



## Staff Report

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### Yountville Town Council Staff Report

**DATE:** May 5, 2020  
**TO:** Mayor and Town Council  
**FROM:** Samantha Holland, Parks and Recreation Director

#### **TITLE**

Consider Adoption of Resolution Number 20-3986 Approving the Design and Acquisition of the Permanent Yountville Art Walk Sculpture in Recognition of Yountville Elementary School, Approving the Location of the Sculpture and Allocating \$10,000 in Funding.

#### **DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND**

With the upcoming closure of Yountville Elementary School, the school administration and Parent-Teacher Association reached out to Yountville Arts with the idea of placing a permanent piece of art on the Art Walk to memorialize the school. The Council received a presentation on January 7, 2020 and provided feedback to move forward with the project and create an Ad-Hoc Committee to explore design and a site for the sculpture.

The Ad-Hoc Committee was created and on January 21, 2020 the Council appointed Council Members Dorenbecher and Durham to the Committee. Yountville Arts appointed Ronda Schaer and Kimberly Cook and the school appointed Principal Tara Bianchi, Teacher Debbie Simpkins and past parent and community member Jennifer Carvalho to the Committee.

The Committee had three very productive meetings and brought forward a concept to the Yountville Arts Commission on March 2, 2020. The Commission provided valuable feedback to the draft design and approved with the changes discussed. The concept was updated again and brought back to the design presented before you tonight to the Yountville Arts Commission on April 7, 2020. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the design before you for approval tonight.

Before the Council tonight is a design concept for the sculpture, a site recommendation and a request for funding. The concept is comprised of book sculpture by an artist well known to the Yountville Art Walk, Richard Starks.

The book is representative of the school and academics and the handprints that adorn the walls of the school from graduating classes dating back many years. We have heard from many community members, alumni and current students and staff the importance and significance of those handprints. We will receive the sculpture with the front "pages" of the book left untreated and ready for powder coating in a parchment color. The rest of the sculpture would be treated to progress the rusted finish that will be the cover of the book. Once the sculpture pages are powder coated, the handprints will be installed, lettering placed and a final sealant placed on the pages.

Along with the sculpture, we are working on the interpretive panel that would be placed near the sculpture installation. The panel would describe the history of the school, the significance of the handprints and if sited at Town Hall, the connection to it being one of the original Yountville Schools. We have had the actual handprints captured by a professional photographer and will incorporate some of those images into the design. The interpretive panel content is being worked on by Town staff, representatives from the school and local historians.

The location of the installation is proposed to be in front of Town Hall on the empty art pad adjacent to Yount Street. The site was chosen by the Ad-Hoc as Town Hall was originally Yountville Elementary School and is adjacent to the current school. Although the sculpture would become part of the Town's permanent collection, the sculpture could always be moved in the future pending the development of the school site or as the Council directs.

The cost estimates for the project will not exceed \$19,000. This includes the sculpture, powder coating, supplies and materials for the handprint portion, artist stipend for assistance and guidance for the handprints and the interpretive panel. We are in the process of working on a plan for facilitating the handprints and finishes of the project if approved by the Council.

The Yountville Elementary School PTA has committed \$5,000 to the project. The Yountville Kiwanis Club raised \$3,250 for the project. Yountville Arts approved using \$1,500 of the Art Funds in the Town of Yountville Community Foundation - Art Fund. While the original intent was to fundraise for the majority of the remaining balance, the climate has changed quite a bit since the project planning began. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, we anticipate that businesses and families are not in the financial position to contribute as they may have been otherwise. Town staff are continuing to look for alternative funding and donations. As such, staff is asking the Town Council to approve allocation of funding not to exceed \$10,000 from General Fund 1015 - Community Promotions and Programs and if required, funds would be transferred from the Town Manager Contingency to fund the project as it was not an expected project at the time of budget development.

We are asking the Town Council to take action tonight on the following:

1. Approving the sculpture concept and directing staff and Ad-Hoc Committee Members to move forward with the commissioning of the project.
2. Approving the sculpture to be located as indicated in front of Town Hall or identifying another site as directed by the Town Council.
3. Approving not to exceed funding of \$10,000 towards the project from General Fund 1015 - Community Promotions and Programs.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

N/A

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact? Yes

Is it Currently Budgeted? No

Where is it Budgeted? Community Promotions and Programs

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Is there a Staff Resource Impact? Nominal

## **STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL**

Is item Identified in Strategic Plan? Indirectly

If yes, Identify Strategic Goal and Objective. **Engaged Residents:** The Town embraces our residents' commitment to community as seen through volunteerism, civic engagement, and public participation that enhances the quality of life in Yountville. **Quality of Life:** The Town enhances the livability of Yountville by providing well-maintained public facilities, parks, and trails, and quality programs and events.

Briefly Explain Relationship to Strategic Plan Goal and Objective. By helping to facilitate this project, the Town is engaging its residents in the process and helping to recognize the significance of the school to the Town's history and fabric. Regardless of how the campus site evolves, the Town will have a permanent space to remember the school and its lasting impacts on the Town.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Do not approve the sculpture concept.
2. Provide feedback and guidance to direct the Ad-Hoc Committee and staff on changes to be brought back at a later date for potential Council review and approval.
3. Do not approve Town Hall location but identify another location as determined by Town Council.
4. Do not approve \$10,000 in funding and identify a different amount as determined by Town Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Receive staff report and direct questions to staff.
2. Receive public comment.
3. Conduct Council discussion on the Yountville Elementary School Recognition Sculpture design, location and funding allocation.
4. Consider Adoption of Resolution Number 20-3986 Approving the Design and Acquisition of the Permanent Yountville Art Walk Sculpture in Recognition of Yountville Elementary School, Approving the Location of the Sculpture and Allocating \$10,000 in Funding.