

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Donna Barron, City Manager

**FROM:** James Kunke, Community Relations and Tourism Director

**DATE:** August 19, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of an Amendment to an Agreement with Bolivar Bronze for Creation and Installation of a Bronze Sculpture in Wayne Ferguson Plaza, and Authorization for the City Manager to Sign the Amendment.**

### **BACKGROUND**

City Council approved an agreement in July 2018 with Denton County artist David Iles (Bolivar Bronze) for creation and placement of a bronze sculpture in Wayne Ferguson Plaza. The sculpture is complete, but installation and dedication will not take place until October in order to accommodate schedules of Ferguson family members and project donors. The proposed amendment would change the payment schedule contained in the current Agreement.

### **ANALYSIS**

Placing a historic sculpture in Wayne Ferguson Plaza is one of the top recommendations in the Public Art Master Plan approved by City Council in early 2018, and was included in the Lewisville 2025 vision plan as part of the “Old Town” Big Move. Public input collected during development of both of those plans showed significant support for public art in Wayne Ferguson Plaza.

There has long been a desire to place a bronze sculpture of Wayne Ferguson in the public plaza that bears his name. Shortly after his death in 2008, an artist was selected by the Ferguson family and a maquette was created. However, private fundraising efforts stalled and the project was put on hold in 2011.

The project was revived in early 2018 by local developer and family friend, Alex Buck, who committed to personally overseeing the fundraising effort. He solicited donations totaling \$50,000 toward the sculpture.

Sanger artist David Iles was recruited by the Ferguson family for this project. Iles has been a practicing artist for more than 40 years. Through his studio, Bolivar Bronze, Iles has successfully completed numerous large-scale outdoor sculpture commissions including private commissions for late philanthropist Trammel Crow and public commissions in Denton, Frisco, Irving, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. Collections of his work also are on display at the Dallas Arboretum and the University of North Texas.

Iles interviewed family members and community members about Wayne Ferguson and used that input to develop a sculpture concept carefully designed to honor Ferguson’s passion and vision for Lewisville and his lasting contributions to the community. The bronze will depict Ferguson seated

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on the wall along the boardwalk, under the shade of a redbud tree and about 50 feet from the gateway off Charles Street. He will be wearing his favorite boots and hat while looking at a map of the plaza. To one side will be a stack of rolled maps, representing the many projects Ferguson brought to Lewisville. On his other side will be a stack of personal items illustrating his life and character, including a saddle blanket, chaps, spurs, and his hand-made buck knife.

From the artist's proposal: "With this sculpture, our intent is to give visitors to Wayne Ferguson Plaza a greater understanding of the park's namesake by creating an accessible, humble, and permanent landmark that reflects the humanity of a great leader, good friend, and loving father and husband."

Total cost for the sculpture is \$90,000 plus costs for a dedication plaque, potential lighting, and first-year maintenance for a total project cost of \$100,000. The city's share of \$50,000 comes from the Public Art Capital project using Hotel Motel Fund dollars.

The artist projected a period of 8-12 months for completion of the sculpture. The artwork now is substantially complete and the location on the stone wall at Wayne Ferguson Plaza has been prepared for installation. A dedication ceremony was originally planned for September 2019, but no date could be found that would work for members of the Ferguson family and all three donors. The first available date that works for all parties is in mid-October.

Because the artist has completed his work on time and did not cause the delay in installation, and because he already has paid all his materials costs, he requested a change to the payment schedule. Staff is in agreement with the proposed change. The final payment still would be made after installation and acceptance of the sculpture.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is City staff's recommendation that the City Council approve an amendment to an agreement as set forth in the caption above, and authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment.