

Executive Summary: Public Sentiment on the Fire Station #4 Artwork Theme

Overall Sentiment

Analysis of all 157 survey respondents shows that the community is broadly open to or supportive of the artwork concept. Using both Q1 responses and open-ended comments:

- 66% are Interested (supportive or leaning supportive)
- 34% are Middle (neutral or somewhat interested, but not opposed)
- 15% are Strongly Opposed (firmly against artwork, spending, or the theme)

Even when expanding opposition to include “Not very interested” respondents, total opposition rises only to 20%, meaning 4 out of 5 respondents are not opposed to the project.

Nature of Opposition- Opposition is:

- Small but vocal
- Focused on budget use, role of a fire station, and trauma reminders
- Consistent across respondents, not the result of a few individuals repeating comments

This group rejects the project outright and does not offer constructive feedback.

Middle Group (Neutral / Somewhat Interested)- Out of 54 middle-interest respondents:

- Only 1 respondent (1.85%) expressed negative or anti-art sentiment
- The remaining 53 respondents provided constructive, supportive, or neutral feedback

This group consistently emphasizes:

- Preparedness and fire-adapted landscaping
- Coexistence and stewardship
- Regrowth and resilience
- Recognition of firefighters
- Natural beauty and wildlife
- Practical improvements (simplicity, local artists, child-friendly features)

This group does not resemble the opposed group in tone or content.

Key Conclusions

- **Opposition exists, but it is limited (15–20%)** and expresses a narrow, ideologically consistent set of concerns.
- **Most respondents (80–85%)** show openness, interest, or constructive engagement with the theme.
- The data strongly supports moving forward, with attention to:
 - honoring firefighters,
 - emphasizing preparedness and renewal,
 - avoiding traumatic imagery,
 - and highlighting natural beauty and ecological balance.