



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: Michael Ogilvie

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 30, 2023

Council District: 3

SUBJECT: Design Proposal for artwork by Paul J. Gonzalez along the William Street Bridge over Coyote Creek, a project of Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful

RECOMMENDATION

Review and take action on the recommendation to approve the concept design proposal by Paul J. Gonzalez for an artwork treatment on the Washington St. Bridge over Coyote Creek, a project of Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful.

BUDGET

No funding provided by City, not a City project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful (KCCB) is working with San José artist Paul J. Gonzalez to restore and create artwork elements along the street-facing sides of the William Street Bridge. The Williams Street bridge crosses over the Coyote Creek, one of San José's important downtown waterways. The focus of this project is to bring attention and awareness to the public and local neighboring communities that Coyote Creek continues to flow and that it supports an array of natural habitats.

An important goal of the project is to refurbish and beautify the William Street Bridge with new paint and by adding simple visual elements referencing the Coyote Creek that flows beneath the bridge. This project will be a repainting of the bridge. It was previously painted by neighborhood volunteers, a project that was approved by the City in 2008; as a reference resource, they still have the original photos and design from that time. The bridge's structural design has vertical, rectangular, "window" shapes inset along its length; simple design elements of the Coyote Creek such as water, layers of soil, native tree leaves, local flowers, local animals track prints and more will be painted in these. The bridge's overall structure will be painted with updated colors that will connect with the neighborhood's historic style, using harmoniously balanced colors intended to delight the viewer while not distracting drivers.

The artwork and bridge painting will be done by the artist with involvement of community members. KCCB and artist Paul J. Gonzalez have scheduled a community paint day for Sunday, June 4th. Painters will not take up a lot of space but, to ensure safety, KCCB will have guides to help pedestrians walk across the bridge safely while it is being painted.

BACKGROUND

Coyote Creek has been very important to the Ohlone people who have lived here for many millennia, and it is still vital for the Ohlone and other peoples who are thriving in San José today. It is an important water source, is part of our water cycle, and the community has been very involved in its maintenance and future planning for many years.

This public art is a project of the KCCB, a community-based organization that focuses on Coyote Creek in the southern San Francisco Bay's largest watershed. KCCB's vision is of a vibrant Coyote Creek: clean waters, abundant wildlife, and natural beauty that everyone can enjoy. KCCB works to accomplish this by both mobilizing community resources and participation, and by engaging community members to become the creek's advocates and caretakers.

The total budget for planning, supplies, and labor is estimated at \$16,000. Funding for the project is from an Abierto grant obtained by the artist and a Valley Water mini-grant obtained by KCCB. Because the artwork will be on City property, review and approval by the Public Art Committee is required.

Maintenance of the William Street Bridge artwork will be handled by the local Olinder Neighborhood Association and KCCB on an ongoing basis; the neighborhood works with CommUniverCity which also helps with local neighbor cleanup projects. Artist Paul J. Gonzalez will provide repairs if needed and will supply extra paint in all colors as back up to support repairs. The City's Public Art Program has committed to providing the anti-graffiti coating material for the artwork.

San José artist Paul J. Gonzalez has created murals at public schools and many other community settings in San José and the region. KCCB reached out to Paul to team up for more creek awareness public art efforts. KCCB teamed up with him because of his background in working on the Coyote Creek with the Clean Creeks, Healthy Communities program as well as for his relationship with the community from doing art projects with the neighborhood schools and for his connection with the Olinder community from past city services and producing other public art in the neighborhood. This will be their 4th collaborative project.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This project has been a collaborative effort with KCCB, the Olinder neighborhood, Friends of Five Wound Creek Trails, CommUniverCity, and Paul J. Gonzalez Art Studios. Per KCCB, the Olinder community is very excited about the bridge project and excited to be part of it.

KCCB has coordinated this project with City's Department of Transportation (DOT) about the project; DOT is in support of it.

/s/

MICHAEL OGILVIE,
Public Art Program Director