

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Powell, City Manager

FROM: Denise Helbing, Arts Center Manager

VIA: Shanté Akafia, Assistant City Manager

DATE: April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of the Contracts with the Six Selected Artists for the Inaugural Sculpture Garden Exhibition

BACKGROUND

The long-anticipated reimagining and renovation of the courtyard of the Lewisville Grand Theater is concluding, and the space is ready for its next phase. The space has been transformed into a more inviting and welcoming gathering space that features permanent art pedestals for sculptures, which will be used in a rotating sculpture exhibition in this space.

The Public Art Policy calls for City Council review and approval of all public art contracts, including temporary works or loans. This request groups all six artist loan agreements in one agenda item.

ANALYSIS

The Arts Advisory Board selected works for this exhibition using a process similar to other public art calls.

A call for artists was developed with site-specific criteria and requirements unique to this temporary exhibition program. Parameters included size and weight limits; all works had to be completed (not conceptual) and available for the full exhibition period. Eligibility was limited to artists based regionally to Lewisville (TX, OK, LA, and AR). The call was posted on CallforEntry.org for 45 days, resulting in 19 qualified artists submitting 52 works for review.

Submissions were evaluated using a rubric aligned with the call criteria, including artistic merit, site appropriateness, safety and stability, and material durability for the exhibition period.

From this pool, the Board and staff selected six pieces of work for the inaugural exhibition: three on one-year lease terms (through April 2027) and three on two-year lease terms (through April 2028). Artists will be compensated for the lease of their artwork at a rate of \$1,500 for one-year terms and \$2,000 for two-year terms. Recipients are depicted below:

- **April 2026–April 2027 (one-year lease term):**
Jessica Bell, *Dream*

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Elizabeth Akamatsu Fenci, *Coral Stardust*
Gigi Miller, *Flor de la Alegria*

- **April 2026–April 2028 (two-year lease term):**
Art Garcia, *Human Nature, Figure No. 1*
Pascale Pryor, *Waterfall 2*
Fred Rosett, *Grace in Stainless*

Each year, three new artworks will be selected through a similar process, rotating into the exhibition while three existing works remain for their second year. This year will be the only year with a one-year lease term.

CITY STAFF’S RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve agreements and authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to sign the agreements as set forth in the caption above.