# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: February 27, 2023 Item No.: 5.b

Department Approval

City Manager Approval

letth 2. John

Item Description: Accept Donation of Public Art Piece to the Harriet Alexander Nature Center

#### BACKGROUND

- 2 Over the years the City of Roseville has received many donations from citizens, program participants
- and affiliated groups. These gifts have been in the form of both materials and monies. When staff is
- 4 notified of a potential donation, they first make a determination of whether to recommend acceptance
- based on the suitability of the item for the city. An acceptance request is then forwarded to the City
- 6 Council.
- 7 In recent months, staff have been made aware of one such potential substantial donation. Long-time
- 8 Harriet Alexander Nature Center (HANC) volunteers John and Kris Robertson-Smith, working with
- 9 the Friends of Roseville Parks, have expressed interest in making a donation of a public art piece to
- HANC grounds of up to \$70,000 in value.
- The Robertson-Smiths are proposing to commission mosaic artist Lori Greene to design and
- construct a public art piece on the grounds of the Nature Center with the explicit goal of adding
- beauty to HANC and driving new traffic to the space. Ms. Greene is a widely respected community
- and public artist who has successfully completed a number of significant public art projects in the
- Twin Cities area including works for the City of St. Louis Park, the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, a
- number of parks in the area, and a project with the Roseville Library. Ms. Greene brings a strong
- focus on public engagement and community involvement to her work (Attachment A).
- Ms. Greene is tentatively proposing the installation of three cairns near the Nature Center. Sample
- cairns that Ms. Greene has created in other communities can be found in Attachment B. However,
- because Ms. Greene has not yet been hired to complete the work or completed any engagement for
- 21 the project, any concepts are extremely preliminary.
- 22 It should be noted that the City of Roseville does not currently have a Public Art Master Plan, so
- decisions about public art are largely made by staff on a case by case basis. One recent example of a
- similar decision is the acceptance of three roses as part of the Roseville In Bloom program in 2021.
- 25 There are still many details to be worked out on this potential project, but many of them cannot be
- 26 addressed until the City accepts the donation and Ms. Greene's services are secured to begin her
- 27 process.
- Ms. Greene attended the Parks and Recreation Commission on February 7, 2023 (Attachment D) to

discuss some design ideas and her potential process. The PRC officially recommended that staff move forward with the project as outlined

## POLICY OBJECTIVE

31

37

38

39

40

43

49

52

According to the Americans for the Arts Public Art Council, "Cities gain economic, cultural and social value from public art." In addition to the public art value, the proposed piece is being donated with the explicit purpose of drawing more residents to the Harriet Alexander Nature Center, which in turn, will expose them to the numerous documented health and wellness benefits derived from connections to natural spaces.

The proposed project is consistent with the City policy of effectively using non-City funds to enhance or further develop City facilities.

#### BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

All funds for the project would be donated as outlined above. City staff time will be contributed to management of the project.

# RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT SUMMARY

- Lori Greene is a multiracial (African American, Native American-Mississippi band of Choctaw, and
- Caucasian) who brings a unique voice and perspective to public art. Lori has a strong history of
- ensuring that historically underrepresented populations are engaged in her process and represented in
- 47 the art that she creates, which will assist her in ensuring that underrepresented voices are part of the
- 48 process in Roseville.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the policy objective, the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation commission and staff analysis, staff recommend a motion to accept the donation as outlined above.

# REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Motion to accept the donation of a public art project at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center, as outlined above.

Prepared by: Matthew Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director

Attachments: A: Lori Greene Biography

B: Sample Public Art Piece by Lori Greene from Other CommunitiesC: Preliminary Concept for Carnes at Harriet Alexander Nature Center

D: DRAFT Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes, February 7, 2023







# **MEET THE ARTIST**

#### Lori Greene

Mosaic artist and sculptor, Lori Greene, identifies as a community and public artist. She works with and for the community, and has over twenty years of experience making outdoor public art mosaics. Lori is well-known for creating pieces about healing and recovering from trauma. She believes the process of making art is healing, and she believes there is power in working together to create a work of art and see it through to the finished piece. She works with intention, with an open heart, and with love. Her process involves listening, feeling, researching, and of course the building of the mosaic. It is a long process, but it is a labor of love.

As a multiracial (African American, Native American- Mississippi band of Choctaw, and Caucasian) woman, Lori brings a unique voice and perspective to public art that has not always been represented. Her identity as a woman of color is very visible in her work, as demonstrated through the narratives of her pieces and the people who are represented in them. Lori's work is bold, colorful, and unapologetic. Patterns, symbols, and motifs reflecting her intersecting cultural identities interweave themselves throughout her works like a visual language. Within them lies stories of survival, interconnection, resilience, and a deep connection to the ancestors. Through Lori's artistic process she works to honor the legacies of BIPOC people and decolonize our relationship to mother nature. Made with love, her works serve as prayers for a future of justice, perseverance, and intergenerational healing.















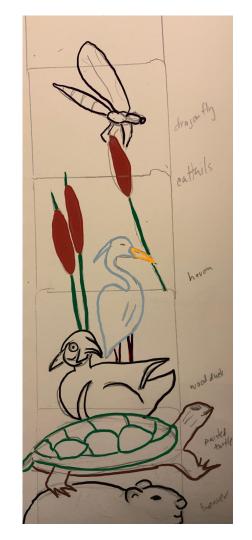




Attachment B









1	ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION		
2		MEETING MINUTES FOR	
3		FEBRUARY 7, 2023 6:30 p.m.	
4			
5	PRESENT:	Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Matts-Benson,	
6		Ybarra	
7	<b>ABSENT:</b>	Lenhart	
8	STAFF:	Anderson, Johnson	
9			
10	1) <b>INTRODUCTI</b>	ONS	
11			
12	2) ROLL CALL/P	PUBLIC COMMENT	
13			
14	Roll	Call Commissioners: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Matts-	
15	Bense	on, Ybarra.	
16			
17	Staff noted that '	Vice-Chair Hoag was present via Zoom. However, he was having technical	
18	difficulties and r	ot able to speak via the microphone at this time.	
19			
20	Chair Dahlstrom	called for public comment by members of the audience. No audience members	
21	indicated they w	ish to speak.	
22			
23	3) APPROVAL O	F MINUTES – JANUARY 3, 2022 MEETING	
24			
25	Com	missioner Brown moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Arneson seconded.	
26			
27	Roll	Call	
28	Ayes	: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson, Ybarra.	
29	•	: None.	
30	Abst	ain: None.	
31			
32		SIBLE ART PIECE DONATION FOR THE HARRIET ALEXANDER	
33	NATURE CEN		
34	•	n contacted by a perspective donor who is interested in making a substantial	
35		public art piece for the Harriet Alexander Nature Center. Specifically, the donor is	
36		tributing an art piece that highlights the nature center and draws more people into	
37	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	donor is interested in commissioning a piece by Lori Greene, a mosaic artist who	
38		mmunity and public artist. Lori has completed several successful pieces in Roseville	
39	including at the	Roseville Library.	
40			

41 42	Lori is a multicultural woman and she brings a unique perspective that is not always seen in public art projects. In addition, she has a strong focus on public engagement and community involvement in
43	her projects.
44	ner projects.
45	Staff relayed that currently there is not a Public Art Master Plan and noted that it may be worthwhile
46	to address this in the future.
47	
48	Lori was available at the meeting and provided the Commission with pictures of previous public art
49	pieces that she has created. The art medium that she utilizes is mosaic tiles. She shared that her idea
50	for the Harriet Alexander Nature Center would be three sculptural forms. Each form would represent
51	the (past and present) flora and fauna of either the wetlands, forest or prairie.
52	
53	Commissioner Arneson asked if the tiles are ceramic and where they are made. Lori responded that
54	they are high-fire ceramic tiles made primarily in Italy, Portugal and Germany.
55	
56	Lori relayed that she anticipates the size of the sculptural forms will be approximately 15 feet high
57	and three feet wide.
58	
59	Staff added that the original concept for placement of the forms was to have them visible from the
60	parking lot.
61	
62	Lori discussed possible community outreach options, including; public meetings, surveys,
63	demonstrations, etc.
64	
65	Commissioner Brown asked the timeline to complete a project like this. Lori relayed she would
66	anticipate it taking 6-12 months.
67	
68	The Commission discussed how exciting the project is and that they like the concept that Lori
69	presented.
70	
71	Commissioners Bolton and Ybarra shared that they would like to see the art pieces throughout the
72	Nature Center property and not just near the parking lot.
73	
74	In addition to the proposed art piece, the city has received another donation related to additional
75	signage at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center. Staff shared that the signs will help direct people to
76	the nature center and will work to remedy any confusion between the nature center and Wildlife
77	Rehabilitation Center. The Commissioner reviewed the potential concept drawings for the signs and
78	discussed how the two proposed projects could interrelate.
79	
80	Commissioner Hoag relayed that he would include the Parks and Recreation logo to the signage.

81	Commissioner Bolton shared that he thinks a map on the signs would potentially be helpful.	
82		
83	Commissioner Matts-Benson asked if there will ever be sidewalks placed on the east side of Dale St	
84	in front of the nature center. Staff responded that they would need to review the Pathways Master	
85	Plan to answer definitively. However, they don't believe that there will be pathways added on the	
86	east side of Dale St.	
87		
88	Commissioner Baggenstoss recommended that the signage not be modeled after the art piece as the	
89	art should be viewed separately.	
90		
91	Commissioner Matts-Benson moved to accept the donation for a public art piece at the	
92	Harriet Alexander Nature Center created by artist, Lori Greene. Commissioner Brown	
93	seconded.	
94		
95	Roll Call	
96	Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Matts-Benson, Ybarra.	
97	Nays: None.	
98	Abstain: None.	
99		
100 101	5) DEDDIEF DECADDING JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL	
101	5) DEBRIEF REGARDING JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL	
102	Staff gave a brief review of the joint meeting between the City Council and Parks and Recreation	
103	Commission. As the City Council approved the name change of Pocahontas Park to Keya Park staff provided a potential name change transition plan:	
104	provided a potential name change transition plan.	
105	Keya Park Transition	
107		
	Updated websites/News release  Please are a second to the second to	
108	Playground engagement:  The second in March (April	
109	o Three meetings in March/April	
110	Likely September/October neighborhood build  Completed a few weeks after.	
111	Completed a few weeks after	
112	• Park sign	
113	• Interpretive signage	
114	Including Dakota consultation	
115	Land acknowledgement	
116	• Transition complete end of 2023	
117		
118	Staff also discussed the Campus Master Plan and what impacts it may have on Parks and Recreation.	
119	Staff noted that the Commission will need to work through specific tangible options to account for	
120	any lost space.	