

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: August 22, 2024

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWO SCULPTURES FROM THE  
2023/24 EL PASEO SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve the purchase of *The Seeker* by Delos Van Earl in the amount of \$12,000, and *SWIRLY GIRL (Female Superhero)* by Karen & Tony Barone in the amount of \$17,700 from the 2023/24 El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition for inclusion in the City of Palm Desert's permanent public art collection.
2. Authorize the City Attorney to make necessary nonmonetary changes to the agreements.
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and any written requests for change orders, amendments, and any other documents necessary to effectuate this action, in accordance with Section 3.30.170 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The City of Palm Desert occasionally purchases artwork from its El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition to enhance to the beauty of the city, elevate the prestige of its public art collection, and serve as an incentive to artists to participate in future exhibits.

At its regular meeting of June 12, 2024, the Cultural Arts Committee recommended purchasing two sculptures featured in the El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition:

- *The Seeker* by Delos Van Earl, and
- *SWIRLY GIRL (Female Superhero)* by Karen & Tony Barone

Sculpture descriptions and recommended installation locations are listed below.

### ***The Seeker* by Yucca Valley artist Delos Van Earl**

- *The Seeker* stands at 12' tall. The vertical form is made of steel and covered in an oil enamel. The artist describes *The Seeker* as an alien, a space man, a bird or a reptilian form. The vertical form stems from the artist growing up in the northwest and being raised in a logging family.
- Recommended installation location is on the west end of El Paseo, near the stop sign behind Ross Dress for Less (where the *Recycle* sculpture currently is placed).

### ***SWIRLY GIRL (Female Superhero)* by Rancho Mirage artists Karen & Tony Barone**

- *SWIRLY GIRL (Female Superhero)* is a futuristic female superhero, confidently posed and ready for action. The 8' tall painted aluminum sculpture stands firmly on an arched base, with her arms in a power pose. Female superheroes are a frequently explored theme in the Barone's portfolio of work.

- The recommended installation location is in the Portola Avenue median, between Gerald Ford Drive and Dinah Shore Drive.

If both purchases are approved, the sculptures will remain in place as part of the El Paseo Sculpture Exhibition until October 2024, after which they will be relocated and installed at their permanent location.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The purchase price for *The Seeker* is \$12,000 and *SWIRLY GIRL* is \$17,700 for a total purchase price of \$29,700. Additional costs associated with this request include pad fabrication, artwork installation, lighting, electrical installation, and other incidental costs which should not exceed \$6,500. Funds are available in the 2024/25 Public Art Budget, Account Number 4364650-4400100. There is no impact to the General Fund with this action.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Images of Recommended Purchases and Proposed Installation Locations
2. Draft Contract for purchase of *The Seeker* by Delos Van Earl
3. Draft Contract for purchase *SWIRLY GIRL (Female Superhero)* by Karen & Tony Barone