

# City of La Quinta

## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

### DEPARTMENT REPORT

**TO:** Honorable Chair and Members of the Community Services Commission

**FROM:** Jaime Torres, Community Resources Analyst

**DATE:** March 9, 2020

**SUBJECT:** VILLAGE ART PEDESTAL UPDATE

---

On January 13, 2020 the Community Services Commission (CSC) elected to install Sage Vaughan's (Artist) artwork at the Avenida La Fonda & Avenida Bermudas and Calle Estado & Avenida Bermudas pedestals. At the February CSC meeting, the commission requested an updated proposal that included artwork colors, dimensions, and type of flowers.

The Artist updated the proposal for review (attachment 1). The manufacturing of the artwork will commence and is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

La Quinta Public Art Proposal  
Sage Vaughn



## **Letter of Interest**

I grew up in the forest just outside of Ashland in southern Oregon. But, before I even started school, my family up and moved to Los Angeles, California. My art has been exploring the many facets of these rival environments ever since. What aspects of the wild traverse the borders of our metropolis; and what part of our busy domestic lives reflects the frontier outside? These are the questions I contemplate while working in the studio everyday.

A great deal of my artwork depicts elements of wildlife juxtaposed within the urban setting. Whether a bird on a telephone line, or a migration of butterflies sailing over traffic on the 10 freeway, my paintings provoke present moment awareness. They prompt us to see that beauty, grace, and danger all exist in that changing coastline between what we can control and what we cant.

What I have done for projects like this in the past is to take excursions into the landscape of the proposed site. I search out what is particular to the region and discover what wildflowers I can use for inspiration. I then employ those sketches as templates for large-scale metal sculptures. By enlarging the everyday roadside flower to a monumental size, the commonplace becomes remarkable. Free standing, or attached to some existing architecture, these pieces become exuberant landmarks.

For this public art project I want to propose sculptural pieces that utilize the abundant wildflowers of the Coachella Valley.

## **Proposal for La Quinta Public Art**

The most important aspect of my public art is communication. Normally my work sits in a collectors' home where the public has very little access. In those cases, the sentiments I am trying to convey are concentrated and not widely dispersed; but with public art, the opportunity to engage is so much stronger. I make works that are beautiful and approachable, but intuit an altered perspective. Integrating natural aspects of the landscape back into the urban environment turns the notion of sprawl on its head. These sculptural works consist of carefully arranged groupings of wild flowers sprouting from the pedestals on the street corner. They convey a similar poetic moment for the viewer that a blade of grass pushing through a crack in the concrete. The sculptures, which will be fabricated in Aluminum or steel, depict Nasturtium, Mallow, Coneflower, and Desert Poppies, and are hand painted in a range of colors inspired by the Coachella Valley sunsets. These artworks are composed of equal parts negative space, allowing the viewer to "look through" the work as well as look at the work.