



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 5, 2022
TO: Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically
FROM: Megan Berner, Arts & Culture Manager
SUBJECT: Barbara Bennett Park – Mural Decommission

The basketball court at Barbara Bennett Park, located in downtown Reno along the river, is home to a mural created in partnership with the Youth Artworks program in 1999. The mural, titled “The Four Elements,” depicts various scenes from a stormy sky and trees growing out of the earth to lightning and the waters of Pyramid Lake.

The mural has been in place for 23 years, and the Arts and Culture employees have been able to maintain it fairly well, despite its age. The paint is starting to peel in places, particularly around the edges. We have also touched it up occasionally when it has been tagged by graffiti.

However, more recently, in the past two years, the mural has been hit with major graffiti. The public art team managed to clean up the first incident for the most part but it left irreparable damage to the mural. On November 28, 2022, the mural was tagged again and majorly damaged. It is not possible to clean the graffiti and leave the mural in presentable condition. Therefore, the mural will be painted over and decommissioned from the public art collection. There are currently no funds budgeted for replacement of existing murals. It is our hope the mural can be replaced in a future budget cycle, but until funding is secured, the wall will remain blank.

