

## RESOLUTION NO. 2020-95

### RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO A SOCIAL JUSTICE MURAL

**WHEREAS**, on February 13, 2017, the Forest Grove City Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2017-21, declaring the City of Forest Grove an inclusive community for all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration or refugee status, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, mental and physical ability, veteran status, or age; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 13, 2020, the Forest Grove City Council adopted “*Support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the delivery of city services and operations*” as one of its top goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Forest Grove supports and encourages community dialogue and processes to address and improve racial and social justice through the creation of the Sustainability Commission and Community Policing Advisory Commission whose membership and purpose is to advise City Council on social and racial justice issues; and

**WHEREAS**, from June, 2020 to present, students from Pacific University (“muralists”) having been collaborating with City and University officials about painting a social justice mural in Forest Glen Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council discussed the social justice mural proposal during a work session on August 10, 2020, that led to a joint work session with the Public Arts Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, on September 9, the muralists submitted a mural memo to the City that included a description, concept, budget, location, and timeline of proposed project; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 14, 2020, the City Council and the Public Arts Commission (PAC) met in a joint work session to discuss the proposal and expressed support for social justice and referred the proposal to the PAC for consideration at the September 17, 2020, PAC meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2020, the muralists submitted a revised mural memo to the PAC that included additional information about the proposed location that was discussed during the September 14, 2020, work session; and

**WHEREAS**, at the September 17, 2020 PAC meeting, the PAC voted to approve the mural (put in conditions) and developed a process to move forward with the mural and recommended approval to the City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FOREST GROVE AS FOLLOWS:**

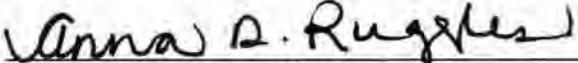
**Section 1.** The City Council supports the creation of a social justice mural.

**Section 2.** The purpose and intent of a social justice mural is to raise awareness of the principle and meaning of social justice in a collaborative manner and to provide a reminding framework in Forest Grove of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in social justice and governance.

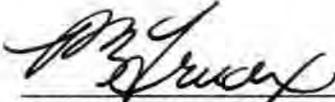
**Section 3.** The City wishes to express its viewpoint through commissioning the muralist to paint the proposed social justice mural on behalf of the City. The mural shall be located at Forest Glen Park and remain for up to five years. The mural shall be painted once the City Council has the opportunity to approve the final image.

**Section 4.** This resolution is effective immediately upon its enactment by the City Council.

**PRESENTED AND PASSED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna D. Ruggles, City Recorder

**APPROVED** by the Mayor this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter B. Truax, Mayor



*A place where families and businesses thrive.*

CITY RECORDER USE ONLY:

AGENDA ITEM #: 10.

MEETING DATE: 09/28/2020

FINAL ACTION: RESO 2020-95

Council approved a motion to add:  
Section 3. The City wishes to express its viewpoint through commissioning the muralist to paint the proposed social justice mural on behalf of the City. The mural shall be located at Forest Glen Park and remain for up to five years. The mural shall be painted once the City Council has the opportunity to approve the final image.

**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** *City Council*

**FROM:** *Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager*

**PROJECT TEAM:** *Tom Gamble, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Colleen Winters, Library Director*

**MEETING DATE:** *September 28, 2020*

**SUBJECT TITLE:** *Social Justice Mural proposal*

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Order</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Informational</b>
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*X all that apply*

**BACKGROUND:**

In June, 2020, the City received a proposal from two Pacific University students to create a social justice mural on the west wall of the basketball/handball court in Forest Glen Park.

The proposed mural would replace the current mural on the west wall of the basketball/handball court at Forest Glen Park that was an Eagle Scout project from 2015. The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Eagle Scout project as part of a list of 7 other park projects.

The 2015 mural replaced a mural by students from the Business Management Program at Forest Grove High School that was done in April-May, 2006, as part of a larger collaboration between the students and the City where the students assisted with needed park projects such as planting trees, building a picnic table, painting back boards and poles, repainting basketball court lines, and providing park clean up.

The 2015 mural on the wall at Forest Glen Park has an outline of the State of Oregon on one side and an American flag on the other. The 2006 mural was of handprints by the students who improved the park. This is the only park with a mural on a wall.

At the August 10, 2020 City Council meeting, the Council discussed the social justice mural during a work session. Following that discussion, which included a brief review of prior city art acquisition projects, it was decided to hold a joint work session with the Public Arts Commission (PAC).

The joint work session was held on Monday, September 14, 2020. The staff report included the background of the proposal; the history of the PAC and prior public art acquisitions; the history of the Forest Glen Park murals, and a legal analysis. The City Attorney was in attendance as well as eight members of the PAC and the two student proposers. The mural proposers drafted a memo which was included in the Council packet. That memo has since been updated and is appended to the staff report.

Discussion ensued about how the PAC could be involved. A consensus emerged that social justice aligns with the Council's goal of "supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the delivery of city services and

operations” and that a mural could reflect this. In the Council meeting that followed, in keeping with the PAC’s prior involvement with art, the City Council passed the following motion:

*“Refer the proposal for the racial justice mural to the Public Arts Commission to request it consider if the mural aligns with established city goals and objectives and make a recommendation to the Council regarding the proposal. The PAC should work with the requestor to develop their proposal to include but not limited to, a rendering of the mural, a process for final approval for the Council, how long and where the mural shall remain on City property and clarify that the project sponsors are painting the mural at the City’s request and the City will own the mural going forward and then make a recommendation to the City Council.”*

Further, the Council’s motion included:

*“The PAC shall also develop policies and procedures for art in public spaces including written criteria, procedures for submission (i.e., alignment with established city goals and objectives), opportunities for the PAC to give input and require modifications, state duration and ownership terms, explain funding opportunities, and a process for final approval.”* This portion of the motion was brought to the PAC’s attention; however, the PAC was informed that each could be acted on separately.

At the September 17 PAC meeting, the PAC approved a \$500 mini-grant request from the mural proposers. The motion stated *“The PAC accepts this mini-grant proposal to fund the artist and supplies for the mural project using CEP mini-grant funds contingent upon the project moving forward.”*

The PAC also discussed the mural as a follow up from the joint work session. The PAC discussed the proposed location, the design of the mural, and the timing. They also discussed the alignment with Council goals, and when a rendering might become available (the mural rendering is being designed and not yet available, therefore, was not able to be reviewed by the PAC). They also discussed a preference to paint the mural prior to the rainy season. The City Attorney was present and responded to multiple questions about process. The PAC voted 8-0 to approve the mural at the proposed location of the west wall at Forest Glen Park. The motion stated: *“The PAC recommends to the Forest Grove City Council to approve the location and the mural to be painted by the community and students, contingent on the final approval of the design by Council.”* The motion was amended to include: *“five year maximum for the display”*.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

A draft resolution has been included in the Council packet stating the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion and how a statement of social justice aligns with that value. The options below are intended to generate thought and discussion. The intent of the resolution is to allow the Council to place a resolution on the table for open discussion. The Council can then amend the resolution to include an option or a combination of options, or, it can defer the resolution to another meeting. Potential Options:

1. Accept the PAC’s recommendations. This includes siting the mural on the west wall of Forest Glen Park and allowing the mural to remain for up to five years. The remaining items that would need to be considered include approval of the final mural design and when to allow the mural to be painted.
2. Amend the PAC’s recommendation. This could include, but not be limited to, designating a location, when to paint the mural, the mural design, and how long it may remain in place.
3. Consistent with the Council’s prior motion, request the PAC establish policies and procedures for art in public spaces, i.e., a broader public art mural program (or the Council could do this as well). For example, the PAC could designate City owned locations eligible for public murals and conduct a public call for art for each location.

4. Refer the mural back to the PAC. This could include withholding consideration of the mural proposal until the PAC does one or all of the following: 1) approve the mural design pending submittal by the proposer; 2) recommend when the mural should be painted; and 3) confer with the Parks and Recreation Commission about the placement of mural(s) in public parks.
5. Refer the PAC's recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission for recommendation to City Council. Section III (D) of the PAC's bylaws state *"to advise Council, Parks and Recreation Commission....in using public art to enhance existing development in public parks and other public lands and in public structures."*
6. Appoint a joint working group comprised of 3-4 members each from the PAC and the Recreation Commission. This group would represent the interests of each commission and make a joint recommendation directly to the City Council.
7. A combination thereof.

As the Council considers the above options, it is important to also consider how the mural would be maintained. Depending upon exposure and preparation, murals tend to deteriorate as soon as they are finished. Both existing murals have deteriorated. Per City policy, if paint on a city facility is deteriorated, the city cleans and/or paints the facility on an as-needed basis. If graffiti is on a city facility, the city washes or paints over the graffiti as soon as possible.

**ATTACHMENT(s):**

- Revised student mural memo
- Draft Resolution



*A place where families and businesses thrive.*

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**ATTACHMENT(s):**

- Revised student mural memo
- Draft Resolution

**Project Name:** Social Justice Mural

**Organization:** Pacific University

**Contacts:** Seema Khatecherian, Karsen Buck

**E-mail address:** [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

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  - G. How this project will benefit the residents of Forest Grove
  - H. Anticipated Volunteers
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- III. Calendar/Timeline (page 5-6)
- IV. Photos for Reference (mural location and current conditions) (page 7-9)

## I. Introduction:

### A. About Us

Karsen Buck and Seema Khatcherian are current Seniors at Pacific University. Both have lived in Forest Grove for the past two years in a house about a mile from the current mural site. Karsen Buck is majoring in Applied Sustainability for Environmental Science with minors in Spanish and Philosophy. Seema is double majoring in Anthropology and Applied Sustainability. Both Karsen and Seema are deeply passionate about issues of social injustice and uplifting every member of a community.

### B. Description of the Project:

This Social Justice Mural mural would be located at Forest Glen Park on the handball court Wall in Forest Grove. It will incorporate imagery which helps to celebrate BIPOC and encourage the community to think deeper about the issues

currently occurring in our country. We plan to have community members of color help inform the design so that we are including the local community's input in this project. Additionally, we will welcome the complete painting process for all community members and kids. Signing up will be available online or by phone. Furthermore, we intend to hire a black muralist from the Portland Area, Jamaali Arts, to help us draft a mural design that incorporates elements the community wishes to see in a professionally designed format.

### **C. Concepts in Mural Design**

The following are ideas that will likely be included in some context in the mural:

- BIPOC Flag and an American flag ( BIPOC flag is a very important symbol of intersectionality and holds messages of standing with other marginalized groups)
- Four fists of varying skin tones (for equal representation of all skin tones)
- Images of farm laborers (acknowledges the farmworkers in and around the FG area)
  - Three sisters crop guild incorporated
- Land acknowledgement with ALL different tribes in the FG area

### **D. Explanation of Location Choice: Why Forest Glen Park?**

Forest Glen Park contains a handball court that is located on the left-hand side of Gales Creek Road when entering Forest Grove from the west. The distance and slope this park is on creates a perfect view of the site when driving in and out of Forest Grove. The mural is currently an American Flag which has negative connotations for certain people/groups and does not create a sense of community or acceptance. Due to this location's visibility to those entering Forest Grove it would be a great opportunity for the city to express its commitment to DEI goals and social justice to the current community and those who are driving through Forest Grove. This mural location would show how the city values community dialogue around issues of racial injustices due to its visibility and the neighborhood it resides in.

### **E. Action items**

#### **(What we need/want to see from the council)**

We would like the council to consider our request to paint the mural in the same fashion the Boy Scout mural was approved. This would be in keeping with the process that was in place when our group initially approached the city.

The Council and the Commissions can then embark on an ongoing policy process that would allow for greater oversight and review moving into the future.

**F. Name of organizations that will partner or collaborate with this project:**

Pacific University, Students for Environmental Activism Club (SEA); Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Office (DEI); Association for Latinx and Ally Students (ALAS); City of Forest Grove

**G. How this project will benefit the residents of Forest Grove:**

The mural will cultivate a sense of acceptance and support for POC in this community and/or those who drive through this community. Furthermore, it will challenge individuals to reevaluate their deeply rooted beliefs and understand that this is indeed a diverse community.

**H. Anticipated Volunteers:**

If the mural is approved we will then create volunteer sheets (through google forms) that we can send out to different groups (including the Forest Grove city Facebook page, Association for Latinx and Ally Students (ALAS), Forest Grove Progressive Facebook page, any other groups/people we are recommended to share to, etc.) Due to the COVID-19 virus, we will be limiting the number of volunteers to for each mural work session (there should be at least 4 different time slots/days where we will work on the mural)

**I. Concerns:**

The two major concerns regarding the mural process would be the timeline and safety. We would like to get this mural started and painted before the rainy season as otherwise, we will encounter significant challenges regarding the painting of the mural. In regards to safety, we are concerned that volunteers may not respect boundaries regarding the current virus pandemic. However, we can mitigate that by providing masks and hand sanitizer (something we accounted for in our budgeting) and setting boundaries that volunteers are required to wear masks.

**J. COVID Safety precautions:**

We will limit volunteer numbers to 10 per mural work session (there will be at least 4 work sessions). We will also provide hand sanitizer and masks in case individuals do not bring their own or we have walk-up volunteers.

## II. Projected Budget:

	Public Arts Commission mini Grant	Students for Env. Activism	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office	Other
<b>Personal (explain)</b> Head muralist + Designer	\$450			
<b>Marketing &amp; Publicity</b>				
<b>Materials + Supplies</b>	\$50			
<b>In-kind contributions</b>				Parents/GoFundMe
<b>Total = \$1000 confirmed (\$1550 we think will be the total after fundraising)</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$550</b>

Supplies:	Cost:	Total Cost of item:	Total cost:
Primer	\$80 x 3 for primer	\$240	
Scrapers	scrapers \$9 x 6	\$60	
Roller pads	3 packages (each package contains 3), \$10 each	\$30	
Paint pans	15 pans (\$2 each)	\$30	
Ladder (to borrow)	From Emily	\$0	
Paint	\$80 x 5 for paint	\$400	
Hand sanitizer/masks for volunteers	\$40	\$40	
Design from Jamalli	\$450	\$450	
Other/Misc:	\$300	Other = \$300	
<b>Total cost of project:</b>			<b>Total = \$1,550</b>

### III. Estimated Calendar/Timeline:

Sept.						
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Saturday
		1	2	3 PAC Grant due	4	5
6	7 Meeting with ALAS regarding mural content	8 Deadline for Memo	9	10 Meeting with Jamaali @11:30 am	11	12
13	14 <b>City Work Session (5:30 pm)</b>	15 Contact Emily if she is willing to help with Wall prep.	16 Pacific meeting regarding work session @11:30 am	17	18	19 Wall prep for mural?
20	21	22	23	24 Estimated date for finalized mural design	25	26 Wall prep/start outline
27	28 Estimated Date for Official Approval	29	30	1	2	3

To be added: Date outlining the mural, and 2-3 days for painting it.

<b>October</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mon.</b>	<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>RAINY SEASON BEGINS</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

- IV. Photos: Pre Social Justice Mural**  
**V. 30ft by 9.4-9.8ft (it is on a slant)**







Back of Mural:



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**WHEREAS**, on April 13, 2020, the Forest Grove City Council adopted "*Support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the delivery of city services and operations*" as one of its top goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Forest Grove supports and encourages community dialogue and processes to address and improve racial and social justice through the creation of the Sustainability Commission and Community Policing Advisory Commission whose membership and purpose is to advise City Council on social and racial justice issues; and

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**Section 3.** <Insert Option Here>

**Section 4.** This resolution if adopted is effective immediately upon its enactment by the City Council.

**PRESENTED AND PASSED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020

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Anna Ruggles, City Recorder

**APPROVED** by the Mayor this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020

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