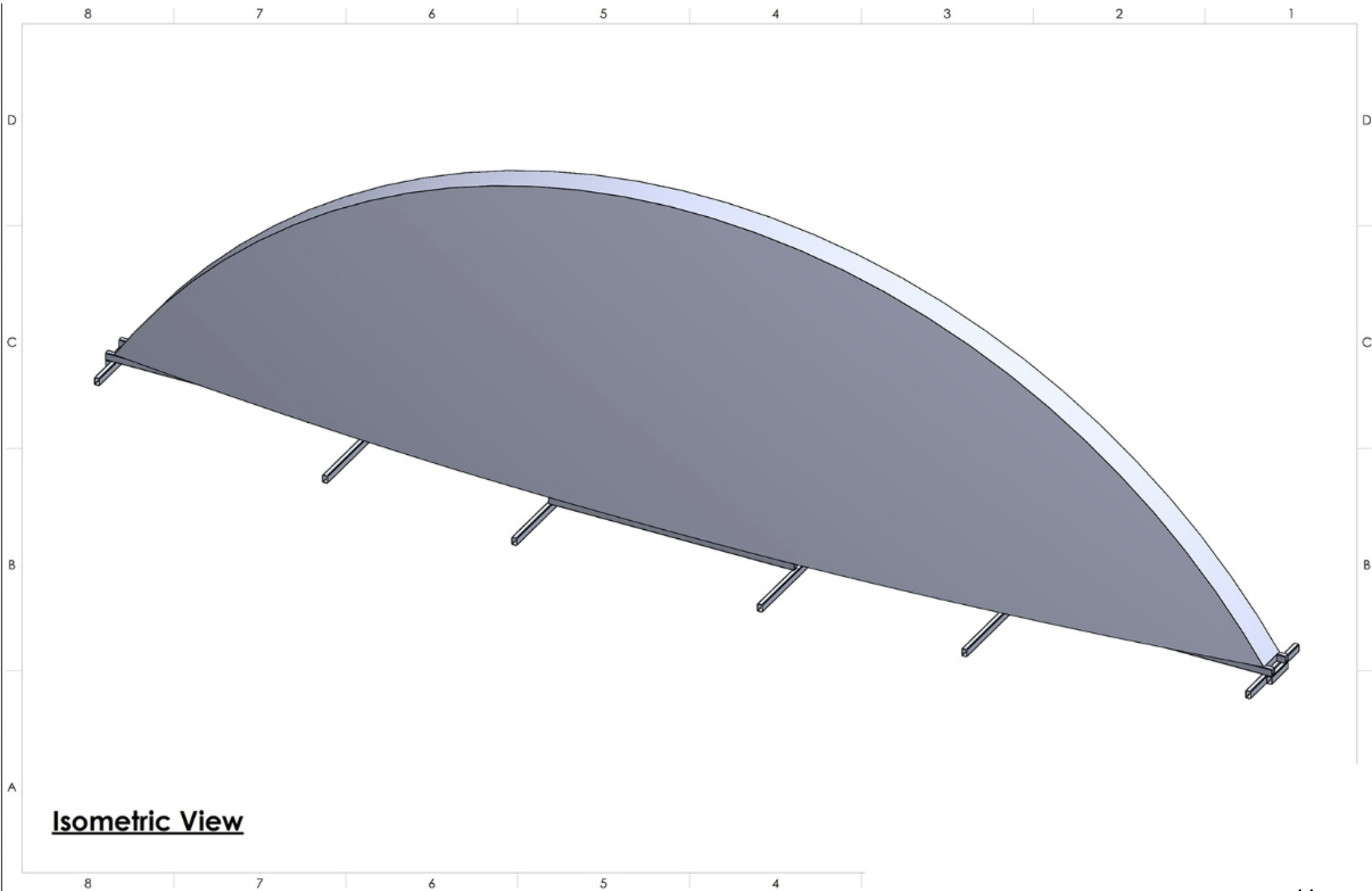


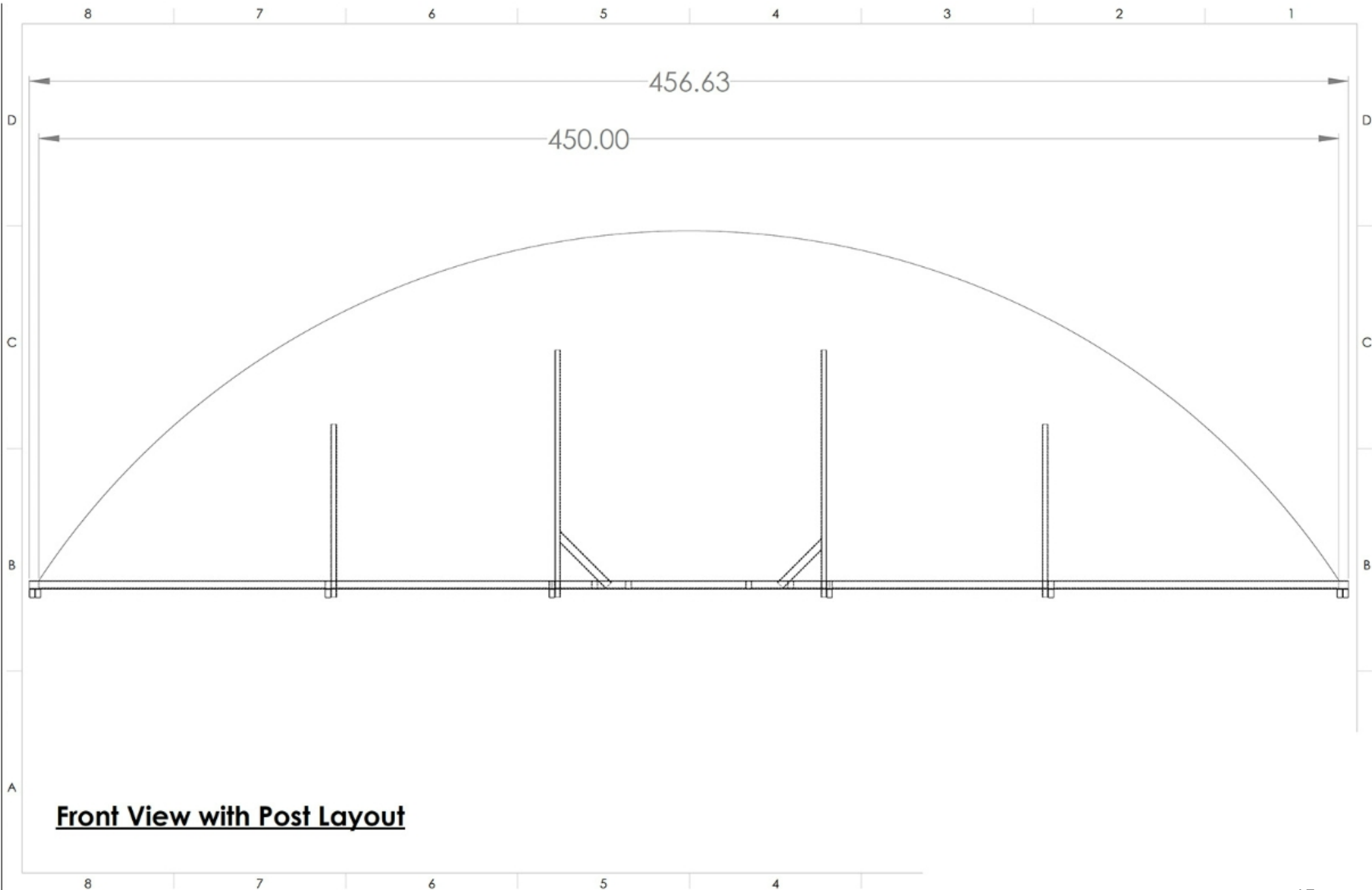


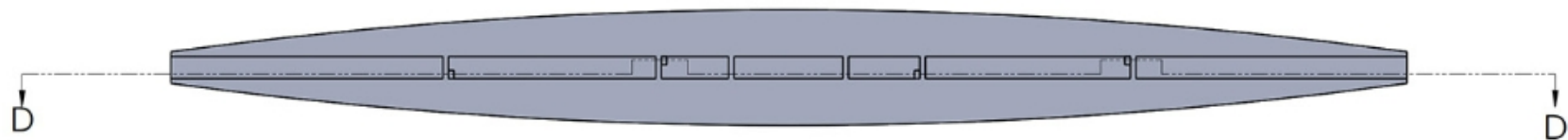
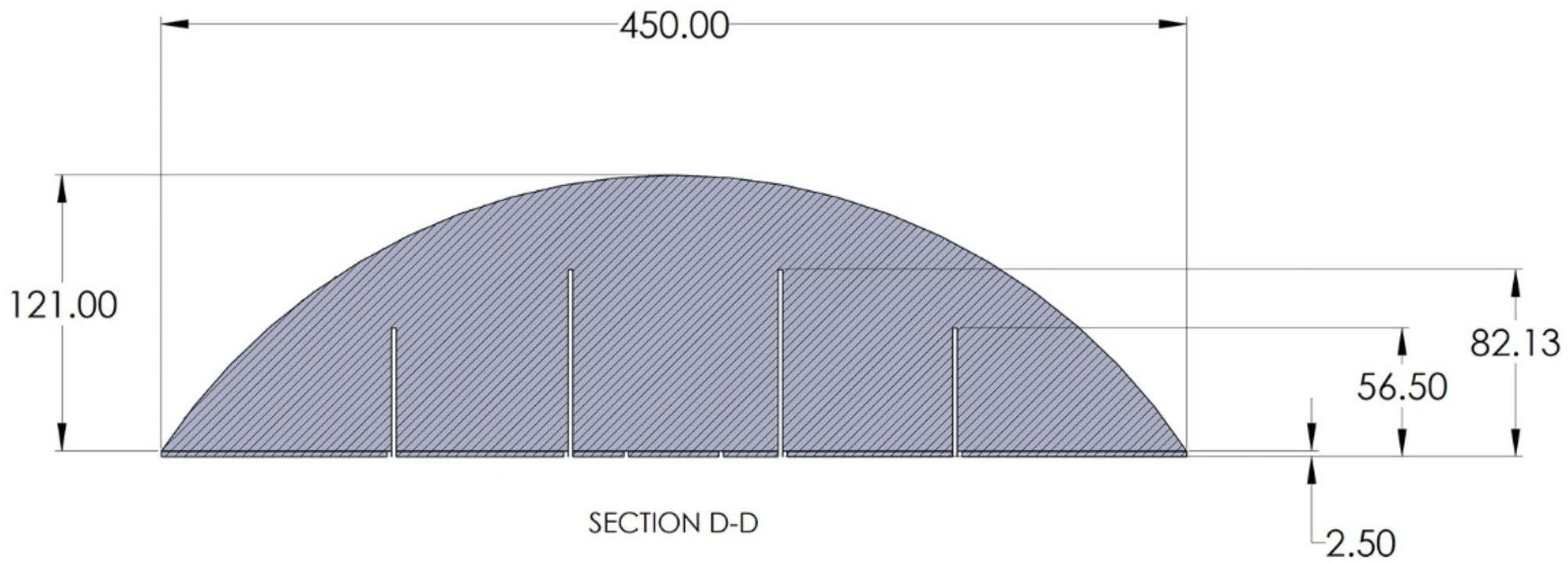




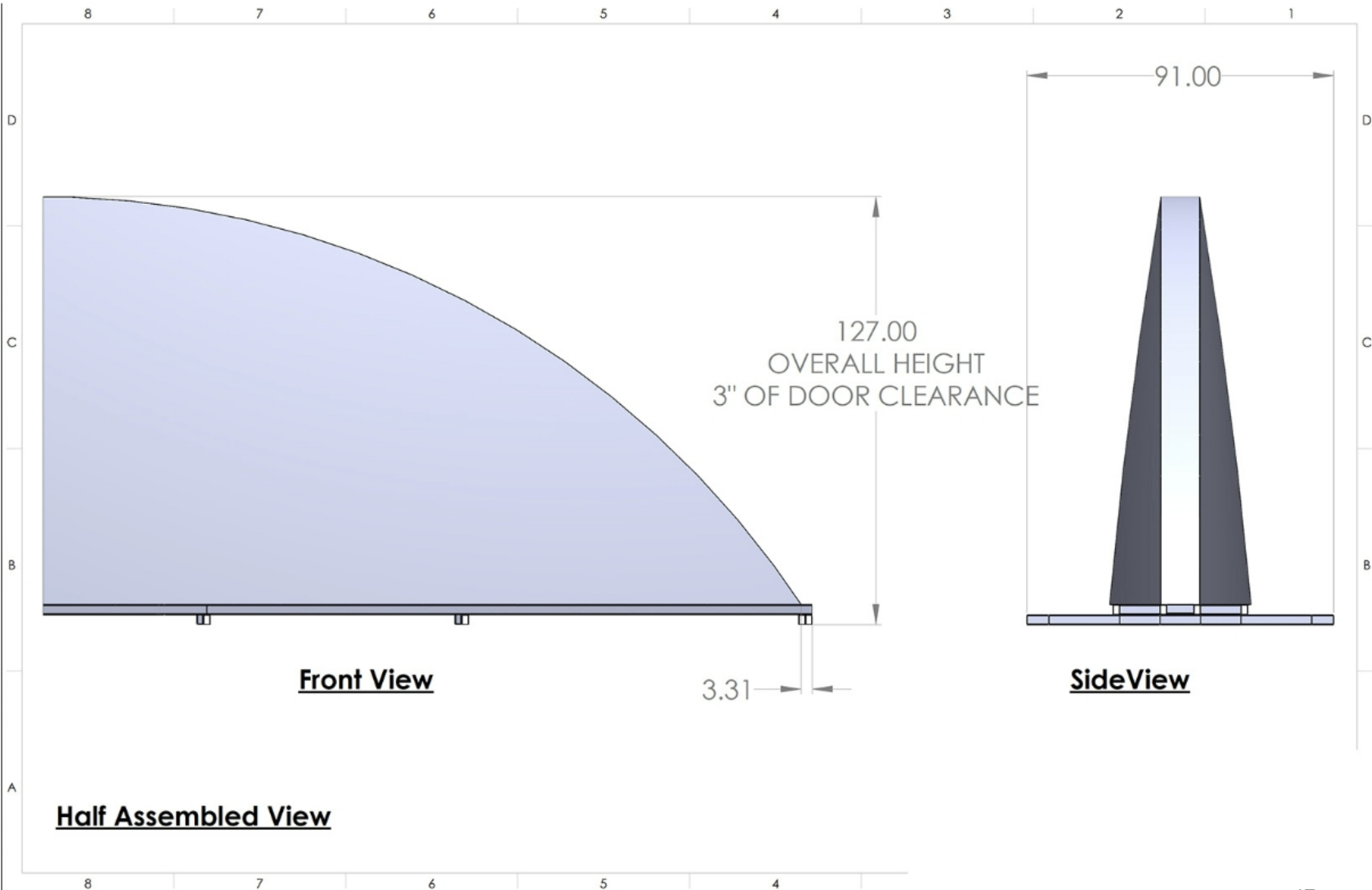


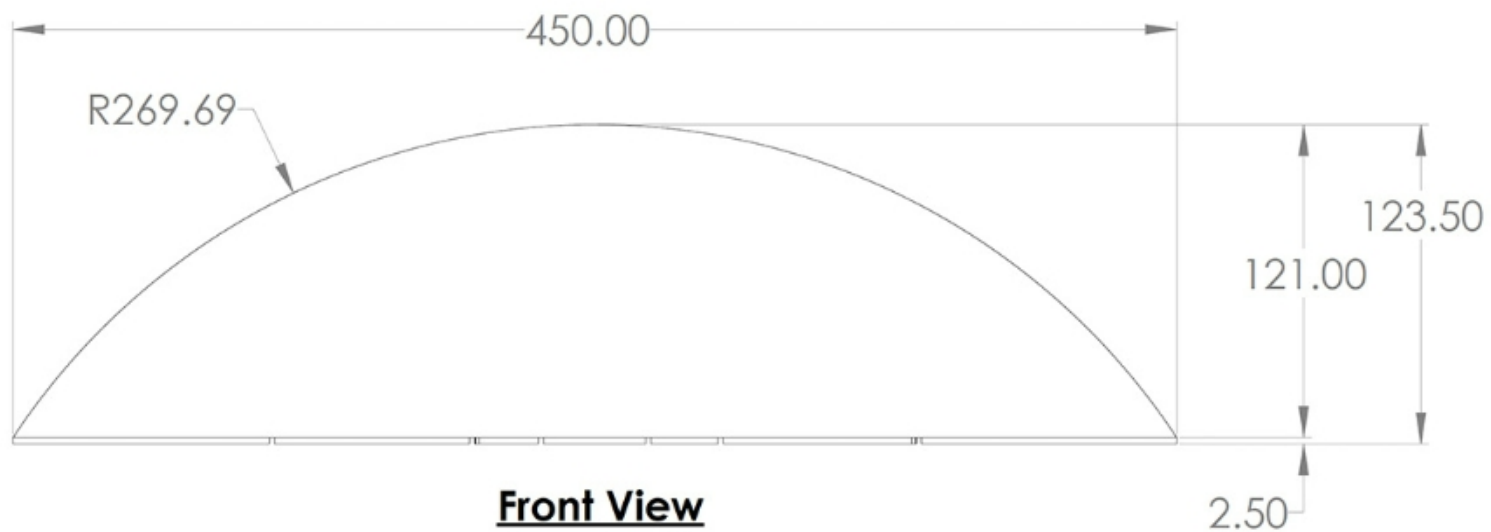
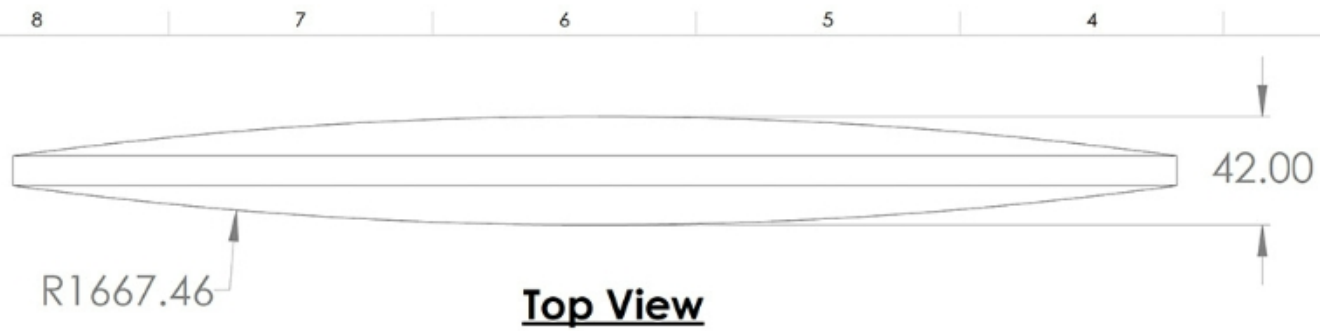






Bottom View







Arts in California Parks

Grants Program Information

The Arts in California Parks Grants Program revitalizes local parks with diverse experiences that foster creativity, community connection, and transform them into vibrant hubs of art, culture, and nature.

In 2024, more than \$2.8 million was invested to support 31 grant recipients across California. These innovative programs will bring art and cultural activities to local parks, transforming them into dynamic spaces that celebrate California’s cultural heritage and provide memorable experiences for visitors and residents alike.

Regional Approach

Parks California will use a regional approach to support equitable distribution of grant funds.

At least two projects will be funded per region shown on the 2025/26 Grants Program Regional Map. Proposals will be ranked within their region before moving to the next stage. This process will focus efforts on traditionally underrepresented regions, including the North Coast, Sacramento Valley, Sierra Nevada, Central Coast, Central Valley, Inland Desert, and California Native American tribes’ ancestral lands. The final selection process will ensure that recommendations represent regions across the state.

2025/2026 Grant Tracks

Grant	Objective
Planning & Development Grants 8-month grant cycle from October 2025 – May 2026	Support early-stage project development; focus on building partnerships, artist selection and developing project plans.
Implementation Grants 12-month grant cycle from October 2025 – September 2026	Supports the execution of art and cultural programs with community engagement and a well-defined partnership.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

501(c)3 organizations, California Native American Tribes, Native 7871 Organizations, Land Trusts, Fiscally Sponsored Community Organizations, Community Foundations, and Government Agencies (excluding California State Parks and Federal Lands).

In order to qualify for this grant program, projects must:

- Integrate art and nature as a catalyst for community connection in local parks.
- Be free and open to the public.

2025 Grant Timeline

- Friday, March 14 at 5:00p.m.
Letter of Intent deadline
- May 2025
Invitations sent to approved Letter of Intent applicants to submit full proposals
- October 2025
Grantee announcements

Proposed location for installation of *Rising Inversion* – Ironwood Park, 47800 Chia Drive





View from concrete path in park.



**CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION ON INCREASED CONTRACT AMOUNT
FOR DUELING PALMS SCULPTURE

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Council authorize an increase in the amount of \$106,267.25 to the contract with artist Kyle Absolom for *Dueling Palms* sculpture.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

In August 2021, following public input and Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) discussions, the City Council identified *Dueling Palms* by artist Kyle Absolom as the preferred sculpture for installation in the San Pablo roundabout at the entrance to College of the Desert. This sculpture was submitted in response to a Call for Entries for the San Pablo Phase 1 roundabout posted in 2020 with a submittal deadline of March 31, 2021. The artist fee at that time was \$125,000.

On July 11, 2024, the City Council approved an artist fee for the design, fabrication, and delivery of *Dueling Palms* in the amount of \$169,500, based on the increased cost of materials since the 2021 proposal was submitted. However, on January 26, 2025, the artist informed staff that the significant rise in material costs was impacting the project, and alternative approaches to the design would be required to move forward. Rather than compromise the integrity of the original design, which has already been vetted by the public, the CAC, and the City Council, the artist is requesting a budget adjustment in the amount of \$106,127.25.

The artist understands that this is the final chance to increase the cost of the contract. All future requests will be denied.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If approved, the total artist fee for the design, fabrication, and delivery of the sculpture would increase to \$275,767.25. This is an increase of \$150,767.25 from the 2021 proposal. Additionally, \$130,500 was allocated for installation, including site preparation, foundations, lighting, and electrical, bringing the total project budget from \$300,000 in 2021 to \$406,267.25.

Funds are available in the Public Art budget, and no General Fund monies will be expended.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from Kyle Absolom
2. Updated rendering of *Dueling Palms*

Cultural Arts Committee

City of Palm Desert

(Request for Direction on Increased Contract Amount for Dueling Palms Sculpture)

3. Original sculpture proposal rendering of *Dueling Palms*
4. Location of roundabout at entrance to College of the Desert and San Pablo Avenue

Kyle Absolom
11241 Laurie Dr.
Studio City, CA 91604

City of Palm Desert
Attn: Erica Powell, Public Art
73510 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Dear Art Committee Members,

I am writing to formally request an increase in the budget for my public art sculpture project, originally approved by the committee, Dueling Palms. This request is necessitated by the recent increases in tariffs and steel costs, which have significantly impacted the overall expenses associated with the project.

As you may be aware, the recent changes in trade policies have led to a rise in the cost of materials, particularly metals, which are crucial for the construction of this sculpture. Despite these challenges, I want to assure you that I have maintained the original design and integrity of the artwork. My commitment to preserving the vision and concept of the sculpture remains unwavering, and I believe it is essential to uphold the artistic intent that was initially presented to the committee.

In an effort to mitigate the financial impact of these unforeseen costs, I have also made the decision to reduce my artist fees from 20% to 10%. This reduction reflects my dedication to the project and my understanding of the current budget constraints. I am fully committed to ensuring that this sculpture not only meets the artistic standards we aspire to but also remains a valuable addition to our community.

I appreciate your understanding and consideration of this request. I believe that with the necessary adjustments to the budget, we can successfully bring this important piece of public art to fruition, enriching our community and inspiring those who experience it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your favorable response and am happy to provide any additional information or clarification needed.

Warm regards,

Kyle Absolom

***Dueling Palms* by Kyle Absolom**

Rendered Images, November 2024







Original Design Rendering, 2021

Dueling Palms by Kyle Absolom



San Pablo Phase II Roundabout

Location: San Pablo and entrances to College of the Desert/YMCA





Cultural Arts Committee

Year	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	Total Absences	
Month	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	July	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb			
Day	8	11	13	9	11		10	12	8	10	13	14		Unexcused	Excused
Adney, Carol	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P		0	0
Boren, Maureen	-	P	P	P	P	-	E	E	P	P	P	P		0	2
Flint, Lori	-	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	P		0	1
Hauer, Liz	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P		0	0
Mitze, Tom	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P		0	0
Rose, Pia	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	P		0	1
Simley, Ann	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P		0	0
Stone Kristen Olson (Alt.)	-	P	P	A	A	-	P	P	P	P	A	A		NA	NA

Palm Desert Municipal Code 2.34.010

Monthly: Three unexcused absences from regular meeting in any twelve-month period shall constitute an automatic resignation of members holding office on boards that meet bimonthly.

Please contact the Recording Secretary to discuss any attendance concerns.

P Present

P Remote

A Absent

E Excused

- No Meeting

Resigned/Not Yet Appointed