

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: May 9, 2024

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

REQUEST: APPROVAL OF EIGHTEEN (18) SCULPTURES AND SIX (6) ALTERNATE  
SCULPTURES FOR THE 2025/2026 EL PASEO SCULPTURE  
EXHIBITION

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve eighteen (18) sculptures and six (6) alternate sculptures for the 2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition.
2. Approve honorarium of \$5,000 for each of the participating artists.
3. Authorize staff to finalize negotiations of the subject contracts with the eighteen (18) artists and authorize City Manager to execute same, subject to the satisfaction of the City Attorney.
4. Authorize City Manager to make changes to sculpture selection based on staff recommendation.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition was developed in 1992 by the Palm Desert City Council in an effort to draw people to both El Paseo and the City. The Exhibition, which is open to artists in the USA, Canada, and Mexico, rotates every two (2) years and is located on the medians on El Paseo between Highway 74 and Portola Avenue.

At its meeting of September 13, 2023, the Cultural Arts Committee authorized staff to seek proposals for artwork to display during the 2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition. The Call for Artists was promoted both locally and nationally for a period of three months which resulted in approximately 96 submittals by artists from all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

At its March 13 and April 10, 2024, meetings, the Cultural Arts Committee reviewed all proposals and selected the following eighteen (18) sculptures and six (6) alternates for the 2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition:

1. *Nine Ancestral Feathers* by Adrian Susnea Litman (Santa Rosa, CA)
2. *Ode to Calder II* by Chris Rench (Hood River, OR)
3. *Growing Wings* by Hilde DeBruyne (Cumming, IA)
4. *In My Element* by Lovemore Bonjisi (Palm Desert, CA)
5. *Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Patricia Vader (Martinez, CA)
6. *Champion* by Russell Whiting (Breaux Bridge, LA)
7. *Over the Falls* by Alex Gall (Vista, CA)
8. *Mirale Towers* by Charles Sherman (Van Nuys, CA)
9. *Vortex of Creation* by Ivan Butorac (Los Angeles, CA)
10. *Gilded Godiva* by Karen & Tony Barone (Rancho Mirage, CA)
11. *Extended Expanse* by Jennifer Kapnek (Portland, OR)

12. *Artemis* by Lyle London (Tempe, AZ)
13. *Tickets Please* by Stephen Landis (Loveland, CO)
14. *Spiral 1-2* by Ray Katz (Pontiac, MI)
15. *Water Totem* by Anne Faithe Nicholls (Palm Springs, CA)
16. *Living Steel* by Diego Harris (Upper Lake, CA)
17. *Hopes and Dreams* by Tim Shockley (Palm Desert, CA)
18. *Human Nature* by Art Garcia (Dallas, TX) – Pad 16

Alternates (in case artists above are unable to participate)

1. *Rattlesnake Shake* by Jimmy Descant (Tucson, AZ)
2. *Mind the Gap* by Aaron Alderman (Brevard, NC)
3. *Spiral Dance* by Harold Linke (Lake Oswego, OR)
4. *Life Leaf* by Hilde DeBruyne (Cumming, IA)
5. *Resolve* by Steve Grater (Tucson, AZ)
6. *Flora* by Ray Katz – (Pontiac, MI) Pad 16

**Strategic Plan:**

Palm Desert’s public art program, particularly the El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition, creates a better community for residents and visitors to Palm Desert. This concept is in line with the Arts & Culture Mini-Vision of the 2013-2033 Strategic Plan, *Envision Palm Desert – Forward Together* which states:

“Arts and culture give a community its soul. Palm Desert is the cultural core of the Coachella Valley. Cultural tourism drives economic growth in Palm Desert. The community is host to internationally recognized cultural events that bring significant economic benefits to the City. Palm Desert is a leader in arts education, ensuring a well-rounded population that possesses high levels of creativity and critical thinking skills.”

**Appointed Body Recommendation:**

At its regularly scheduled April 10, 2024, meeting, the Cultural Arts Committee voted unanimously to approve eighteen (18) sculptures and six (6) alternates for the 2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Costs associated with the preparation of the 2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition, including artwork honorariums in the amount of \$5,000 for each of the eighteen (18) artists (total of \$90,000), de-installation and installation costs, marketing, etc. has been requested as part of the FY 2024/2025 Public Art Budget (Fund 436). There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund associated with this request.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2025/2026 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition Selections
2. Draft Contract