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Popular Art in Public Places program receives praise

By Sora O'Doherty



Pieces displayed throughout Orinda as part of the Art in Public Places program. Photos Sora O'Doherty

It was pretty much a love fest when the Art in Public Places Committee presented an update to the Orinda city council at its Jan. 16 meeting. All the council mem-

bers were very enthusiastic about the 10-year-old Art in Public Places program, and highly complementary to the APPC, which donates its time and expertise to the program.

The only slight ripple came from Council Member Dean Orr who expressed some concern about the city owning some of the art, instead of displaying it on loan. However,

even this was met with enthusiasm. If the city decides not to own the art, the committee will gladly sell it again, according to APPC Chair Rich Thompson.

Orr praised the program as "clearly one of the most recognized programs we have in the city."

"You all do fantastic work," he said, adding that he appreciated the wit, for example, of the wrenches artwork displayed in front of Mechanics Bank. Council Member Darlene Gee said the program is beautiful, a lovely asset. Council Member Eve Phillips described Orinda as fortunate to have such enthusiastic volunteers, but agreed with Orr on the ownership ver-

sus loan issue, while Vice Mayor Inga Miller praised the seamlessness of the artwork, and noted that the APPC "make it look simple." Mayor Amy Worth concurred with the thanks to the committee, and said that the city had to make sure that there is a funding source for the program.

In the staff report submitted by City Manager Steve Salomon, he noted that committee members meet monthly and also spend much of their personal time seeking new artists, visiting other venues, and orchestrating the installation and removal of the artwork.

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Bigbelly trash, recycling program approved

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council decided on Jan. 16 to go ahead with a five-year lease agreement to replace standard trash and recycling cans on city property with Bigbelly Smart Waste and Recycling receptacles. The solar powered receptacles have much greater capacity than standard cans, resulting in

fewer of them needed, going from a total of 126 traditional bins to 49 Bigbelly bins throughout Orinda (see table).

The Bigbelly system consists of the closed receptacles and a computer application. The units communicate information to the application, which can be accessed

by staff who can determine what attention each unit requires. This is expected to lower costs overall. Staff estimates savings to the city of \$40,000 per year. The program will be funded by a one-time grant from the Recycle Smart JPA of \$599,687, and will not come out of the city's general fund.

Area	Traditional Bins	Bigbelly Double Stations
Orinda Sports Field	8	3
Orinda Oaks & Donald Drive	9	6
Wilder Sports Complex	23	14
Community Park, Plaza & City Hall	38	11
Pine Grove	12	4
Downtown Orinda	36	11
Total Bin Locations	126	49

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