

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2024

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

REQUEST: APPROVE SAN PABLO PHASE II ROUNDABOUT ARTWORK ON SAN PABLO AVE AND EAST ENTRANCE TO COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve Agreement, in substantial form, for design, engineering, fabrication, and delivery of the sculpture titled *Dueling Palms* as proposed by artist Kyle Absolom in an amount not to exceed \$169,500.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the contract for *Dueling Palms*, subject to review by the City attorney, and all other documents related to the installation of artwork.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

In 2020, the City released a call for proposals for the installation of artwork to be installed at the round-a-bout located at San Pablo Avenue and San Gorgonio Way. Nearly 200 proposals were received and on July 14, 2021, the Art in Public Places (AIPP) Commission (now Cultural Arts Committee) narrowed the choice down to two (2) artists:

- Kyle Absolom's *Dueling Palms*
- Donald Gialanella's *Sunburst*

On August 26, 2021, the City Council directed staff to seek public input as to which sculpture should be installed in the round-a-bout. Although *Sunburst* was ultimately selected for that location, public input suggested, and the Cultural Arts Committee (CAC) supported, the idea of installing *Dueling Palms* in the round-a-bout located at San Pablo Avenue and the entrance to the College of the Desert.

Dueling Palms is a red, abstract metal palm tree, originally 32 feet long and 14 feet, 9 inches tall; however, the artist is exploring a 20% reduction of the sculpture for better visibility. Updated renderings and technical drawings will be provided, and staff will collaborate with the artist and the City's Public Works team for final approval. Installation costs are estimated at \$130,500. Maintenance will include regular cleanings and periodic repainting by the City's art maintenance contractor.

Appointed Body Recommendation:

At its regular meeting of June 12, 2024, the CAC unanimously recommended that the City Council approve the installation of *Dueling Palms* in the round-a-bout located on San Pablo Avenue and at the entrance to the College of the Desert.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds in the amount of \$300,000 are available in Public Art Account No. 4364650-4400100 for this project. There is no impact to the General Fund with this action.

Description	Amount
FY 2024-25 AIPP Budget	\$300,000
Dueling Palms Sculpture	(169,500)
Estimated Installation Costs	(130,500)
Balance	\$0

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2021 Proposal for *Dueling Palms*
2. 2024 Updated Proposal for *Dueling Palms*
3. Location images
4. San Pablo Phase II Roundabout DRAFT Agreement