



PARK LANE OUTDOOR GALLERY COMMITTEE UPDATE: NEAR- AND LONG-TERM PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Kirkland Cultural Art Commission (KCAC) Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tere Thompson (Committee Chair)

Ryan James (Commissioner)

Lani Brockman (Commissioner)

NEAR TERM OPTION RECOMMENDED (Fall 2020)

Pursuant to the July 16 commission meeting vote, 4 sculptures loaned to Kirkland for 2 months (until about Oct 8) by Angie Hinojos and Carlos Jimenez of El Centro Cultural Mexicano were installed on Park Lane on August 8.

The committee recommends staying the course and moving forward with the plan to use \$6,000 of the 2020 4Culture grant to complete the Park Lane Gallery with 6 sculptures as originally envisioned at the 10/16/19 KCAC meeting.

While the committee recognizes that this is not the customary process for curating art, it is a viable and relevant option given the timing and circumstances of the pandemic which is expected to continue well into 2021.

This recommendation is made with the following considerations:

- the 4 sculptures installed on August 8 were loaned at no cost to the City of Kirkland for two months which was made possible with grants from the King County Covid-19 Response Fund and 4 Culture. The [press release](#) by the City of Kirkland was also posted by 4 Culture, affirming their excitement for this kind of exhibit.



Angie Hinojos & Carlos Jimenez

- These sculptures are colorful, vibrant, welcoming pieces from artists of color that celebrate diversity and their cultural heritage - reflecting the 'safe, inclusive, and welcoming' goals of R-5240 - while reinforcing important public health awareness. It is notable that September 15 - October 15 has been proclaimed by the City as National Hispanic Heritage Month.
- The artists submitted a proposal on August 17 for two additional sculptures to complete the gallery, and an extension of the exhibit through Spring 2021 for \$6000. We have some creative input with respect to the remaining pieces and we can make requests of the artists. One idea is to have one piece represent a doctor and the other piece perhaps a mother and an infant (see artist proposal).

- Absent action on the artist's proposal, the existing works will be removed from Park Lane next month. Curating impactful new sculptures for Park Lane in just a month would be challenging given the times we are in. Not installing the additional pieces would leave us with no art on Park Lane as we head into the holidays and winter months.
- In addition to the completion of the outdoor gallery in 2020 with two additional pieces from El Centro Cultural Mexicano, a mural in support of R-5434 such as the one proposed by Nikayla Rice, could be considered using some or all of the remaining \$2000 grant from 4 Culture in a location to be decided upon by the KCAC in collaboration with the artist
- 4 Culture has indicated that unused funds from this year's grant could be rolled into next year because of the unique circumstances of 2020. However, they prefer to see funds used this year if possible as it reaffirms that we are using their grant money in an impactful way and is also better for them administratively. 4Culture has already stated that they will grant Kirkland \$8000 for 2021 without a formal application. This will enable the committee, the KCAC and Kirkland to plan for the installation of a new exhibit in May or June of 2021. Application for 2022 would be completed in the Fall of 2021 and there is a possibility of an increase in the grant amount if Kirkland has used the funds in a compelling way.

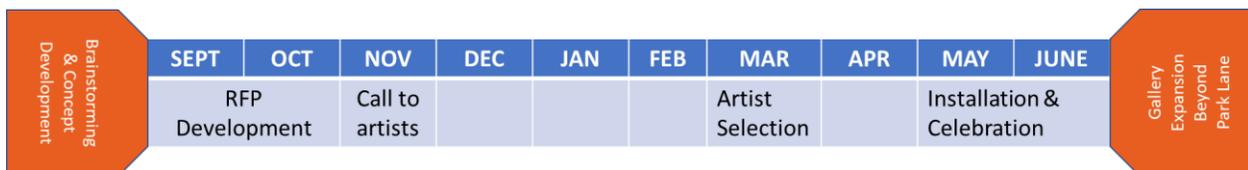
LONG TERM PROPOSAL (2021 and beyond)

The Park Lane Outdoor Gallery Committee has held several meetings to discuss and plan the next exhibit on Park Lane. In support of resolution 5240 (2017) affirming that Kirkland is safe, inclusive and welcoming and now resolution 5434 (2020) affirming that Black Lives Matter, an exhibit called **PEOPLE OF CULTURE** is being proposed to the KCAC to include representation of various races and cultures in Kirkland.

PEOPLE OF CULTURE on Park Lane will be an exhibit of 6 outdoor sculptures from 1 to 6 artists representing diverse cultures in our community and will serve as a *cultural hub* for Kirkland to communicate, educate and reinforce a safe, inclusive and welcoming City. The artist selection process will reflect consideration of R-5434. The goal is to install the exhibit by June of 2021 as a kickoff to the summer months and promote it as a community and tourist destination. Artists will be able to sell their pieces to the public and each sculpture will have \$1000 allocated for the installation thereby investing \$6000 from the 2021 4 Culture grant funds as originally envisioned. Sections 3(d) and (e) of R-5434 specifically describe expanding the diversity of public art, symbols, events and programming in Kirkland to be more inclusive. The **PEOPLE OF CULTURE** exhibit aligns with this directive.

A draft timeline for discussion could be as follows:

- *Brainstorming and concept development.* The Committee has been meeting regularly on this since inception. **11/19- present**
- *RFP development.* This is in process while proactively searching for artists who produce unique ethnic based outdoor sculptures. Diverse members of the community will be invited to advise the committee on behalf of the KCAC. **9/20-12/20**
- *Call to artists.* **11/20**
- *Artist Selection.* **3/21**
- *Installation and Celebration.* **6/21**
- Consider Expanding the Gallery beyond PL in 2022



Park Lane was acknowledged as one of the ‘Great Places In America’ in 2017 by the American Planning Association. The continued contributions of the KCAC will ensure that this wonderful Kirkland centerpiece is renewed, refreshed and reinvigorated into the future.

THANK YOU