


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	25-126	Meeting:	March 24, 2025
	Agenda Item:	35	Roll Call:	25-0447
	Submitted by:	Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving BRAVO GC25 Public Art Grant Agreement with Bravo Greater Des Moines for \$22,750 of grant funding for Pioneer Columbus Community Recreation Center (CRC) Mural Project.

SYNOPSIS:

The Pioneer Columbus CRC Mural Project aims to provide a new piece of accessible public art for the Pioneer Columbus CRC and Stone Park which speaks and responds to community input and engagement, complements the programming of the CRC and park, enhances the soon to be completed Stone Park Improvements Project, highlights the ownership and aesthetics of the CRC and park by creating a unique, highly memorable destination area in the City of Des Moines.

Approving the GC25 Public Art Grant Agreement with Bravo Greater Des Moines (Bravo) for \$22,750 of grant funding for CRC Mural Project. Bravo requires that the GC25 Public Art Grant Agreement, a copy of which is on file in the City Clerk's Office, be executed by the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$45,500

Funding Source: \$22,750 Bravo grant revenue, \$22,750; Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), PK143 Park Building Improvements, Page 67

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Between 2014 to 2019, Pioneer Columbus CRC underwent improvements to both the interior and exterior of the building to support a more functional and welcoming facility for all. Exterior improvements included a new building paint color scheme and necessary repairs such as an exterior water proofing system.
- The new exterior color palette and layout intentionally allocated three (3) spaces for a potential, future mural until funding became available to implement.
- Pioneer Columbus CRC sits within Stone Park. Construction of improvements to the park began in spring 2024 and is estimated to be completed in late spring 2025. Improvements to the park include a sprayground and playground, mini-pitch futsal court, four pickleball courts, resurfacing

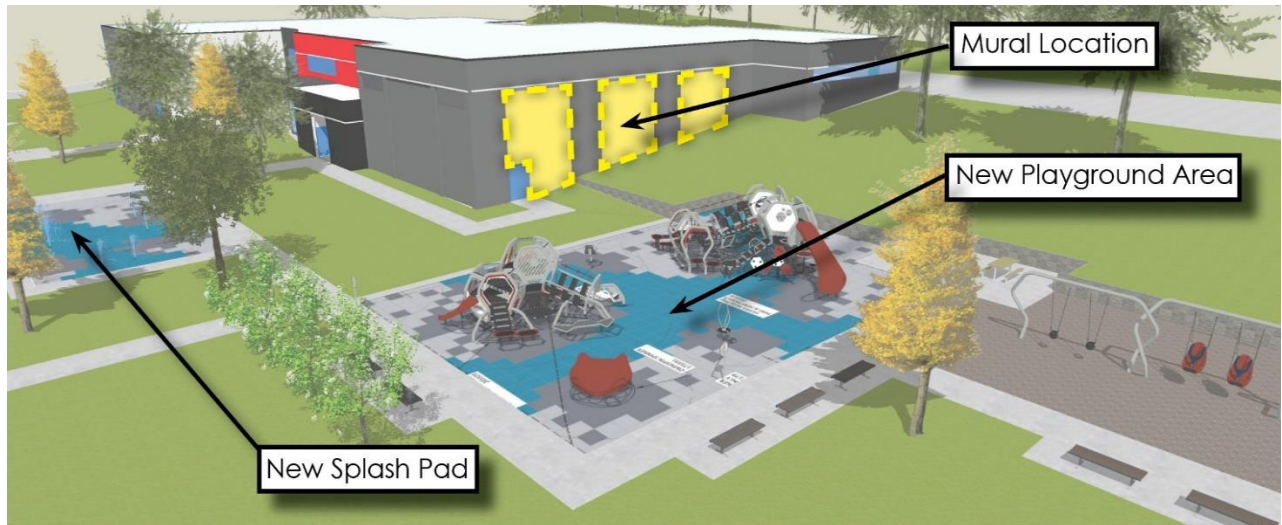
of the existing basketball court, LED sports lighting, an open-air shelter, accessible walkways, and stormwater management.

- These investments in both the CRC and Stone Park have led to grant and donor funding opportunities for the planned murals. The Parks and Recreation Department successfully applied for a Bravo Public Art Grant to assist in funding the development of artwork specific to the Pioneer Columbus CRC and will seek additional private funding sources to potentially reduce the amount of CIP funding utilized.
- The mural will complement the CRC and park improvements, plus add the finishing touches of the overall vision with site specific art that seamlessly weaves into the fabric of the community. To kick this off, on January 4, 2025, the Parks and Recreation Department presented the proposal of a mural for the exterior of the CRC to the Indianola Hills Neighborhood Association. Attendees supported the project with intent, expressing enthusiasm for the proposed mural and appreciation for how the mural will complement the upcoming improvements at Stone Park.
- The mural artwork will be shaped by additional robust public engagement, incorporating input from neighborhood association outreach, an online questionnaire, onsite signage, social media, a public comment period, media and press coverage, and other outreach methods.
- This engagement and other related project processes will closely follow the approach used for the recently completed public art project at Evelyn K. Davis Park, including sharing all public input information gathered with selected local artists to help shape the mural's concept and design framework.
- The project aligns with the goals and vision outlined in LiveDSM, PlanDSM, MoveDSM, and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation.
- Parks and Recreation consulted with the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation to develop a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to select the mural artist. Local artists/teams interested in the project will submit examples of work, experience in large-scale mural painting, and references.
- A selection panel with representatives from the Parks and Recreation, Friends of Des Moines Parks, Bravo, and the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation will review submissions and select five (5) finalists to develop mural concepts and proposals. Once proposals are received, the panel will select one (1) artist/team to be awarded the project.
- The mural design will require support from the Parks and Recreation Department, the Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, Bravo, and the Indianola Hills Neighborhood Association.
- The proposed mural will be installed using paint materials approved by the City of Des Moines Facilities and Parks and Recreation Departments to support compatibility with the existing exterior building paint system applied in 2019. This will allow for proper adhesion, durability, and long-term protection of the building's surface.
- Mural installation is anticipated to take place in late summer or early fall 2025, with coordination to align with scheduled events at the CRC and adjacent park area.

- Upon completion and acceptance, the mural will remain in place for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and be maintained for a planned duration of two (2) years, with additional renewal terms available in two (2) year increments, subject to funding availability.



Existing Conditions of the Pioneer Columbus CRC Exterior



Location of the proposed Pioneer Columbus CRC Mural

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 4, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1681](#)

Action: [Stone](#) Park Improvements: Receiving of bids, (1-9-24) and Setting date of hearing, (1- 22-24), Engineer's estimate, \$2,425,000. ([Council Communication No. 23-531](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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