

SUBJECT: BASKETBALL COURT MURAL IN COTTONWOOD PARK

DATE: MAY 6, 2025

PREPARED BY: IRIS BELENSKY, ARTS & EVENTS PROGRAM MANAGER

**PRESENTED BY: IRIS BELENSKY, ARTS & EVENTS PROGRAM MANAGER
KRISTEN BODINE, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL
SERVICES**

SUMMARY:

Arts & Events, with help and inspiration from Parks & Rec, has been coordinating the installation of a public art mural on the half basketball court at Cottonwood Park. Our goal was to develop a design that evoked the fun and excitement of playing sports and being active with your community outdoors. We wanted the piece to be creative, eye-catching and vibrant. Thanks to the use of professional court paint, this piece of public art can last up to 3-5 years, making it a worthy investment.

We received proposals from ten artists describing a concept/vision for the mural. With the input of the Cultural Advisory Board, Arts & Events, and Parks staff, we settled on the proposal from Liz Maher, who recently installed a mural on University Hill in Boulder. Working with our paint supplier, we refined the design. The design is open for public comment from April 24 – May 9.

With approval from City Council, we will be able to move forward with the installation of this mural. We hope to complete installation by end of June at the latest.

BACKGROUND / PRIOR DISCUSSIONS:

The idea for this project originally came from Abby McNeal, Louisville's Parks Superintendent, who had seen examples of these types of murals in other cities. She brought the idea to Arts & Events hoping that we could bring more color and creativity to Louisville's public basketball courts. The Arts & Events team then took on the research and organization of this project after that.

- **Cultural Advisory Board, 02.12.25** – Iris Belensky informed CAB of the mural project and provided a timeline for the call for entries, encouraging Board to spread the word to local artists.
- **Cultural Advisory Board, 03.12.25** – Iris Belensky shared all artist submissions with CAB and requested that Board members rank their top three preferred submissions and submit to Iris. Liz Maher's proposal was the only proposal present in every Board member's top three.

SUBJECT: BASKETBALL COURT MURAL**DATE: MAY 6, 2025****PAGE 2 OF 2**

- **City Council, 04.25.25** – Iris Belensky provided a written update to be shared with City Council as the public comment period for the final design began.

ANALYSIS:

Arts & Events would like to receive:

- Any constructive comments/edits on the design for the basketball mural
- Approval to move forward with installation of the mural

2025 COUNCIL WORK PLAN:

Arts & Events has been looking at this project through the EDI lens. The aim was to choose a piece of art that could be enjoyed by everyone who views it. Additionally, we are happy to be installing a piece of public art in Cottonwood Park because it is both a highly frequented park and is outside of the downtown Louisville area. We hope to activate more areas outside of downtown as a way of fostering additional public gathering spaces.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted?: **Yes**

This project is budgeted for in the Public Art line item (101730-530820). Including the artist fee and the required court paint, primer, and acrylic resurfacer, the total cost of this project will be \$6,800.

ALTERNATIVE(S):

If there are significant edits required for the mural design, Arts & Events will reconvene with the artist and paint supplier to develop a new/edited concept for the mural. In the case of significant edits or a whole new design, we will repeat the public comment period and revisit the design with Council at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Staff recommends approval of the mural design and moving forward with installation

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Mural Design as of 04.18.25
2. Public Comment Informational Poster



Proposed Public Art Placement

Proposed Artwork Description: Liz Maher will install a vibrant painted mural that evokes the fun and energy of playing sports and being active with your community outdoors.



Artist: Liz Maher

Type of Artwork:

Painted Mural

Size: 42ft x 38ft

Location: Cottonwood Park

Cost: \$3,000 +
supplies paid for by
the City of Louisville

Lifespan: ~ 3-5 years

Public Comment Period: April 24 - May 9, 2025

Comments on this proposal may be made during the Louisville Cultural Advisory Board special meeting in May

- 6:30pm, Thursday, May 8, 2025
- This meeting will be held over zoom

Written comments must be received by May 9

- Include your name and address
- Email: IBelensky@louisvilleco.gov
- Mail: City of Louisville

Attn: Iris Belensky

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