



City of Sebastopol

Public Arts Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date: October 4, 2017
To: Public Arts Committee
From: Kenyon Webster, Planning Director
Subject: Next Public Art Project

The Ned Kahn public art project appears to be on track for being implemented. It is recommended that the Commission consider initiating the process for commissioning of another public art project.

Based on experience with the Ned Kahn project, to the extent the Committee wishes to commission particular works of art, it is recommended that the first step be selection of a site. This in turn may influence selection of an appropriate medium and other considerations.

From staff's perspective, leading City-owned sites may include:

- The grassy strip entering Ives Park bordering the Center for the Arts/Veteran's Building property. This may be an appropriate site for a sculpture garden or larger artwork. Such a project would likely include landscape improvements as well as sculpture. This project would require collaboration with the Center for the Arts and the County of Sonoma, as part of the land is County-owned.
- The grassy area on the Morris Street side of the Public Works property. This is a large site that could accommodate a large artwork. The Committee had previously discussed the idea of a sculpture garden in this area. Like the Ives Park site, a project might also include landscape improvements.

Committee members may identify other potential sites.

An alternative to commissioning a particular project could be developing a matching grant program to incentivize artworks on private property, such as for publicly-visible murals, or other types of art.

It is recommended that the Committee discuss this matter and if ready, begin setting parameters for the next public art project.