



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 7

Agenda Date: April 17, 2024

In Control: Governance Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Shade as Art – Art as Shade (SAA-AAS)

SUMMARY:

Briefing on a Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) on Shade as Art – Art as Shade (SAA-AAS)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On December 5, 2023, Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) submitted a CCR to develop a citywide strategy to integrate shade in public art and art into shade structures informed by:

- An analysis of where shade and public art are most needed with equity top of mind
- The use of bus stops along high-traffic corridors where heat island effect is most severe
- The history and cultural characteristics of neighborhoods where shade and public art are most needed
- Public input

- Advice of local artists, designers, and arts organizations
- Goals established by the SA Tomorrow plan
- Best practices adopted by other communities throughout the world

ISSUE:

The CCR proposes a citywide strategy to meet two challenges in San Antonio simultaneously. The first is extreme heat, which has increased the community's desire to see more shade structures installed in and along neighborhoods, commercial corridors, public spaces, and pedestrian right-of-way. The second is the community's ever-increasing desire to see more public art installed in and along neighborhoods, commercial corridors, public spaces, and pedestrian right-of-way.

The goal of the strategy should be to provide cooling for people in our warming city and use the power of design to prompt imagination, beautify our public spaces, promote our local artists, shape public perception, create community gathering opportunities, and increase our resiliency in the face of climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a briefing item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

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RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Department of Arts & Culture:

- Collaborate with the Planning Department, Office of Sustainability, ITSD, and VIA to build a GIS map of areas in most need of shade and public art
- Conduct best practice research of shade as art / art as shade in communities throughout the world including costs/materials/dimensions
- Use these findings to identify opportunities to implement shade as art / art as shade in existing Bond and Capital Improvement Projects in collaboration with partners including Public Works, Parks & Recreation and VIA
- Brief Community Health Committee on implementation plans