

Artwork Project Plan

This document outlines key objectives, budget, timeline, artist selection, and deliverables for a proposed public artwork project.

Complete Sections 1–11 prior to project start and present to the Art in Public Places Advisory Board (APP) for final approval. This form will accompany the APP's recommendation to County Council and will be updated as the project progresses.

1. Name of Project/Working Group: Betty Ehart Senior Center Gate Art Project (No group formed)

2. Working Group Members

Role

Name

a. APPB Member All APPB Members

b. APPB Member (Optional) _____

c. Affected Location Representative _____

d. Other Interested Party (Optional) _____

e. Other Interested Party (Optional) _____

3. Introduction – Project Overview

Describe the artistic opportunity, project background, goals, how it originated, its fit in the Los Alamos Public Art Collection, and any other important context.

Project Introduction:

This project began at the request of the Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center. Staff requested a gate similar to “Odetta,” located at the west entrance to the Mesa Public Library to increase the safety of the Senior Center.

4. Site and Context

Describe the proposed location and any associated capital projects, plans, or site-specific considerations.

Site Description:

The Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center is located at 1101 Bathtub Row, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The location for the proposed gate is at the base of the outdoor stairs on the building's North side. This stairwell overlooks a patio area designated for LARSO activities and is adjacent to a planned space for a future outdoor classroom at the neighboring library to the West.

5. Artist Selection Process

a. Proposed Method for Artist Solicitation (Check one):

- ☒ Open Call for Art (RFQ)
- ☐ Artist Invitation
- ☐ Direct Selection (explain rationale below)
- ☐ Completed Work of Art (explain rationale below)

If Direct Selection or Completed Work is chosen, provide rationale:

If there is a potential, perceived, or direct conflict of interest, provide details (see Appendix C for COI definition):

Chair Haaser requested one of the artists (Watson) to submit a proposal based on demonstrated work by one of his apprentices – an acquaintance of Chair Haaser. Chair Haaser has abstained from votes and once clarification was received from Legal, removes herself from discussion on selection for the Betty Ehart Senior Center gate.

b. Selection Process Details:

Describe number of finalists, whether proposals or interviews are required, if artists will be compensated for proposals and any other details deemed appropriate for this section.

Six proposals were received in response to the Call for Art. These six proposals were down selected to three by the Board, in collaboration with staff at the Betty Ehart Senior Activity Center. The three remaining proposals were presented to the public to solicit community input.

April 2025 update: 75% of respondents selected gate design by Watson. Some concerns related to cost and general cost effectiveness of gates. Board is working with Watson to determine whether Zia symbol can be used in artwork.

June 2025 update: Artist received permission from Zia Pueblo to use their sun symbol. July 2025- APPB voted unanimously to recommend commission of gate.

6. Artist's Scope of Work

Describe the artist's expected responsibilities (e.g., design, fabricate, install, participate in planning meetings).

Scope of Work:

The APP Board seeks an artistic gate that balances functionality and aesthetic appeal. This gate will secure the stairwell from outside access while providing a safe emergency exit from within. It should not only serve its practical purpose but also enhance the beauty of the surrounding area. The design must include the necessary hardware for installation, along with a provision for attaching a panic/crash bar (to be supplied by the County) on the gate's backside. Dimensions of the Proposed Gate Height: 106 inches, Width: Maximum of 55.75 inches, Depth: Maximum of 9 inches.

7. Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated using the criteria below. Add any project-specific criteria as needed.

Standard Criteria:

- The work of art must be located in a public place with public visibility and impact.
- The work of art shall have a permanence generally of at least twenty (20) years, and shall be likely to remain a thing of value for this time period given appropriate site selection and maintenance.
- The work of art shall enhance the environment of the County.
- Quality and craftsmanship.
- Artist's reputation and/or recognition.
- Appropriateness for intended location.
- Long-term maintenance needs, based on artist's description and/or County's maintenance and restoration Contractor.
- Environmental impact (light, sound, exposure).
- Security and vandalism resistance.
- Public safety.
- Community input.

Additional Criteria for This Project:

8. Project Timeline

a. Artist Selection Timeline:

Completed prior to creating this document

b. Design, Fabrication, Installation Timeline:

If approved, artist thinks completed gate can be delivered by late October 2025.

9. Budget

Break down the full project budget, including artist selection, design, fabrication, installation, signage/plaques, events, outreach, and contingency. Include an explanation of how this budget was determined (e.g. by allocating 1% from a specific capital project budget, based on the costs of similar projects, etc.)

Total Budget: \$ NTE 21,000

Breakdown and Explanation:

Cost for artwork, installation, and any additional related expenses.

10. Anticipated Hurdles

Identify any challenges related to permitting, installation, coordination, or logistics.

Potential Hurdles:

11. Community Engagement, Marketing & Communications

a. Marketing and Outreach Strategy:

Describe methods to communicate with the public and promote the project.

Social media, flyers, word of mouth for surveys

b. Community Input Survey Questions:

List proposed questions for gathering community feedback.

Gave community three options and asked for favorite; if this was a good fit; what aspects of art were important to them.

Sections 12–16: To Be Completed During and After the Project

12. Appraisal or Conservator Report (If Applicable)

a. Findings: *(attach documents if available)*

N/A

b. Justification for Purchase *(if cost and value significantly vary)*:

N/A

13. Pacific Coast Maintenance and Restoration Information, Recommendations and Requirements *(if applicable)*

Details:

In an email from Pacific Coast contractor: Looking at the proposal. The gate is designated to be powder coated. All industrial coatings are only manufactured to last 5-7 years, this is the standard for when you start to see coatings fail. With annual maintenance you can get these coatings to last longer. Powder coatings tend to chip off when rust occurs under the surface or when they are bumped or scratched. Los Alamos is a pretty dry area so rust generally occurs more slowly than in a more humid environment. Powder coats also tend to fade and blanch. I would suggest that a UV varnish such as Golden MSA varnish is applied 6 months or so after the gate is installed, or maybe go through one inspection cycle and then apply the coating. You should not wait more than a year to coat the fence. Also, if you do not apply a UV coating then any of the inpainting may not match the original coating if it has faded. The fabrication and cleaning of the fence prior to powder coating will determine in part how well the coating attaches to the fence. The goal with this would be to wash annually, get a UV coating on it and then keep up with inpainting any chips annually. If this is done, the fence should last 20 years without having to sandblast and recoat it. The UV coating should be changed out every 3-5 years depending on how it is faring. because there is not much space between the elements, this could be difficult and time consuming. The UV coating that we suggest is removed with mineral spirits or naphtha by wiping it off. Then a new coat would be spray applied. I would highly recommend not going with any matte paint or powder coating, it weathers the worst. Gloss holds up over time much better than matte. For installation, when handling the actual gate, installers should wear clean gloves, either new nitrile/ latex gloves or soft cotton gloves. The gate should be laid out on a packing blanket. When in the gate is standing to install, a packing blanket should be placed underneath to ensure that the bottom powder coat is not dinged during installation. Photographs of the gate should be taken upon arrival and unpacking and also after it is fully installed.

14. Recommendation to County Council

Select one:

☐ Do NOT recommend; project cancelled.

Explanation: _____

YES Recommend to Council (note: include this document in the agenda packet for the Council's agenda item)

Important Details: _____

15. Closing of Working Group

Once the project has been either cancelled or approved by County Council, the Working Group may be disbanded. Details regarding the purchase, installation, and celebration can then be coordinated with the staff liaison, individual APPB members, and/or the appropriate County staff.

16. Closing of Project

Provide a narrative on project closure (e.g., completed, installed, celebrated, cancelled).

Closure Summary:
