This document is the staff’s comparison of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, Design Guidelines for Denver Landmark Structures and Districts, the Landmark Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 30, Revised Municipal Code) and other applicable adopted area guidelines as applied to the proposed application. It is intended to provide guidance during the commission's deliberation of the proposed application. Guidelines are available at www.denvergov.org/preservation

### Project:
2023-COA-0000157

### LPC Meeting:
May 16, 2023

### Staff:
Jennifer Cappeto

### Historic District:
Civic Center Historic District (period of significance: 1909-1979 [per design guidelines])

### Year structure built:
n/a

### Council District:
#10 – Chris Hinds

### Applicant:
City and County of Denver, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI)

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### Project Scope Under Review:

Refresh and redesign of a painted mural on Bannock Street. The current mural was installed in 2020 following approval by the LPC. The proposed refresh of the mural will have a different design and will be installed with slip-resistant paint.

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### Staff Summary:

The existing mural on Bannock Street is proposed to be refreshed with a new design and a slip-resistant paint. Both the existing and proposed murals were designed by local mural artist Pat Milbery. The mural will be in place while the City develops plans to enhance the closed roadway. Those more permanent enhancements will be presented to the Landmark Preservation Commission at a future date.

While the Landmark Preservation Commission does not typically review public art installations, Denver’s Civic Center Design Guidelines requires any art installed in the boundaries of the park (including Bannock Street) for more than 120 days to be approved by the LPC. These design guidelines were adopted by the LPC, Community Planning and Development, and Denver Parks and Recreation in 2009.

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### Excerpted from Denver’s Civic Center Design Guidelines (2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guideline</th>
<th>Meets Guideline?</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guiding Principles 2. Celebrating Civic Center as the symbolic and physical center of Denver’s civic life requires restoring historic features and amenities, improving pedestrian access and attracting more daily and casual users. 4. New improvements to the Park will reflect the highest standards of excellence: design, material, craft and sustainability.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The proposed mural will celebrate Civic Center as the symbolic and physical center of Denver. The proposed mural references the natural landscape of Denver as well as the diverse people that call Denver home. The mural will encourage pedestrian access to the park by enlivening the closed roadbed of Bannock Street. The design was created by a celebrated mural artist in Denver and is of the highest design quality.</td>
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### I. Art and Commemoration

**Description and Intent:**
In every aspect of its design, Civic Center expresses the citizens’ highest goals: City and State government and the values of culture, art, knowledge and justice. Art installations within Civic Center evoke civic pride and responsibility. Civic art has been integrated into the design of the Park since the early 1900s, beginning with Frederick MacMonnies’ Pioneer Monument at its northeast edge on Broadway.

The Colonnade of Civic Benefactors (1919), the Allan True pioneer murals in the Greek Theater and Voorhies Memorial and the individual statues and fountains in Civic Center offer human-scale and historic context to the Park. Most—like the Lion statues gracing the Greek Theater, the Voorhies Memorial or the Lafayette Plaque—were gifts of prominent citizens, harmoniously integrated into buildings and structures.

All civic art shall be selected and sited with the same attention to civic pride, stature, scale and context as the ensemble of civic art both within and adjacent to Civic Center.

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### I. Art and Commemoration - Guideline 2

**The installation of new public artwork will respect and express the civic nature of Civic Center and be harmoniously integrated with the Park and any selected park space.**

- Ensure the scale of new civic art is compatible with other Civic Center art installations.
- Public art installations should be encouraged as integral features in the design of the Broadway Terrace, Central Gathering, South Garden and at the McNichols Building (either in the interior or within the Area of Influence for New Elements at the McNichols Building).
- Ensure art installations are works of superior artistic merit, executed with the highest level of craftsmanship and quality materials.

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**Yes**

The proposed mural continues the tradition of public art in Civic Center by enhancing the public’s experience of the park. Much civic pride is evident in the development of this project, which is enthusiastically supported by the Mayor’s Office, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, Denver Arts & Venues, Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver’s Office of Special Events, Community Planning and Development, the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Public Library, the Downtown Denver Partnership, and the Civic Center Conservancy.

The artwork will be painted flush to the ground, and is long and linear. It will serve as a connection between the City’s civic buildings south and north of the park, and will be a lively welcome mat for the City and County Building.

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**Yes**

The proposed mural’s design expresses the civic nature of the site and will be harmoniously integrated into the park. It will welcome pedestrians into the park from the north and south streets. Because it will be painted on the closed roadbed, the scale of the art is complementary with the other art installations in the park, and is subordinate to built forms in and surrounding the park. Its design will unfold as a pedestrian enters the park from Colfax or 14th Avenues, inviting people into the center of the park. In addition, it is of superior artistic merit and will be executed with the highest level of craftsmanship. It will slowly fade over time due to pedestrian use of the site, but it is intended to be a short-term installation until the more permanent design of the roadbed enhancements is completed.
Ensure that materials and craftsmanship are of a durable quality, able to withstand weathering.

I. Art and Commemoration - Guideline 3
Encourage temporary art installations. All proposed temporary art installations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by Denver’s public art program administrators. All temporary art installations will follow these guidelines.
• Exhibitions will be short-term, lasting between 90 and 120 days. If it is desired for an art installation to exceed this time frame, it will be evaluated according to the requirements for permanent art.
• Proposals that deviate from these guidelines will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Special cases should be reviewed by the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission.

Yes
As the artwork will be installed for more than 120 days, the LPC is reviewing the project under Guideline 2 for permanent art.

Recommendation: Approval
Basis: The proposed mural is of the highest artistic design, it is complementary to the character of the park, and it will be subordinate to the built environment. It will enhance the pedestrian experience of the park. (Art and Commemoration Guidelines and Guiding Principles of Denver’s Civic Center Design Guidelines.)

Suggested Motion: I move to approve application 2023-COA-157 for the painted mural on Bannock Street between West Colfax Avenue and West 14th Avenue in Civic Center Historic District, as per design guidelines for Art and Commemoration and the Guiding Principles for Denver’s Civic Center Design Guidelines, presented testimony, submitted documentation and information provided in the staff report.
Map of Civic Center Historic District with Bannock St. highlighted in red: