

CULTURAL COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: June 21, 2016

Agenda Item Number: 3C

Applicant: Doreen Mack, Downtown 20/20 President
Sam Flakus, Project Artist
Vern L. Krahn, Senior Park Planner

Request: Presentation and discussion only on the Downtown 20/20's Gateway Entrance Arches Project into downtown Carson City.

General Discussion:

The Downtown 20/20 Group has been working on the idea of a historic entrance arches for Carson City's downtown area for the past year. Parks and Recreation Department staff has provided time on the Cultural Commission's agenda at tonight's meeting for Doreen Mack, President – Downtown 20/20 Group and Sam Flakus, Project Artist to present their project. Mr. Flakus has provided the below project description for the Commission to review prior to the meeting.

Artist's project description: The proposed arch project for the downtown corridor of Carson City, NV is intended to act as aesthetic bookends for the multi-million-dollar Carson Street reconstruction set to be completed by October of this year (Exhibit A). Wrought iron-style arches are common in cities, parks, cemeteries, and many other entry ways to places where there is a high amount of foot traffic. The intent for these arches, as it will be for the arch(es) proposed for Carson City, is to serve as a visual barrier to give the impression that the place they are entering is protected, as if it were a place of safety, or simply to show that it is an area that is special.

These arches, as designed, are unique in that they serve as the stoplights for the intersections they are built on. The traffic lights, including those for pedestrians, will be built into the structure of the arches. They will be about 50' in width, and give a minimum clearance of 15.5' for through traffic. The total height will be about 27'.

The architectural theme is based on the Nevada State Capitol building, which was designed by Joseph Gosling in San Francisco and completed in 1870. The subsequent additions to the building and Capitol complex all follow the same geometric subtleties that are on the original structure, specifically the use of sandstone and the octagonal shape for cupolas and pedestals. The arches, which are proposed to be placed at the intersections of Carson & 5th, and Carson & Williams Street, will be based on this same theme. The arch columns will be made of sandstone veneer that is mortared to a steel frame to accommodate for the seismic events that occur regularly to our area. The plans for the columns are in the shape of an octagon, with pedestals that rise about 36"-40" above the sidewalk. These pedestals each have a footing and a crown.

From the crown, the column tapers as it rises to a height of about 15', where a transition is made to a rectangular plan to support the welded steel span that crosses the street. This span has a standard Howe truss structure with bolt holes in place to receive the decorative steel patterns that are pre-cut by plasma cutting.

The columns are topped with 'cupolettes', or small cupolas that are octagonal in plan. The cupolettes will architecturally complement the cupolas that are on the Capitol building. These are intended to provide either gas or electric light at night to give the arches a lighthouse effect. They can be topped either by ornate finials or flagpoles. It would be desirable to have diamond shaped gas lights at about 10' above the sidewalk to illuminate the base of the structure for pedestrians, as shown in the illustration. If gas lighting is not feasible, electric lighting would be a suitable replacement.

Recommended Action: This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No formal action can be taken at this time.

Exhibit A

