

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 22, 2026

PREPARED BY: Erica Powell, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: APPROVE TEN-YEAR LOAN AGREEMENT WITH GOLDENVOICE FOR
INSTALLATION OF 'TAFFY' ARTWORK BY STEPHANIE LIN AT CIVIC
CENTER PARK

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve a ten-year artwork Loan Agreement with Goldenvoice for the installation of *Taffy* by Stephanie Lin at Civic Center Park.
2. Approve expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$180,070 payable to Goldenvoice for Artwork and installation costs.
3. Authorize the City Attorney to make non-monetary changes to the contract.
4. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and any other documents necessary to complete the project.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On November 13, 2025, staff presented a study session to the City Council regarding a proposed ten-year loan agreement with Goldenvoice for the installation of *Taffy* by Stephanie Lin at Civic Center Park. Staff identified the area south of the Skate Park and north of City Hall at Civic Center Park as a potential location. The site offers high visibility from San Pablo Avenue, convenient access from public parking, and strong integration with the City's civic and cultural corridor.

Goldenvoice's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival is internationally recognized for commissioning large-scale, interactive public artworks that integrate shade and seating with the festival environment while celebrating desert aesthetics. Following each festival, selected works such as *Taffy* are deinstalled and made available for extended public exhibition throughout the Coachella Valley.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Taffy is an immersive sculptural installation composed of five vertical towers (ranging from 25 to 50 feet tall) constructed of lightweight framing wrapped in translucent, scalloped mesh fabric. The towers shift in color and tone as sunlight passes through, evoking Palm Desert's midcentury design palette. Integrated circular benches provide shaded seating and an inviting gathering space for park visitors.

Under the proposed terms, Goldenvoice would retain ownership of *Taffy* and, through The Public Art Company (PAC), manage all transportation, installation, and maintenance for the duration of the lease. Additionally, the City shall reimburse Goldenvoice for artwork maintenance expenses

in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per fiscal year. The City would prepare the site providing lighting, landscaping, foundation work, benches and coordinate ongoing site upkeep.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s Office.

Appointed Body Recommendation:

At its regular meeting on July 9, 2025, the Cultural Arts Committee voted 6–1 to recommend City Council approval of a ten-year loan agreement for *Taffy* by artist Stephanie Lin for installation at Civic Center Park, including City-funded site enhancements.

The Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed the proposal on August 5, 2025, and expressed favorable feedback.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The total project cost is not expected to exceed \$300,000 and will be funded entirely through the FY 2025/26 Public Art Capital Projects Account No. 4364650-4400100.

Artwork and Installation Costs	
Artist and The Public Art Company (PAC) Fee	\$68,500
Estimated transportation and installation costs	\$95,200
10% contingency	\$16,370
Subtotal	\$180,070

Estimated City Site Enhancement Costs	
Landscaping, lighting, benches, foundations, etc.	\$119,930
Total	\$300,000

The City will reimburse Goldenvoice up to \$5,000 annually for artwork maintenance. Maintenance expenses will be budgeted for annually in the Public Art Repair and Maintenance Account No. 4364650-4337200.

No General Fund dollars will be used for this project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Artwork Loan Agreement- Goldenvoice, LLC
2. Study Session Presentation, November 13, 2025

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AWARENESS CHECKLIST:

- Site-Specific Property Interest** – Councilmembers should check if they own or lease real property within 1,000 feet of the project site (Gov. Code § 87103(b); FPPC Reg. 18702.2).

- SB 1439 Applicability (Campaign Contributions)** – Applies to licenses, permits, or other entitlements for use, and to contracts or franchise agreements other than competitively bid, labor, or personal employment contracts.

Applicant(s)/Appellant(s): _____

Councilmembers should review any campaign contributions received within the last 12 months from parties or participants to the proceeding and must not accept contributions over \$500 from those parties for 12 months following the final decision (Gov. Code § 84308).

Note: These indicators are informational and do not constitute a legal determination. Each Councilmember is responsible for identifying and disclosing any disqualifying interests in accordance with the Political Reform Act and FPPC regulations.