

AGENDA ITEM NO: _____

MEETING DATE: April 21, 2026

STAFF REPORT – COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Lickman Road Roundabout Public Art RFP- Proponent Selection DATE: April 14, 2026

DEPARTMENT: Recreation and Culture PREPARED BY: Carol Marleau

1. SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

On December 10, 2025, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for public art at the Lickman Road Roundabout closed. The project budget was established at \$70,000, inclusive of GST. The RFP did not prescribe specific design criteria, allowing for a broad range of creative responses, and a total of nine proposals were received.

The evaluation process was conducted in two stages. Technical components of the submissions were reviewed and scored by staff from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Engineering Department.

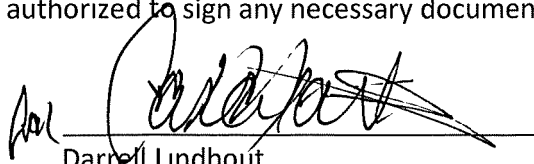
The Chilliwack Public Art Advisory Committee was responsible for assessing artistic merit, including aesthetics and the artists' previous work. At its March 20, 2026 meeting, each proponent presented their concept to the Committee and responded to questions prior to the final scoring.

Following the tabulation of all scores, the highest-ranked proposal was "Ripple in Time" by BESPOKE grain artist Jesse Reimer and J. Neufeld of Wood Anchor. An overview of the proposed work, along with artist biographies, is attached for Council's review.

Upon confirmation, the selected artist will collaborate with the Parks Department on landscaping integration to ensure the final installation is both visually engaging and contributes to traffic calming within the roundabout.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

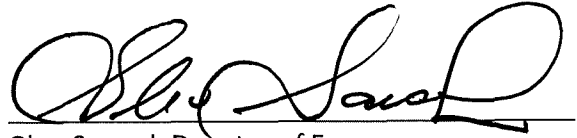
That Council accept the Proposal for the design, fabrication, and installation of a public art piece for the Lickman Roundabout from the lead proponent, BESPOKE grain, in the amount of \$70,000; and further, that the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign any necessary documentation.



Darrell Lindhout,
Director of Recreation and Culture

3. FINANCE COMMENTS:

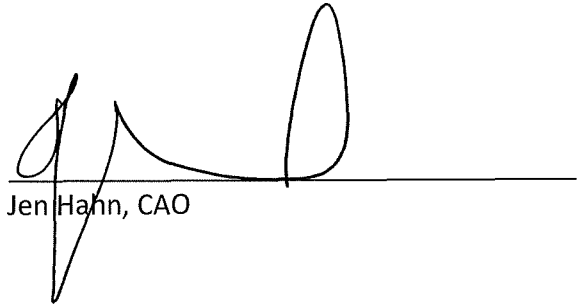
Funding has been allocated within the approved 2026 Financial Plan, within the capital program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Savard", written over a horizontal line.

Glen Savard, Director of Finance

**4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S
RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS:**

Supports recommendation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen Hahn", written over a horizontal line.

Jen Hahn, CAO

**STAFF REPORT ON
Lickman Road Roundabout Public Art RFP- Proponent Selection**

PREPARED BY:	<u>Carol Marleau</u>	DATE:	<u>April 14, 2026</u>
POSITION:	<u>Manager of Recreation Services and Corporate Wellness</u>	DEPARTMENT:	<u>Recreation and Culture</u>

1. DEFINITION OF ISSUE:

The City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design, fabrication, and installation of public art within the Lickman Road Roundabout as part of the City's Public Art Program.

The objective of the project is to enhance the visual character of the corridor, create a focal point at a key gateway location, and contribute to placemaking within the community.

2. FACTORS:

2.1 Procurement Process

The RFP closed on December 10, 2025, and resulted in nine submissions. The process was structured to encourage a range of artistic concepts, as no prescriptive design criteria were included.

Evaluation was completed through a two-stage process:

- Technical review by City staff from Parks, Recreation and Culture and Engineering
- Artistic evaluation by the 9 member Public Art Advisory Committee

Proponents were also invited to present their concepts and respond to questions prior to final scoring.

2.2 Preferred Proposal

Following evaluation, the highest ranked submission was *"Ripple in Time"* by Jesse Reimer (BESPOKE grain) in collaboration with J. Neufeld (Wood Anchor).

The proposal features a sculptural form inspired by a salmon in motion, symbolizing resilience, return, and connection to place.

The design responds to the surrounding landscape and sightlines, including orientation toward Mount Cheam, reinforcing local identity and context.

2.3 Project Considerations

The artwork has been designed using durable materials, including Cor-Ten steel and concrete, requiring minimal ongoing maintenance.

The proponent has demonstrated experience in public art fabrication and delivery, supported by engineering review, quality control processes, and a defined installation plan.

Upon approval, the artist will work with the Parks Department to integrate landscaping and ensure the installation complements the roundabout design and supports traffic calming objectives.

It is anticipated the project would be completed in 16 weeks from contract award.

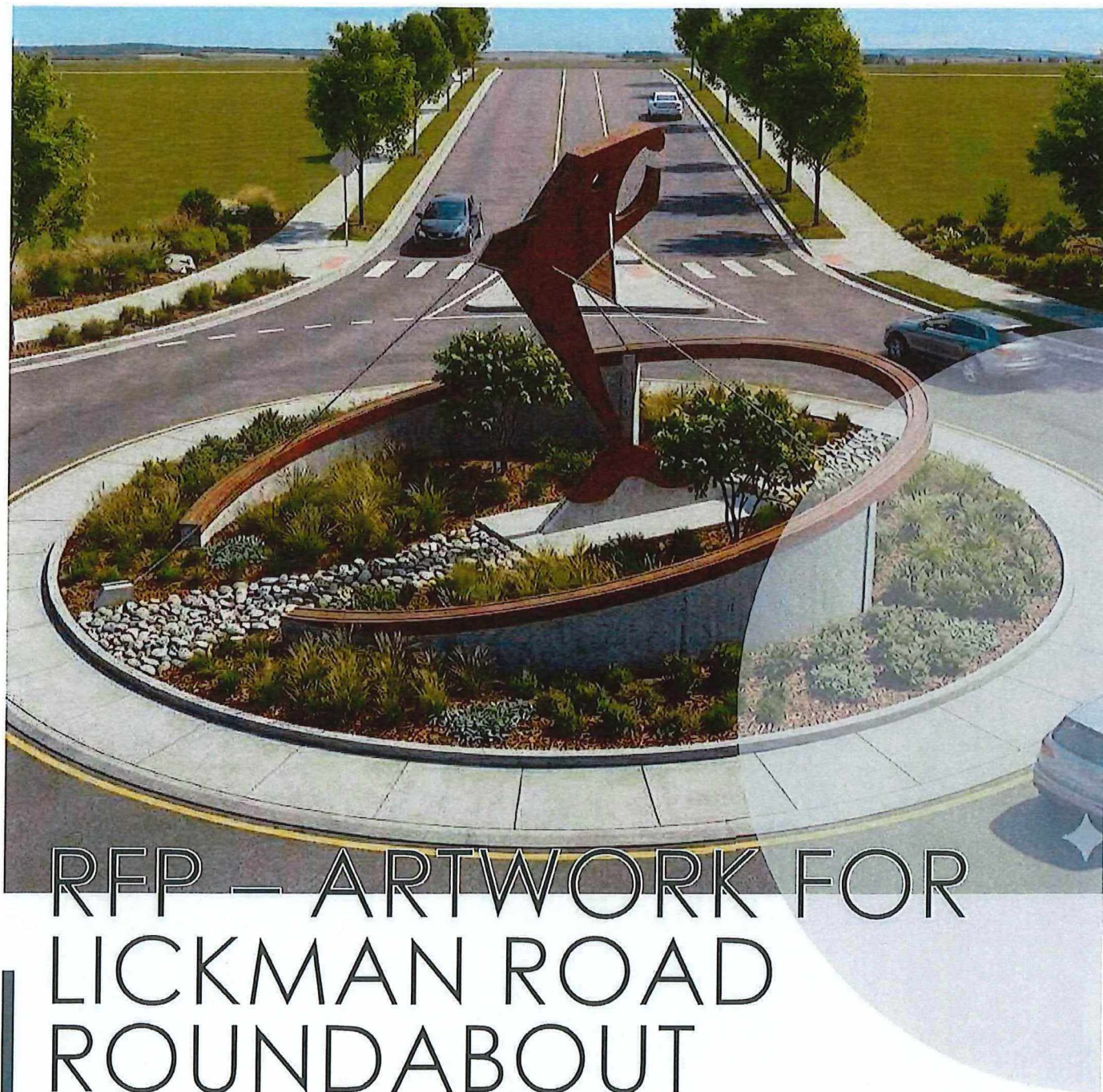
3. RECOMMENDATION & SUBSTANTIATION:

Recommendation:

That Council accept the Proposal for the design, fabrication, and installation of a public art piece for the Lickman Roundabout from the lead proponent, BESPOKE grain, in the amount of \$70,000; and further, that the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign any necessary documentation.

Substantiation:

The recommended proposal achieved the highest overall score through a competitive evaluation process and meets the City's objectives for quality, durability, and visual impact. The artwork will contribute to placemaking at a prominent gateway location and aligns with the City's broader Public Art Program goals.



RFP – ARTWORK FOR LICKMAN ROAD ROUNDBABOUT

BESPOKE grain: Jesse Reimer

Wood Anchor: J Neufeld



RIPPLE IN TIME: ARTIST ABSTRACT

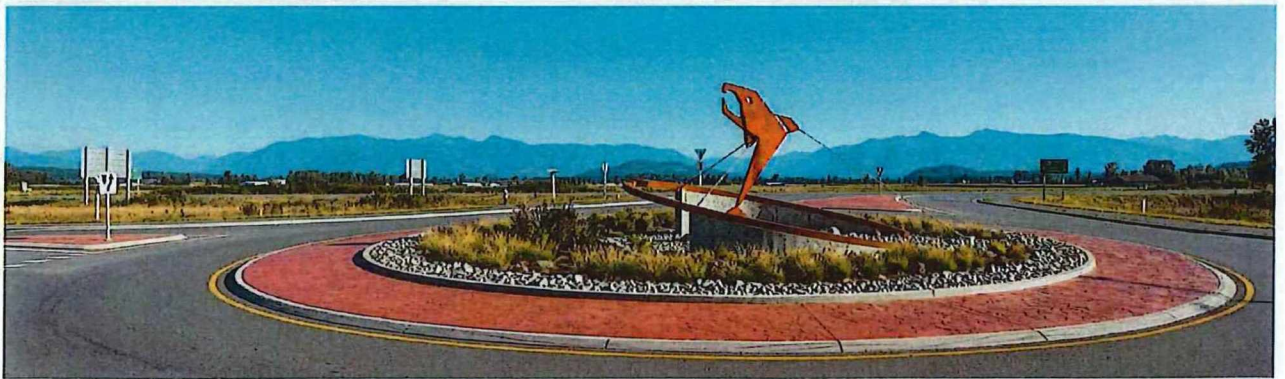
A moment suspended – a breath between water and sky. Ripple in Time captures the quiet strength found in motion, the instant where effort transforms into possibility.

Inspired by the salmon—an enduring symbol of perseverance and return—as it arcs upward on its journey through these lands. Its presence suggests resilience, seasonal change, and cyclical return, reflecting cycles that have shaped life here for generations. Its form speaks to history, to the present moment, and to the future that is always in motion.

Created with deep gratitude for the opportunity to call this region home, this work reflects a sense of reverence for the stewardship that existed long before my time. I am a sojourner in this landscape, continually inspired by its beauty and the care with which it has been held, inspiring me to do the same.

Facing toward Mount Cheam, the mother mountain and silent witness—an enduring waypoint of the valley—the sculpture turns toward a guardian who watches over this place. In that gesture, there is gratitude, or simply a longing to acknowledge all that endures.

Ripple in Time invites each viewer to pause—whether for a moment or in passing—and consider their own relationship to this place. It is a reminder that we are part of a larger flow: shaped by those who came before, connected to those around us, and contributing, in our own way, to the story still being written.

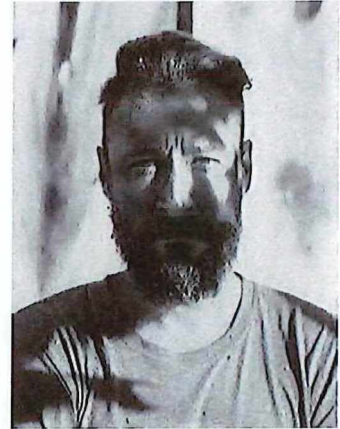


AI-generated renders are visual representations of original artistry.

PREVIOUS ARTWORK: TEAM PROFILE

J NEUFELD. WOOD ANCHOR

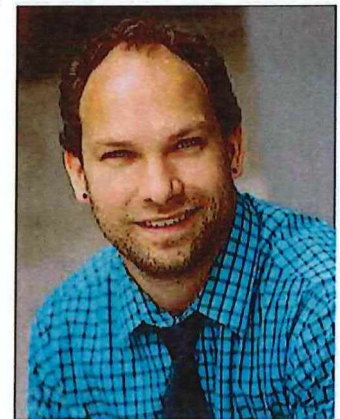
J Neufeld, founder of Wood Anchor, has been in the building industry since 1995. Starting with home and agricultural construction, J evolved his craft toward reclaimed furniture and public art, becoming a recognized leader in public art fabrication. He has directed his team on numerous high-profile projects—both designing and building in-house works and collaborating with top local artists. J's projects can be found throughout Winnipeg and across Canada, earning him a reputation for exceptional quality and creativity.



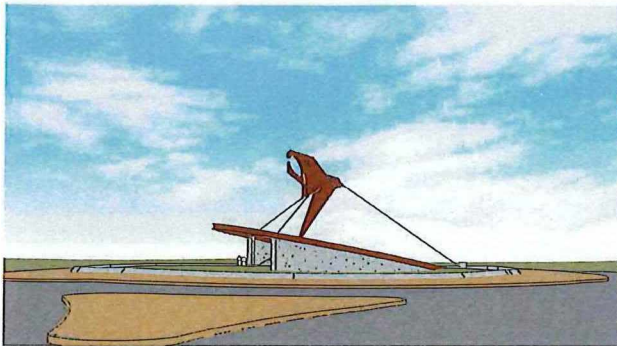
J is known for his strong partnerships with artists, architects, and city stakeholders, always prioritizing design integrity and creative problem-solving. His innovative use of materials and practical approach consistently deliver striking, durable artworks that honor the original vision—on time and on budget.

JESSE REIMER. BESPOKE GRAIN

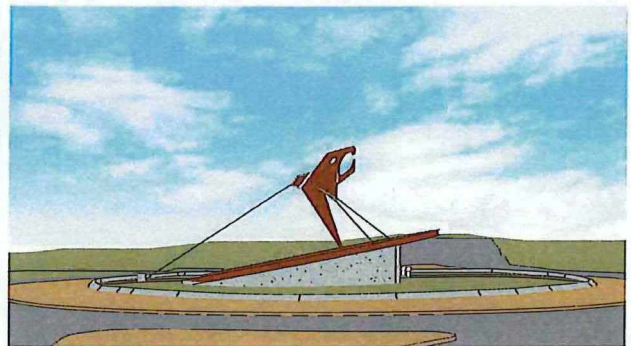
Jesse Reimer, founder of Bespoke Grain, is an accomplished artist, designer, and architectural technologist with over 20 years of experience. His expertise in architecture, building science, and digital fabrication allows him to create public artworks that are both visually compelling and technically sound. As a Senior Architectural Technologist and BIM Manager, Jesse's deep knowledge of materials and engineered solutions brings a high level of craft and innovation to every project.



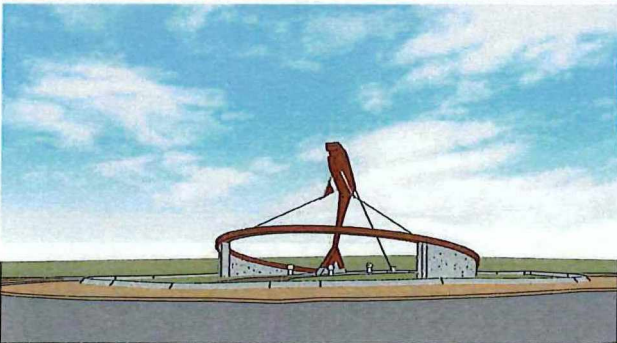
He is also a digital design instructor at UFV, leading collaborative design-build initiatives and STEAM projects. Jesse's practice weaves together storytelling, local context, and form-making with advanced fabrication to transform creative ideas into durable, visually striking public art.



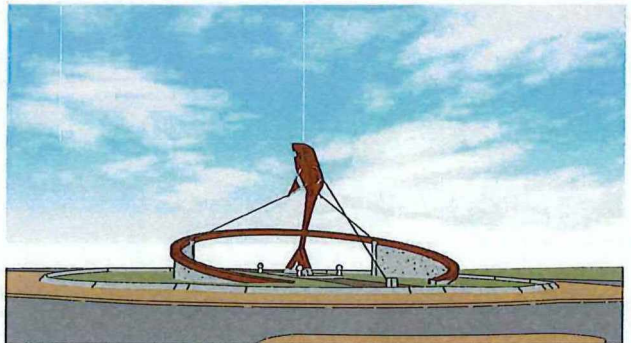
1 Coming from Highway View



3 Lickman towards highway



2 Luckakuck Way View



4 Yale Road View

MATERIALS AND MAINTENANCE

This project maintains a simple material pallet of Cor-Ten Steel and Concrete. They will be kept in their natural state which is naturally durable and can both last hundreds of years. No paints or finishes that will need to be maintained

Cor-Ten oxidizes creating a protective layer and further oxidization. Maintenance free material. Vandalism can be pressure washed or sandblasted off.

Wood Anchor has been fabricating public art for close to 30 years. We have very strict quality control measures in place. All connection details are photographed and catalogued and reviewed by an outside engineer. As such, Wood Anchor would also need photos of all foundational work done by others to catalogue this as well.

PROJECT PLAN

The installation date of April 20th, 2026 is achievable with fabrication schedule but would require all approvals for the city to be in place by January 15th, 2026.

Work plan outline how the work will be carried out—We will create a 3D model of the piece, have our engineer review it and add in any additional structural supports that they deem necessary. At that point, all material will be laser cut and we will begin assembly. The salmon will be a hollow shell with support structure inside as is required. There will be access panels in various locations to facilitate access to cable connections, as well as the base connection.

Communication will all flow through Artist and Project Lead Jesse Reimer

Delivery will be the week of April 13th with 3 – 4 days for installation. Crane will be needed for day 1

KEY PERSONNEL:

J NEUFELD WOOD ANCHOR

30 years experience in Construction and Public Art

J will be leading fabrication and installation, bringing his vast experience of public art pieces to the project to ensure everything will work together

JESSE REIMER BESPOKE GRAIN

20 years experience in Architectural design and Project Management

Jesse will coordinate the project and liaison between parties to maintain clear communication. He is responsible for the overall design and documentation.

SCHEDULE

Start date: When awarded by city of Chilliwack. It is an aggressive schedule but we are able to reach the goal date depending on awarding and review timelines.

Apon Awarding we will schedule a sit down to go over our communication plan and schedule to make sure milestones can be hit. Jesse Reimer will be the main point of communication

Jesse Reimer (204) 996-9490
bespokegrain@gmail.com

Description	Starting Condition	Duration
Project start	When awarded by City	
Shop Drawings	When awarded by City	1 month
Approval	Shop Drawings submitted	TBD by City
Fabrication	When City Approval Received	
Laser Production	Part of Fabrication	3-4 Weeks
Shop Welding	Part of Fabrication – After Laser	4-5 Weeks
Sandblasting and Finishing	Part of Fabrication – Final Step	1 week
Electrical install		2 days
Packaging	After Fabrication	3 days
Shipping		4 days
Site install		1 week
Total Process		16 weeks