



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Rosalie Wessels, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
Brian Baker, Capital Projects Supervisor
Rod Steitzer, Capital Projects Manager
Julie Underwood, Director of Public Works

Date: September 23, 2021

Subject: 132nd SQUARE PARK—PUBLIC ART RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a motion to approve the 132nd Square Park public art concept entitled *Individually We Transform, Together We Soar* by Cobalt Designworks of Vancouver, Washington.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

132nd Square Park is a 9.76-acre community park located in the Kingsgate neighborhood that the City acquired through annexation in 2011. It has provided a place for users to enjoy outdoor space, picnic, and participate in active and passive recreation (see Attachment A, Vicinity and Area Map). To improve those uses and expand park amenities, the City completed the *132nd Square Park Master Plan* in October 2019 that included community engagement, design alternatives, and coordination with the Park Board. Park improvements identified in the Plan included installing a multi-use synthetic turf field, an all-abilities playground, additional picnic shelters, and an ADA-compliant walking trail. The Plan also included a regional drainage facility integrated into the design. To fulfill the Plan, the City began reconstruction of the park on June 28, 2021 and it is anticipated to be complete in Summer 2022.

Providing public art in this reconstructed park is consistent with the City's "1% for Art" policy, which mandates that capital improvement projects over a certain threshold devote a minimum of one percent of the project's budget to public art. The City's art guidelines, adopted by resolution R-5213, state further that when public art is sited in a park, both the Cultural Arts Commission and the Park Board make a recommendation to the City Council. Based on the 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Plan, the public art budget for this project is \$56,000 for artist selection, procurement, delivery, and installation.

In July 2020, a public art committee consisting of members representing the Cultural Arts Commission, the Park Board, the project team, and Department of Parks and Community Services was formed to start discussions about the public art to be included in the park. The committee reviewed 108 artist proposals and selected Cobalt Designworks as the artist to move forward with concept development. A contract to develop three, diverse concepts was executed in October 2020.

Art Concept

The concept *Individually We Transform, Together We Soar* was selected out of three concepts presented because it uses nature as a metaphor to affirm Kirkland's commitment to honoring and encouraging diversity with an open, inclusive spirit. Two sculptural elements together convey the strengths and uniqueness of the individual and the power when we come together. One element is a large unfurled cocoon, denoting the ever-evolving nature of our individual selves. The cocoon is cradled by a bunch of grassy reeds. The other element is a near-20-foot-tall tree-crag-like steel structure from which dozens of butterflies burst out in a vibrant rainbow of color that will illuminate the artwork overnight. This element symbolizes the beauty of coming together in our diversity and uniqueness. The whole is greater than the sum of our parts and helps create a culturally rich community.

There are six species of butterflies represented, each with its own size, shape, color, and origin. The butterflies were chosen carefully to represent Kirkland's largest immigrant populations as well as those native to the United States and the Pacific Northwest. The artwork also will include a sculptural raven feather and a bald eagle to honor the Duwamish tribes as the original inhabitants of the land that is present day Kirkland. The proposed concept is shown below.



Figure 1: Unfurled cocoon total height is 7'7", the "tree crag" with butterflies is 19'8".



Figure 2: Close up of the butterfly rainbow.



Figure 3: Artwork will illuminate butterflies at night.

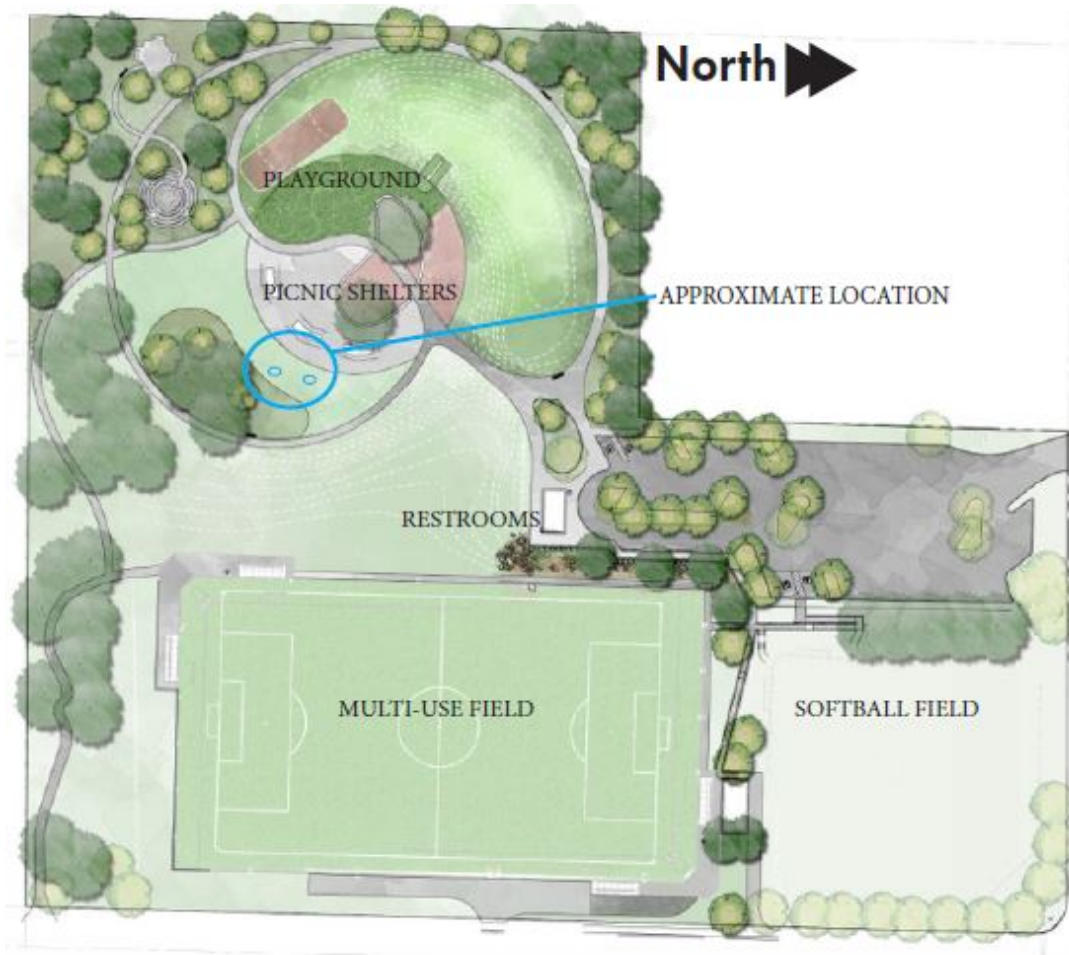


Figure 4: Aerial rendering of park showing approximate art locations.

At its February 17, 2021 meeting, the Cultural Arts Commission voted unanimously to approve the design concept of *Individually We Transform Together We Soar*. Then on March 31, 2021, the Park Board voted unanimously at its meeting recommending that the Council adopt the concept.

NEXT STEPS:

If the Council concurs with the recommendations of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Park Board, staff recommends that the Council adopt a motion to approve *Individually We Transform Together We Soar* as the selected public art for the 132nd Square Park Renovation.

Were the Council to adopt the motion, the artist will begin fabricating the sculptures, with an anticipated delivery and installation to occur before the completion of the project in Summer 2022.

