AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER November 10, 2026

Sole Source with Austin Scott for the Altadena Utility Box Artwork Project

Now more than a year and a half after the Eaton Fire swept through Altadena, the County has made great strides toward its recovery, including issuing more than 3,700 building permits, with more than 220 homes completing construction. As momentum continues and we welcome more Altadenans home, it's important that the local arts and culture are well represented in Altadena's recovery.

Altadena has long been home to a vibrant arts community. One of our County's parks in Altadena is named after renowned local artist Charles White. Many artists have called Altadena home, including numerous who lost their houses and artwork in the fire. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, the Department of Arts and Culture hosted several conservation clinics in the community in partnership with professional conservators to clean and restore damaged artwork.

In an effort to offer professional opportunities to Altadena artists, and to create a beautiful and welcoming atmosphere for residents as they move back home, the Departments of Arts and Culture and Public Works are partnering to launch the County's first utility box artwork project in Altadena. Public Works has identified 10 utility box locations across Altadena where artwork will be most visible and equitably distributed among different parts of the community. Each box will feature artwork from a different local artist. The project is slated to cost $59,000 using the Fifth District's civic art pooled funds.

To ensure thoughtful and thorough engagement with local artists and the community at large, it's important that the consultant stewarding this project be well integrated in Altadena and be known and trusted by residents and artists alike. Austin Scott is an artist and Altadena resident who has been actively and regularly creating art for the community since the fire. Since March 2025, he has completed nine murals, including the largest in Altadena: an 85-foot-long piece entitled "From Rails to Trails: Echo Mountain" along the Altadena Crest Trail. The project engaged more than 80 community volunteers, including several artists, to collaboratively complete the artwork.

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Additionally, he's recently worked on a 900-square-foot mural at George's Corner Store, garnering participation from more than 100 community members of all ages. His mural "Dream Bigger" at Alma Fuerte Public School also included participation from more than a dozen local children. Further investing in local schools, Scott serves as the co-chair of the beautification committee at Altadena Arts Magnet and is working with numerous school districts across the region on collaborative mural work, where he is teaching students how to create murals of their own.

Additionally, Scott has partnered with various local businesses, including Unincorporated Coffee Roasters, Altadena Cookie Co., Webster's Community Pharmacy, and Altadena Music Center on murals and illustrations that bring vibrancy to their workplaces. He's also helped with branding for local businesses, created illustrations of homes lost in the fire, and done live caricature drawings at community events. Scott is currently planning his next collaborative piece, his largest yet, focused on Altadena's Black history.

Scott is committed to engaging and including residents in the artistic process, believing strongly that the arts are an investment in residents' healing and in the community itself. Given his collaborative spirit and deep relationships in the Altadena community, Scott's involvement in the utility box artwork project, where he would create community engagement opportunities and identify and steward the work of 10 diverse artists, would create seamless continuity with the existing arts efforts underway in Altadena.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture to enter into a Sole Source Agreement with Austin Scott in the amount of $59,000, using the Fifth District's civic art pooled funds, to serve as the consultant responsible for community engagement, artist selection, contracting with the 10 participating artists, and delivery of the utility box artwork project in Altadena, and authorize the Director of Arts and Culture to execute necessary contract amendments, including change orders, and to take all actions needed to deliver the project.

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