AGENDA
ITEM 4.A.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 12, 2023

TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: Bryan Cook, City Manager
By: Scott Reimers, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: **LAS TUNAS DRIVE STREETSCAPE PROJECT DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION**

RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council is requested to direct staff to:

1. Prepare a bid package for the following items: painting of street fixtures (including but not limited to benches, streetlights, traffic signals, trash cans, drinking fountains, street banner poles, signposts, and other publicly owned metal and fiberglass items in need of painting); converting streetlights to LED; levelling and resetting pavers; removing existing pots; installing new pots; planting new pots; and the purchasing of a water trailer;

2. Return to the Las Tunas Drive Streetscape Ad Hoc Committee ("Committee") with program guidelines for

    a. Grant programs for sidewalk dining café furniture for food and drink establishments, new blade signs for businesses, and new awnings for businesses;

    b. Permit process for "parklets" related to outdoor dining and pedestrian boardwalks;

3. Design and install new street banners for placement along Las Tunas Drive and in the Downtown for three seasons;

4. Prepare a request for proposals for painting utility boxes with public art, with a component including participation from Temple City's youth; and

5. Approve budget amendments of an additional $1,937,438 from the Lighting and Landscape District fund (for a total of $3,137,438) and $269,280 from American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds.

BACKGROUND:

1. On April 25, 2023, the City Council created the Las Tunas Drive Streetscape Ad Hoc Committee ("Committee") and appointed Councilmembers Yu and Vizcarra to the Committee.

2. On June 9, 2023, the Committee met and discussed the existing conditions, project boundaries, guiding principles, conditions in surrounding cities, optional project scopes and costs, and budget.

3. On July 14, 2023, the Committee met and discussed the work previously done by David Goodale, possible outlets for public art, the existing banners and a potential banner replacement program, parking signs, and a proposed phasing plan and costs.

4. On August 22, 2023, the Committee met and discussed the project costs, the pros and cons of using stamped concrete at intersections, an alternative crosswalk painting program, the grant programs, public bathrooms, and an alternative parklet design which would allow on-street parking to be used as a pedestrian walkway while the entire sidewalk is used for outdoor dining. The Committee directed staff to bring this item forward to City Council.

ANALYSIS:

The following report describes and analyses the proposed improvements and programs. The proposed scope of this project includes many pieces, varying from physical improvements, grants to local businesses, and public art. The improvements will mostly apply to the entire length of Las Tunas Drive but will also extend to the city's public parking lots behind Las Tunas Drive and the portions of Temple City Boulevard between Workman and Woodruff Avenues. The image below intends to illustrate aspects of the proposed project including: the painted trash cans, benches, and streets light; new banners; and café tables and umbrellas.

Figure 1 – Rendering of Proposed Changes



The budget estimates the cost of the proposed project's various components at $3,406,719. The proposed project cost includes a contingency for unexpected issues, installation of the items, contract City Engineer's project management costs (when applicable), and a cost escalation factor. Attachment A includes a more detailed table of the costs. The Lighting and Landscape District funds can only be used for certain areas and certain types of improvements, resulting in the need to use ARPA monies to fund the remaining amount.

Table 1 – Estimated Project Costs

Tasks	Total
Paint Street Fixtures	$514,160
LED Conversion	$280,343
Water Trailer, New Pots & Landscaping, Level Pavers	$1,410,435
Storefront Awnings	$285,000
Street Front Café Furniture	$67,766
Blade Signs	$325,000
Street Banners – 3 Seasons	$34,425
Metal T.C. Themed Placemaking Signs	$124,800
Utility Box Public Art	$48,588
Public Parking Signs	$6,500
Sub-Total	**$3,097,017**
10 Percent Cost Escalation	*$309,702*
Total	**$3,406,719**

Existing Street Fixtures:

Painting: The improvement area includes a significant number of fixtures. Some of these fixtures were installed more than 25 years ago. In many instances the paint is fading, chipping, or peeling. The proposed project proposes to paint 66 benches, 139 streetlights, 64 traffic signals, 68 trash cans, and 66 other fixtures (including drinking fountains, street banner poles, signposts, and such). The project only proposes to paint fiberglass and metal fixtures; it does not include painting concrete traffic signals and streetlights. The renderings show the fixture color changing from green to black, this will help tie the street furniture in with the City's logo. *Sub-total: $514,160*

LED Conversion: The improvement area includes 203 streetlights that are sodium vapor and cast an orange light. The proposed scope of work includes changing out the lamp assembly and converting it to LED. This will provide for improved safety as the existing orange colored light makes it difficult for witnesses, deputies, and public safety staff to identify colors correctly at night. In addition, the LED conversion will reduce the City's electricity costs. Lastly, finding replacement bulbs for the existing fixtures can be difficult. The maintenance staff incrementally converted the streetlights in the parking lots to LED more than three years ago. The proposed LED fixtures will cast a color between bright white and yellow, helping to reduce concerns about glare. The LED light conversion, if approved, can be accomplished under the City's existing contract with the County of Los Angeles. *Sub-total: $280,343*

Landscape and Hardscape:

Irrigation: The Committee and staff looked at various options for updating the landscaping along Las Tunas Drive. A big challenge is that the existing irrigation system has leaks in certain places and repairs are difficult due to the large and invasive root systems of the

Ficus trees. Rather than go through the expensive process of repairing the existing system, the proposed recommendation is to purchase a water trailer to irrigate the landscaping "manually." This approach will be more staff labor intensive but the alternative would be a significant replacement of sidewalks which would be cost prohibitive.

New Pots: The Committee has recommended replacing the existing pots with new pots. Putting in taller pots, as shown in the rendering, will make it less feasible for the pots to be vandalized and used inappropriately. The existing pots are also very heavy, which when combined with irrigation and rainfall has caused the pavers under and around the pots to sink. New pots would also help create unity with the new paint color for the streetlights, benches, and trashcans.

Pavers: The proposed recommendation includes levelling and resetting the pavers in the public right of way. Some of the pavers in the right of way have uplifted due to tree roots or sunk around the pots. The temporary fix has been to use asphalt to remove tripping hazards. With the removal of the existing pots, this would be a good time to reset the pavers.

This line item also includes the cost of hiring a landscape architect to develop a planting scheme, purchasing plants, and for a water tank trailer to assist in the watering of the pots. *Sub-total: $1,410,435*

Grant Programs:

The proposed project includes the creation of three, one-time, grant programs. Staff needs to do additional work to determine how these grants will be administered. Staff intends to bring draft program guidelines before the Committee next month and submit the programs to the City Council for approval afterward.

Storefront Awnings: This program intends to provide a cost-efficient way of improving the look of the storefronts within the study area by installing new awnings. The program would allow for the construction of approximately 31, 30-foot by 4-foot, canvas awnings. Staff assessed the study area from Kauffman to Loma Avenues and identified 31 storefronts that might make use of the program. *Sub-total: $285,000*

Street Front Café Furniture: This program intends to help bring more activity to the study area and thereby drive economic activity and interest. The program also provides a low-cost solution for businesses wishing to expand their seating area. The program would provide food and drink establishments with four chairs, two tables, and two umbrellas. The furniture would be black, while the umbrellas would be a pink color like the City logo. The color choice is meant to help highlight Temple City's brand. To determine the potential interest in the program, staff identified 36 food or drink businesses that seem

likely to participate in the program. The cafes would be responsible for maintaining the furniture. *Sub-total: $67,766*



Blade Signs: This program intends to help create a sense of economic vitality and pedestrian-scaled, visual interest by funding the construction and installation of blade signs. Blade signs are signs that attach to the exterior of a building's façade and stand perpendicular, rather than parallel to the façade. The fact that these signs jut out into the public realm (sidewalk, street, landscape areas, and such) and are oriented to the pedestrian helps create a pedestrian oriented feel to the public realm. As awnings can keep pedestrians from seeing a building wall sign, blade signs provide a practical solution. The proposed program would provide 50 grants in the amount of $6,500. *Sub-total: $325,000*

<u>New Street Banners:</u>

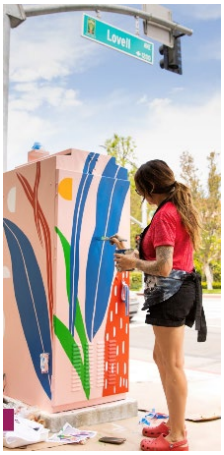
There are more than 150 banners along Las Tunas Drive and Temple City Boulevard. The existing blue star street banners are showing their age; many are faded or ripped. The proposed project would relocate the blue star street banners to Temple City Boulevard and displayed on a rotational basis. Replacing the existing street banners would help build Temple City's brand and create a sense of place. The program provides three sets of banners; one for the summer, one for the winter holidays; and one for the shoulder seasons. *Sub-total: $34,425*

<u>Metal, Temple City Placemaking Signs:</u>



To help create a strong sense of place through branding and to welcome residents, customers, and guests to Temple City the proposed program includes 12 permanent, metal, placemaking signs that would be hung from existing street poles. These "metal banners" would likely be placed at the intersection of Las Tunas Drive and Loma Avenue, Las Tunas Drive and Kauffman Avenue, and Las Tunas Drive and Temple City Boulevard. *Sub-total: $124,800*

Utility Box Public Art:



To help build further pedestrian interest and build up Temple City's unique character, the proposed program includes the installation of public art on the utility boxes on and adjacent to Las Tunas Drive. There are 23 utility boxes within the improvement area. The cities of Arcadia, Pasadena, and Monrovia have implemented similar efforts. The recommendation includes directing staff to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to hire a company experienced in this work. The Committee has expressed a desire for the RFP to include a requirement that the company include components in which the artists would work with some Temple City youth as a mentorship program for young aspiring artists. *Sub-total: $48,588*

Public Parking Signs:





The City owns and maintains some public parking facilities north and south of Las Tunas from Kauffman Avenue to Cloverly Avenue. There are two public parking signs on Las Tunas Drive directing drivers to park behind the businesses. The proposed recommendation includes installing 20 new public parking signs to better highlight the availability of parking behind the businesses. *Sub-total: $6,500*

Next Steps:

To move improvements forward quickly, the proposed recommendation represents a "phased approach." The first phase of the effort will focus on getting bids and making public improvements (painting, levelling and resetting pavers, landscaping, adding new street banners, etc.) to the public right of way. While work moves forward on that end, staff will continue to work with the Committee on program guidelines for the grant programs and parklets. Staff will also work on preparing and releasing a request for proposals (RFP) on the utility box art.

Environmental Review:

The proposed recommendations are categorically exempt from CEQA under Section 15031 (Existing Facilities). CEQA exempts the repair and maintenance or minor alteration of existing public or private structures or facilities. The proposed changes do not involve an expansion of the use in compliance with the proposed exemption.

CITY STRATEGIC GOALS:

Adopting the proposed recommendation will further promote the City's Strategic Goal of quality of life, economic vitality, and sustainable infrastructure. The adoption of the proposed recommendations will reduce electricity usage with LED lighting, which supports the sustainable infrastructure goal. It will also help update the City facilities in the public right of way and in the adjacent private realm to improve the quality of life and economic vitality along Las Tunas Drive.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed action requires a budget amendment to fully fund the project. The Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget included an estimate of using $1,200,000 of Lighting and Landscape District funds to fund the improvements to Las Tunas Drive. To fully fund the project a budget amendment is required increasing the budget from the Lighting and Landscape District to $3,137,438 (an increase of $1,937,438) and to utilize $269,280 from ARPA funds.

ATTACHMENT:

A. Project Cost Table

ATTACHMENT A

Las Tunas Drive Streetscape Update

Cost Estimates

Thursday, October 12, 2023

		All Areas		LLD*		ARPA**
Paint - Benches						
Number		*66*				
Cost	*$*	*2,100*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**138,600**	**$**	**126,000**	**$**	**12,600**
Paint - Street Lights						
Number		*139*				
Cost	*$*	*1,200*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**166,800**	**$**	**166,800**	**$**	**-**
Paint - Traffic Signals						
Number		*64*				
Cost						
Sub-Total	**$**	**62,200**	**$**	**39,200**	**$**	**23,000**
Paint - Trash Cans						
Number		*68*				
Cost	*$*	*800*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**54,400**	**$**	**54,400**	**$**	**-**
Paint - Other Items						
Number		*66*				
Cost						
Sub-Total	**$**	**92,160**	**$**	**69,120**	**$**	**23,040**
Sub-Total for Painting Street Fixtures	**$**	**514,160**				
Convert to LED - Street Lights						
Number		*139*				
Cost	*$*	*1,381*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**191,959**	**$**	**111,861**	**$**	**80,098**
Convert to LED - Overhead lights on Traffic Signals						
Number		*64*				
Cost	*$*	*1,381*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**88,384**	**$**	**66,288**	**$**	**22,096**
Sub-Total for LED Conversion	**$**	**280,343**				
Storefront Awning Grant						
Number		*31*				
Cost	*$*	*9,194*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**285,000**	**$**	**285,000**		
Street Front Café Furniture Grant						
Number		*36*				
Cost	*$*	*1,882*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**67,766**			**$**	**67,766**
Blade Sign Grant						
Number		*50*				
Cost	*$*	*6,500*				
Sub-Total	**$**	**325,000**	**$**	**325,000**		
Sub-Total for All Grant Programs	**$**	**677,766**				

	All Areas	LLD*	ARPA**
New Street Banners (3 seasons)			
Number	*459*		
Cost	*$ 75*		
Sub-Total	**$ 34,425**	**$ 18,225**	**$ 16,200**
Metal, Temple City Placemaking Signs			
Number	*12*		
Cost	*$ 10,400*		
Sub-Total	**$ 124,800**	**$ 124,800**	
Utility Box Public Art			
Number	*23*		
Cost	*$ 2,113*		
Sub-Total	**$ 48,588**	**$ 48,588**	
Public Parking Signs			
Number	*20*		
Cost	*$ 325*		
Sub-Total	**$ 6,500**	**$ 6,500**	
Hardscape - Level and Reset Pavers			
Number	*17,545*		
Cost	*$ 65*		
Sub-Total	**$ 1,140,425**	**$ 1,140,425**	**$ -**
Landscaping & Pots			
Remove old pots	*$ 166,400*		
Purchase new pots	*$ 58,240*		
Plant new pots	*$ 24,960*		
Watering trailer	*$ 13,910*		
Landscape architect	*$ 6,500*		
Sub-Total	**$ 270,010**	**$ 270,010**	**$ -**
Total	**$ 3,097,017**	**$ 2,852,217**	**$ 244,800**
Cost Escalation Factor	**$ 309,702**	**$ 285,222**	**$ 24,480**
Grand Total	**$ 3,406,719**	**$ 3,137,438**	**$ 269,280**

*LLD - Lighting and Landscaping District

** ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act