



City of Culver City

Mike Balkman
Council Chambers
9770 Culver Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 253-5851

Staff Report

File #: 21-690, **Version:** 1

Item #: C-6.

CC - 1) Approval of a 12-Month Extension of the New Programming for *Culver Current*, a Temporary Artwork in City Hall Courtyard; and 2) Approval of an Amendment to the Existing Professional Services Agreement with Nate Mohler in an Amount Not-To-Exceed \$48,000.

Meeting Date: February 22, 2021

Contact Person/Dept: B. Christine Byers / Administrative Services - Cultural Affairs

Phone Number: (310) 253-6003

Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐

General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒

Public Hearing: ☐

Action Item: ☐

Attachments: ☒

Public Notification: (E-Mail) Meetings and Agendas - City Council (02/17/2021)

Department Approval: Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager (02/15/2021)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council (1) approve a 12-month extension of the new programming for *Culver Current*; and, (2) approve an amendment to the existing professional services agreement with Nate Mohler in an amount not-to-exceed \$48,000.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

On September 9, 2019, the City Council approved a concept by artist Nate Mohler for a temporary art installation for City Hall courtyard titled, *Culver Current*. The “digital fountain” was to be installed over a non-operational water feature and remain in situ through December 2020.

Mr. Mohler’s original contract for fabrication and maintenance of the artwork for one year was for an amount not-to-exceed \$55,000.00. A then recent UCLA graduate with a B.A. in Design and Media Arts, this was Mr. Mohler’s first public art installation and many of the materials and much of the labor was donated in order to realize the project within the approved budget.

With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic into 2021 and certain City capital projects deferred including an upgrade of the City Hall courtyard, staff asked Mr. Mohler for a cost estimate for

extending the installation of *Culver Current* for another year which would capitalize on the artist's and the City's investment in the project to date and continue to activate the front of City Hall in the evening hours.

The attached proposal was prepared at the end of last year and is for a total of \$47,634. The proposal includes costs associated with necessary hardware/software upgrades, equipment for better monitoring and controlling the sculpture's performance remotely, and two new Culver City specific visual programs. Staff proposes rounding the total up to \$48,000 to cover any unforeseen costs.

Culver Current has been well received since its unveiling in December 2019. Staff and the artist still plan on organizing an educational event for 2021 that would include youth and students interested in digital arts as part of this temporary installation.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Costs for this project are covered entirely by the Cultural Trust Fund (Fund 413). There is currently \$50,000 available in account 41322400.619800 PZ676 (Temporary Art Displays) for FY 2020-2021.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 21-02-22_ATT_Proposal - *Culver Current 2021*

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S)

That the City Council:

1. Approve a 12-month extension of the new programming for *Culver Current*; and,
2. Approve an amendment to the existing professional services agreement with Nate Mohler in an amount not-to-exceed \$48,000; and,
3. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and
4. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.