

Work of Art Project Plan

This document outlines key objectives, budget, timeline, artist selection, and deliverables for a proposed public art project and will be completed by members of the project's working group.

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

1. Name of Project/Working Group: _____ Fire Station #4 _____

2. Working Group Members

Role	Name
a. APPB Member	_____Anna Buckthorpe_____
b. APPB Member (Optional)	_____Jasmine Stephens_____
c. Proposed project site 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, fits in the Los Alamos Public Art Collection, and any other important context.

Project Introduction:

The purpose of this public art project is to commemorate and educate the community about the risks, history, and ongoing impact of wildfires in Los Alamos County through an experiential, interpretive installation. The artwork will abstractly reflect the scale and disruption of the three major wildfires that have affected the County while highlighting our unique position—living alongside extensive wildlands and maintaining a close relationship with the surrounding landscape.

This project originated as part of the Fire Station #4 capital project and aligns with the Los Alamos Public Art Collection's mission to integrate meaningful, site-specific artwork into public spaces. After initial concerns from the Art in Public Places Board (APPB) regarding the tone and focus of the original concept, the Board engaged with the Los Alamos Fire Department and sought community input to refine the theme. This feedback shifted the project from a strict commemoration to a broader, more community-centered approach emphasizing wildfire education, resilience, and healing.

Opening on 3/20/26 and closing on 4/5/26, a public survey invited residents to review the revised theme and share what resonated, what was missing, and what mattered most. This community-driven process ensures the final piece reflects local experiences, values, and perspectives.

The current proposed theme emphasizes Los Alamos' relationship with wildfire and the principles of fire adaptation: how communities, landscapes, and ecosystems prepare for, live with, and recover from fire. The artwork may incorporate educational components, interactive or functional elements, opportunities for reflection, and fire-adapted landscaping that is both visually engaging and practical for the site.

The APPB is partnering with the Los Alamos Fire Department and the Public Works Department to integrate the final artwork into the new Fire Station #4 in a way that is meaningful to both firefighters and the broader public. This collaborative approach supports the County's goals for resilient design, community education, and public art that deepens our shared connection to the natural environment.

The draft theme reads:

A community-centered, educational, and therapeutic artwork that tells the story of Los Alamos' relationship with wildfire while highlighting the principles of fire adaptation - how communities, landscapes and ecosystems can prepare for, live with and recover from fire. The piece should incorporate interactive or functional elements, demonstrate the beauty and practicality of fire-adapted landscaping, and offer space for reflection, resilience, and learning for both the public and the firefighters who serve at Station #4.

4. Site and Context

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

Site Description:

The artwork will be integrated into a designed portion of the building near the primary public entry, specifically within the screen wall area adjacent to the fitness/gym space. This location serves as a visual landmark and reinforces the transition between public-facing and operational spaces. The screen wall partially filters views into interior spaces enclosed with storefront glazing, providing architectural definition and visual control.

APPB officially accepted this location of the building for the artwork at the February 26, 2026 meeting. They had a conversation with Erik Litzenberg, Fire Chief, at this meeting to discuss his vision for the artwork theme.

5. Artist Selection Process

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

- Open Call for Art
- Artist Invitation
- Direct Selection (explain rationale below)
- Completed Work of Art (explain rationale below)
- Other (describe below)

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

If Other is chosen, describe the proposed method for artist selection:

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

b. Selection Process Details:

Describe desired 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 based on the project plan.

After the community helps shape the them we want the artwork to convey, a Call for Art will be issued. This call will request artist qualifications along with a description of the artist’s vision for interpreting the story. A selection group (consisting of APPB working group members, County staff, and Fire Department representatives) will review submissions and narrow the pool to approximately three semi-finalists. Each semi-finalist will receive a stipend to develop a detailed design proposal. These proposals will then be shared for community input, after which APPB members will select one finalist based on feedback and alignment with project goals. The selected artist will be contracted to create the artwork and collaborate with Fire Station architects and, potentially, local artists or community members to complete the project.

Note: the call for art will include the theme we want to tell (refined from what the Fire Station #4 project started with along with the community’s input) and can also include the example the architects presented at the 12/18/25 APPB presentation.

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 artist will design, fabricate, and install the artwork. Responsibilities include attending planning meetings, coordinating with the design team, ensuring technical feasibility, and integrating the piece into the screen wall structure. Additionally, the artist may collaborate with community members and/or local artists if deemed appropriate for the project, ensuring the final work reflects shared values and community input.

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 shall be suitable for th type of artwork considered.
- Artist's reputation and/or recognition may be considered if important.

- Appropriateness for intended location.
- Long-term maintenance needs shall be reviewed, based on artist's description and/or County or its maintenance and restoration Contractor.
- Environmental impact (light, sound, exposure).
- Security and vandalism resistance.
- Public safety.
- Relevant community input (e.g., community feedback or surveys).

Additional Criteria for This Project:

- Artwork should interpret wildfire as a defining force in Los Alamos County's landscape and history.
- Must reflect themes identified through community outreach.

8. Proposed Project Timeline

a. Artist Selection Timeline:

b. Design, Fabrication, Installation Timeline:

9. Proposed Budget

Provide a generalized break down of the anticipated 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: \$_____

Breakdown and Explanation:

Estimated Fire Station #4 Capital Project is \$15 million; 1% of that is \$150,000. Need to get more details and exact figures before deciding on a budget for this project.

10. Anticipated Process Requirements

Identify any requirements related to permitting, installation, coordination, or logistics:

- Coordination with Fire Station #4 construction team
- Compliance with building codes and safety standards
- Permitting for installation
- Logistics for delivery and installation of artwork

11. Community Engagement, Marketing & Communications

a. Marketing and Outreach Strategy:

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

Public meetings, surveys, pop-up events, and community conversations to gather input on wildfire themes and community values. Updates via County website and social media.

b. Community Input Survey Questions:

List proposed questions or desired information needed for gathering community feedback.

1. After reviewing the proposed theme, how well do you feel it reflects Los Alamos’ relationship with wildfire?

- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Neutral
- Not very well
- Not well at all

2. How important are the following elements to you in the artwork for Fire Station #4?

(Scale: Very important / Somewhat important / Neutral / Not important)

- A design that holds meaning for the firefighters who work at the station
- Educational elements about living with wildfire
- Themes of reflection, healing, or resilience
- Interactive or hands-on features
- Fire-adapted landscaping or natural components

3. In your own words, what aspects of living with wildfire do you feel are most important for this artwork to highlight?

(Open text box)

4. Is there anything you feel is missing from the proposed theme that should be considered?

(Open text box)

5. Is there anything else you would like the Art in Public Places Board or Los Alamos Fire Department to keep in mind as we move forward with this project?

(Open text box)

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

12. Conservator Report (If Applicable)

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

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

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

Details:

14. Recommendation to County Council

Select one:

- Do NOT recommend; project cancelled** *(include who cancelled project in explanation)*

Explanation: _____

- Recommend to Council** *(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 by the Board Chair or approved by County Council, the Project Working Group may be released of its obligations and dissolved. Details regarding the purchase, installation, and celebration may 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., project completed, Work of Art installed, ribbon cutting celebration planned or held, project cancelled).

Closure Summary:
