FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Oswego, Oregon – The Arts Council of Lake Oswego in partnership with the City of Lake Oswego and the City of Lake Oswego’s Tourism Advisory Committee continues work on the gateway art project, projected to be completed in the fall of 2021. Funded exclusively by hotel/motel tax dollars in Lake Oswego and distributed by the City of Lake Oswego’s Tourism Advisory Committee, this incredible opportunity to create a piece of art with internationally renowned artist, Ed Carpenter marks the boundary as people cross from Portland to Lake Oswego. This piece, accessible by foot and vehicular traffic will engage, educate, and inspire residents and visitors alike, illustrating the vital role arts play in Lake Oswego.

Why the Gateway Project?

This Gateway sculpture will define the Northeastern entrance into Lake Oswego and marks the boundary as people cross from Portland to Lake Oswego. Though accessible mainly by vehicular traffic, there are also bike and walking paths adjacent to the site. By facilitating a sense of arrival, or departure, gateways also serve navigational and placemaking functions. The Northeastern Gateway, identified in the 2016-2021 Public Art Master Plan, will enhance Lake Oswego’s commitment to nurturing a creative and vibrant community and continue to build the City’s reputation as an arts destination.

Why this site?

Out of the six identified Gateway sites in the Public Art Master Plan, the site at Highway 43 and Terwilliger was determined to be the most impactful location, visually and contextually. As the first location dedicated to a monumental gateway, the selection of this site illustrates Lake Oswego’s values. Highway 43 at Terwilliger is among the most traveled, and significant, entrances to the City, has the best space allowing for both security and visibility of artwork. Numerous options for positioning the sculpture on the parcel were evaluated, with this location presenting the most visibility and least number of trees removed.
Why art?

Lake Oswego has an established, nationally recognized public art program (Gallery Without Walls) that works to integrate art into the daily lives of residents and visitors to the community by presenting works from regional, national, and international artists that resonate with people of diverse backgrounds. This Gateway project is an opportunity for unconventional ideas for what can define a place. Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces in their community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm to maximize shared value.

How is it funded?

Both trees and public art contribute to the livability and distinctive character of Lake Oswego. The budget of $275,000 for this project was funded exclusively by the tourism fund and does not include any taxpayer money. This is significant because the tourism fund is funded by money spent by visitors to Lake Oswego. One of the many tourist attractions to Lake Oswego is the Gallery Without Walls public art program.

Tree Removal & Mitigation

ACLO worked with the City’s beautification staff (and certified arborist) on the removal and mitigation. It has been determined the Sequoia/Coast Redwood is not thriving in its current location and would be better suited in a different spot. For the Sequoia/Coast Redwood to succeed, it needs surrounding trees and shrubs (these hold moisture in the ground) and not to be planted in the middle of a lawn. Members of the FANFH neighborhood association were consulted during the siting, and they support the removal and mitigation plan. More mitigation trees, native beneficial trees, shrubs, and perennials are being added than required, and include:

- 5 Starlight Dogwoods
- 1 Coastal Redwood
- 1 Sorbus aucuparia “Cardinal Royal”
- 1 Rhamnus purshiana “Cascara”
- Vine maples
- Aronia melanocarpa “Chokeberry”
- Groundcovers and native perennials

These new plantings will create a lush, inviting, and bucolic setting for trees, people, and artwork. The replanted native and beneficial trees and perennials which will be more successful and thrive, adding to Lake Oswego’s designation not only as a tree city, but also as a City with a thriving and award-winning public art program.
The Arts Council of Lake Oswego is located at 41 B Avenue, Lake Oswego, OR 97034. For more information on the Gateway Project and the Arts Council, visit www.artscouncillo.org or call 503.675.3738.

For more information on the artist Ed Carpenter, visit www.edcarpenter.net.

**About the Arts Council of Lake Oswego:** The Arts Council of Lake Oswego works to ensure the arts are an integral part of life in our community, now and into the future. Our purpose is to: facilitate the placement and preservation of public art in Lake Oswego, provide access to art exhibits for residents and visitors, and advance lifelong learning about the arts through virtual programming.

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