



City of Apache Junction

Development Services Department



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION STAFF MEMO

DATE: May 19, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

THROUGH: Rudy Esquivias, Development Services Director
Sidney Urias, Development Services Deputy Director

FROM: Erika Hernandez, Planner

SUBJECT: P-25-29-ART AJHS Pride – Traffic Cabinet Public Art Contest

BACKGROUND

On October 1, 2024, the Apache Junction City Council ("Council") requested that a traffic cabinet near the Apache Junction High School ("AJHS") include a design that represents AJHS.

On February 10, 2025, the Apache Junction Public Art Commission ("Commission") asked that the Apache Junction Youth Advisory Council ("YAC") chose a theme for a future competition with AJHS, and work with the selected artist to complete the design. Staff reasoned that it would be a great opportunity for the winner of the design and YAC to showcase their art skills by painting the traffic cabinet together.

On April 3, 2025, AJHS, the Commission, and YAC released a school wide competition (Exhibit 1) to design artwork for a city traffic cabinet located on the northeast corner of S. Ironwood Drive and W. Southern Avenue with the theme of "AJHS Pride", with the intent that it would be painted by the selected artist, if available and interested, with the help of YAC.

The entry deadline for the contest was April 23, 2025, for which five (5) submissions were received. The YAC reviewed the submittals (artist names removed) and ranked them for the Commission.

On April 30, 2025, the Commission was asked to recommend their favorite design for City Council consideration. The Commission was also made aware of the YAC's rankings.



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Most recently a Councilmember suggested that the selected artwork be wrapped on the traffic cabinet (as the city has done to other traffic cabinets) as opposed to being painted on. The thought is that a wrap would last longer, to preserve the artist's design for a longer span of time than paint would normally allow for.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Commission agreed with the YAC's recommendation on the best artwork and voted unanimously (one being absent) to recommend Submission 2, designed by artist Sheyla Sebastian, to the Apache Junction City Council as their favorite design, as shown in Exhibit 2.

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1: Contest Materials
- Exhibit 2: Submissions
- Exhibit 3: PAC Staff Report 4.30.25