

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE **November 17, 2025**

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee: Zarin D. Gracey (Chair), Laura Cadena (Vice Chair), Adam Bazaldua, Paul Ridley, Bill Roth, Chad West, Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **Public Art Donation: CD12 Always in Gear by George Tobolowsky for Fire Station 13**

The City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture

SUBJECT

Recommendation in support of acceptance of a donation of “Always in Gear” artwork from George Tobolowsky Fire Station 13, 6902 Frankfort Rd. (Hillcrest and Frankfort) Dallas, Texas 75252 (CD12)

Financing: Council Office and Friend’s group, Far North Dallas Civic Association (FNDCA) for maintenance

BACKGROUND

Local artist, George Tobolowsky, has offered a donation of “Always in Gear”.

The Fire Station and the Council Office support this donation. Far North Dallas Civic Association (FNDCA) will maintain the sculpture.

Donation-Value \$55,000

TIMELINE

Public Art Committee	June 3, 2025
Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission	June 12, 2025
Contract development	October 2025
Installation	Winter 2025/Spring 2026

ARTIST BACKGROUND

GEORGE

TOBOLOWSKY

(www.georgetobolowsky.com)

About the Artist: A native of Dallas, Texas, George Tobowlosky earned both a business degree and a law degree from Southern Methodist University in the early 1970s. While at

SMU, he also minored in Sculpture, studying under renowned Texas artist James Surls, who would become both a mentor and a lifelong friend.

Over the past decade, George Tobowlosky 's artistic output has been prolific, with more than 660 sculptures created, 40 solo museum and public art exhibitions, and participation in 32 group exhibitions across the United States and internationally.

His work focuses on abstract metal sculptures crafted from steel and stainless steel found objects. Rather than significantly altering these materials, Tobowlosky assembles the individual metal scraps—much like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle—into balanced, cohesive compositions. The resulting sculptures are equal parts assemblage and recycling, a creative philosophy that aligns closely with the influence of another early mentor, Louise Nevelson.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Dallas Cultural Policy section 7. G (i,ii) Donations and Loans of works of art to the City of Dallas states:

(i) The City of Dallas encourages donations and loans of works of art for public places. When gifts or donations of major artworks are proposed for placement with any City agency or department, the proposal shall be reviewed by the Public Art Committee and the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. This policy shall also apply to works of art proposed for long-term loan to the City. The objectives of this policy are:

- (1) To maintain high artistic standards in works of art displayed by the City of Dallas.
- (2) To vest in a single City agency the responsibility for ensuring the management and maintenance of the City's public artworks.
- (3) To facilitate planning for the placement of works of art in City facilities.
- (4) To provide for appropriate recognition of artists and of donors of works of art to the City of Dallas.
- (5) To provide for conservation and maintenance plans and funds for the artwork.

(ii) The City may accept donated artworks only when accompanied by a legal instrument of conveyance of title, enumerating any conditions of the gift that the City has agreed to accept, and the appropriate warranty of originality, approved as to form the City Attorney. In general, gifts shall be accepted without restrictions as to future use or disposition and may require City Council approval in accordance with Administrative Directive 2-13.

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George Tobolowsky, artist, would like to donate the sculpture “Always in Gear,” created by artist, valued at \$55,000.00, to be installed at Fire Station 13 located at 6902 Frankfort (Hillcrest and Frankfort) Dallas, Texas 75252 (CD12)

In accordance with the City of Dallas Cultural Policy Section 7(g)(iii), the donor has partnered with a friend’s group, the Far North Dallas Civic Association (FNDCA) to in kind donation for future conservation and maintenance costs.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

City Council Award	December 2025
Contract Award	January 2026
Complete Installation	Spring 2026

FUNDING INFORMATION

Donation

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS)

On June 3, 2025 the Public Art Committee recommended this project.

On June 12, 2025 the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission recommended this project.

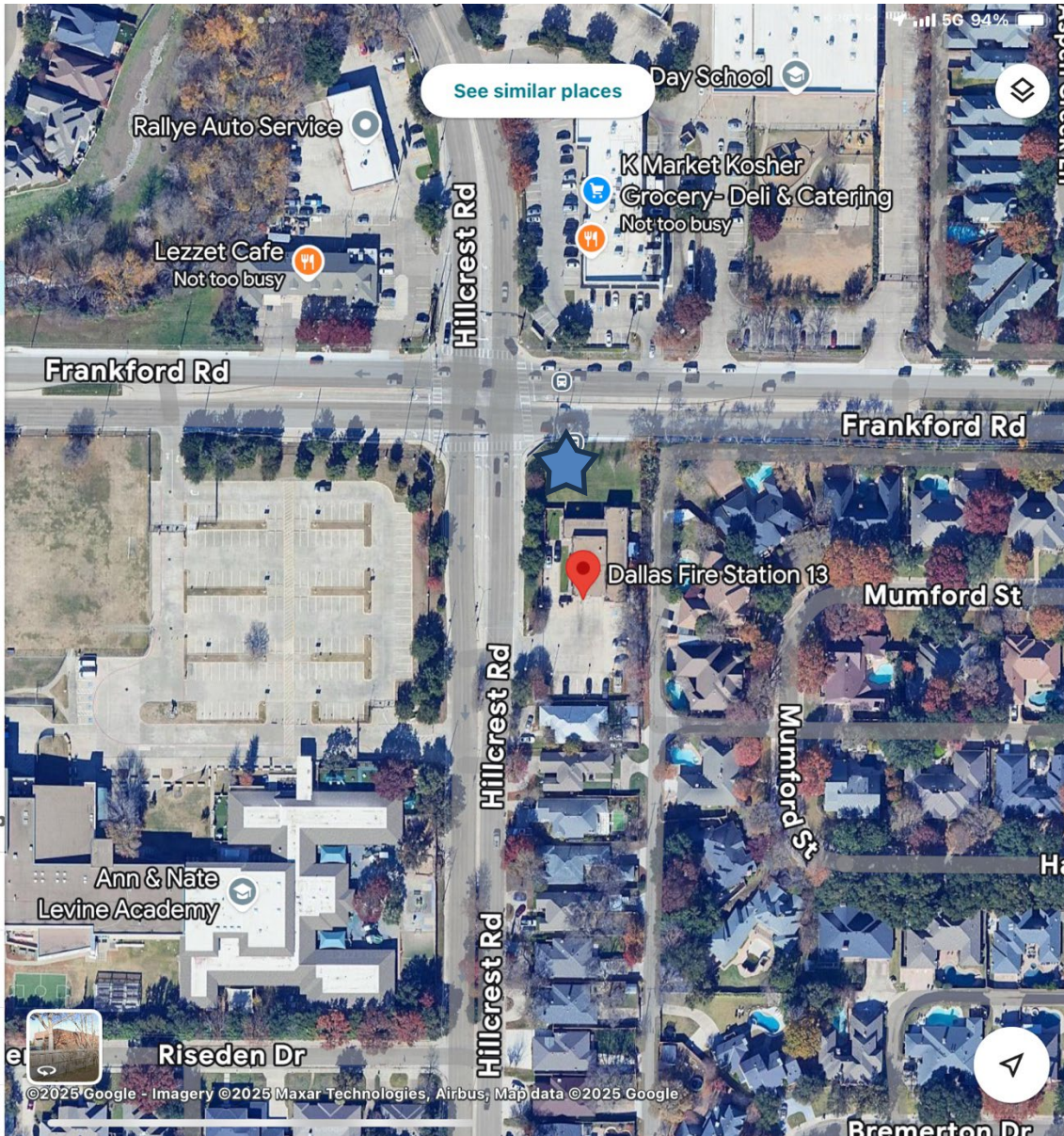
FISCAL INFORMATION

MAP

Location
Image of Sculpture
Public Art Process



"Service First, Now!"
Connect – Collaborate – Communicate



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Please contact me or the Director of Arts and Culture, Martine Philippe, with any questions.

Sincerely,



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira
Assistant City Manager

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, City Manager
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)
Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety

Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors