



## Legislation Text

File #: 24-274, Version: 1

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**SUBJECT:** Report on Condition of Murals Included in the 2021 Utility Box Beautification Project and Appoint a Subcommittee to Explore a Maintenance Plan

### REPORT IN BRIEF

Staff to report on condition of 2021 utility box murals and request the ACAC form a committee to explore a maintenance plan for city-sponsored art projects.

### RECOMMENDATION

Information Only

### DISCUSSION

At the 1/18/2024 Arts and Culture Advisory Commission meeting, the commission asked for a report on the condition of the murals painted on city-owned utility boxes for the 2021 Utility Box Beautification Project. Staff reviewed each utility box and notated the condition. Please the chart below.

#### Utility Box Beautification Project

Artist	Location of Utility Box	Condition
Jazz Diaz	V & W. 16th Streets	
Karen McCombs	R & W. 18th Streets	Stickered
Jose Sanchez	R & W. 16th Streets	Tagged and Faded
Eddie Rodriguez	O & W. 16th Streets	Tagged
Thore Munoz	N & W. Main Streets	
Alana Perlin	M & W 18th Streets	
Christain Aguilar	M & W. Main Streets	Faded
Stephen Schertz	M & W 16th Streets	
Arianna Lytal	Canal & W. 18th Streets	Faded and Stickered
Oscar Torres	Canal & W Main Streets	Tagged and Stickered
Kobie Griggs	K & W Main Streets	
Madison Ewing	MLK Jr. Way & W. Main St	Tagged
Goko the Pink King	MLK Jr. Way & W. 16th Street	
Andrea Torrez	G & W. 18th Streets	Tagged/Etched through paint

Maintaining public art installations in Merced is crucial for preserving their cultural and aesthetic value. To ensure effective maintenance, the Commission should consider forming a subcommittee to review strategies employed by similar city arts commissions. By studying other models, the Commission can suggest, for City Council's consideration, an approach suitable to the city's needs

and resources to safeguard the longevity of the city's public art. Allocating resources for the upkeep of tagged or graffiti-covered installations is vital.

Staff spoke with the current graffiti abatement contractor for advice on removing tagging/graffiti from murals on utility boxes. The contractor stated the maintenance cost could potentially exceed the project commission of \$750.00 per utility box.

Funding for maintenance should be prioritized within the Commission's budget plan, reflecting a common practice among art commissions to allocate a percentage of project budgets for ongoing upkeep and potential restoration.

Currently, a maintenance plan budget is not included in the city's art project program.

### **IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES**

No impact on City resources at this time.

### **ATTACHMENT**

None