



City Council Communication

AGENDA DATE: April 6, 2026

LEGISTAR ITEM NO.: Res 2026-036

SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Sumner
Relations

DEPARTMENT: Community

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admin Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

REQUEST

Approve a resolution for the deaccession of the underpass mural at Quebec Parkway and 72nd Avenue.

BACKGROUND

As outlined in the Public Art Master Plan, a request to review the deaccessioning of artwork commissioned will be considered for one or more of the following reasons:

- The site is being eliminated, and the artwork is no longer suitable
- Security of the artwork can no longer be ensured.*
- The artwork endangers public safety
- The aesthetic integrity of the artwork cannot be maintained or cannot be maintained for a reasonable cost.*

*The reasons for this particular deaccession request.

Also outlined in the Public Art Master Plan, Commerce City Cultural Council shall initiate a review process for deaccessioning artwork. The art selection committee that approves the acquisition of the artwork will reconvene, if feasible, to review the request for deaccessioning. The committee's recommendation will then be referred to City Council for review and action.

The underpass mural at Quebec Parkway and 72nd Avenue was installed in September 2022 by artist Ratha Sok for \$66,000 as part of a Healthy Places grant through Colorado Health Foundation. This was in effort to beautify the area around the high school and

did not follow the acquisition process outlined in the Public Art Master Plan.

Since the mural's installation in September 2022, it has had 13 occurrences of graffiti requiring repair to the mural, totaling \$17,350 in maintenance. The artist has attempted to mediate tagging by enhancing the mural with additional graphics, and City Parks staff have pursued greater surveillance in the area. The mural has reached the point where we cannot ensure the security of the artwork, and the aesthetic integrity of the artwork cannot be maintained or cannot be maintained at a reasonable cost. This initiates a review process for deaccessioning as stated in the Public Art Master Plan.

Cultural Council initiated the review of this artwork for deaccession in January 2026. Original art selection committee members, City staff, and Cultural Council public art subcommittee members met to review this request on January 28, 2026. The committee reached a formal recommendation to the Cultural Council to pursue deaccessioning. Cultural Council unanimously supported the deaccessioning of this mural at their meeting on February 17, 2026. On March 13, 2026, we received the artist's written formal "recommendation to remove the current mural at the underpass location." (Ratha Sok). If City Council approves, City staff would then paint over the mural to leave the area blank the next time tagging occurs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Contractor | \$0 |
| Amount of Request/Contract | \$0 |
| Amount Not To Exceed | \$0 |
| Amount Budgeted | \$0 |
| Budget Year | FYN/A |
| Funding Source | N/A |
| Additional Funds Needed | \$N/A |
| Funding Source (if funds needed) | N/A |

PROJECT TIMELINE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Estimated Start Date | Estimated End Date |
| N/A | N/A |
| Years and Months of Contract | Number of Times Renewable |
| N/A | N/A |

JUSTIFICATION

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goal | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal |
| Citation | Council Goal - City Unity and Wellness Strategy 5.5: Beautify the city's physical space to encourage community pride through MyC3 and other strategies. Public Art Master Plan - Deaccessioning Procedure (p.25) | | |

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ASSIGNED

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Board or Commission | Cultural Council |
| Recommendation | 7-0 to recommend approval for deaccessioning of the underpass mural |
| Date of Recommendation | February 17, 2026 |

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Original art selection committee members, City staff, and Cultural Council public art subcommittee members met to review this request on January 28, 2026. The committee reached a formal recommendation to the Cultural Council to pursue deaccessioning. On March 13, 2026, we received the artist's written formal "recommendation to remove the current mural at the underpass location." (Ratha Sok).

AVAILABLE ACTIONS

- Approve as submitted
- Approve with certain amendments or conditions
- Ask for more research to be done
- Decline deaccessioning of the mural

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends option #1, passing the resolution to approve the deaccession of the underpass mural.

