

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Josh Bauman, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Assistant Director

Council Meeting: June 23, 2026

Subject: Resolution 26-042: Dakota Nature Park Public Art Installation Project

Presenter: Lisbeth Solum, Public Arts Chair

Summary and Recommended Action:

Staff recommends awarding the contract for the Dakota Nature Park Public Art Installation Project to CJR Design Studio for an amount not to exceed \$250,000, which is the approved budget for the project. The recommendation is based on the evaluation and selection process conducted by the Dakota Nature Park Art Selection Subcommittee and approved by the Public Arts Commission.

Item Details

In April 2025, the Public Arts Commission voted to pursue a public art project at the Dakota Nature Park. The Commission appointed a Dakota Nature Park Art Selection Subcommittee to determine the project location, establish artist selection criteria, and develop a project timeline.

A nationwide Call for Artists was issued through the Café (Call for Entry) platform, inviting artists and design teams to submit proposals for a permanent public art installation at Dakota Nature Park. The project budget was established at a maximum of \$250,000, inclusive of artist fees, design, fabrication, installation, and related project expenses.

The Public Arts Commission's nationwide Call for Public Art received 167 submissions from artists and design teams across the country. Following an extensive review process and careful evaluation of the proposals, the Art Selection Subcommittee recommended the proposal submitted by CJR Design Studio, which is a father/daughter sculpture team from Hood River, OR. The committee appreciated their consideration of native SD species and their attention to the distinct character of each plant variety. The recommendation was presented to the Public Arts Commission and was unanimously approved at its June 4, 2026, meeting.

Upon City Council approval, the City will enter into a contract with CJR Design Studio to finalize the design, fabricate, and install the public art sculpture. The project has a total approved budget of \$250,000, which includes artist services, fabrication, installation, and related project expenses.

Legal Consideration:

The City Attorney will review and approve the contract prior to the creation of the sculpture.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

- Safe, Inclusive, Connected Community – The City of Brookings will create an environment for inclusive programs, gathering places, and events where the community can safely live, work and come together to participate in opportunities for learning, recreation and enjoyment.
- Service and Innovation Excellence – The City of Brookings will provide an accessible environment committed to ongoing innovation and outstanding service through listening and engagement.
- Fiscal Responsibility – The City of Brookings will responsibly manage resources through transparency, efficiency, equity, and exceptional customer service.

Financial Consideration

Upon approval, the City will enter into a contract with CJR Design Studio for an amount not to exceed \$250,000. This expenditure is within the approved budget established for the Dakota Nature Park Public Art Project.

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Supporting Documentation:

Resolution

DNP - Call for Art

DNP - artist rendering

DNP - budget

DNP - presentation

Public Arts Commission Minutes