



August 27, 2024

TO: Community Relations Committee

THROUGH: Stephanie Calvillo, Communications Coordinator

FROM: Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Public Art – Union Pacific Right-of-Way

As a follow-up to the Committee’s discussion of public murals, staff has conducted additional research on topics raised by the Committee. The following topics were evaluated, and summaries can be found below; cost for murals, timeframe for completion, content development and maintenance of mural. The Village has contacted a muralist to discuss the process and the details that go into a mural.

Mural Cost

As with any crafted piece; size, scope and detail will impact the cost of production. Based upon an area of roughly 150’ x 15’, it is estimated that a mural would cost roughly \$40,000. This figure may go up or down depending on the level of detail and the need to provide traffic control during the painting process.

Timeframe for Painting

A piece of the size and scope that the Village would be considering would take approximately 2 weeks to produce.

Content Development

It would be typical that a customer (i.e. the Village) would meet with artist(s) to discuss concepts that would or could be incorporated into the mural. Design ideas would be shared and the artist(s) would present a number of renderings to the Village for additional dialogue and fine tuning. It is anticipated that the Village could utilize the Community Promotion and Tourism Committee to assist in the design process.

Maintenance of the Mural

In discussing the maintenance of a mural or public art with the muralist, it was suggested that the painting of a mural would reduce the likelihood of graffiti to an area. The notion is that a graffiti artist would prefer a “clean slate” to “decorate” rather than trying to incorporate his/her art working into an existing piece.

As for the Village’s ability to address any graffiti that would make it onto the mural, the mural would be coated with an anti-graffiti coating that allows easy removal of graffiti. This type of coating has been applied to many Village assets and has proven effective.

The paint that is used for the mural has a UV protectant in the paint to assist with avoiding fading over time. A mural has a typical life cycle between 10-15 years.

In trying to identify acceptable locations for a mural, staff investigated other communities' policies relative public art/murals. Several communities have formalized programs that not only address murals on public property, but additional address murals for private property. The following communities have active mural programs. Copies of their programs are attached for the Committee's consideration.

- The City of McHenry
- The City of DeKalb

As for public spaces in Lombard, staff had previously identified the UPRR right-of-way along Crescent Boulevard, as identified below. The East Branch DuPage River Trail, which is in preliminary engineering phase, will cross Hill Avenue in the general vicinity of the project location. The beautification of this area will serve to highlight Lombard.

Image #1



Aerial view of Crescent Boulevard, west of I-355 (wall location highlighted)

Image #2



Crescent Road looking southeast

Staff has also identified the following public locations that may be suitable for a mural. As not all of these spaces are owned by the Village, additional agreements would need to be approved to allow the mural to be painted.

- Splash Park in Downtown Lombard
- North wall of the 7-11 at Main Street and St. Charles Road
- Metra Train Station
- South wall of Shannon's Deli along McGuire Drive

If the Committee is favorable to the concept, staff can begin to engage the UPRR and/or private property owners on the necessary agreements and secure artists to develop the design for the mural.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Community Relations Committee support the concept of the public art/mural for the specified locations and direct staff to work with UPRR staff to prepare the necessary agreements for consideration by the Village Board of Trustees.