



## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION SELECTS JEFF BATES TO CREATE ART INSTALLATION FOR 24 AND G ROAD ROUNDABOUT**

**GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. February 12, 2024** – The City of Grand Junction has selected local artist Jeff Bates to create the art installation for the 24 and G Road roundabout.

Bates is a local artist residing in Fruita, with artwork in four different traffic circles in the Grand Junction area, as well as in several countries and in many states. His artwork is made from recycled steel which needs little maintenance due to the high strength and durability of the medium.

In his final proposal for the 24 and G Road roundabout, Bates states, "For this project, my idea is a tribute to the wildlife of the area. Area wildlife, particularly big game, is not only abundant, but is usually the highlight of any resident's day when seen. Drawing from the height of artwork at I-70 and 24 Road, I plan a large sentinel tree in the center of my design, which is also the center of the traffic circle. The work will be divided into three parts, and the center of the dirt work in the circle raised to at least six feet above traffic grade."

"As a main focus, there will be a three-dimensional bull elk, a mule deer, and a bear, one in each of the divided sections, with a bear cub up the tree and an eagle at the top of the tree. These sculptures will be lifelike representations, all steel in construction. I plan on using recycled steel as much as possible. Further division of the separate sections will be made with steel plants that start at the tree then taper down to boulders and river rocks," Bates continued.

The selection process began in July of 2023 with the city announcing a call for artists interested in creating unique public art for the new traffic roundabout. Emphasis was put on artwork composition and examples of past roundabout projects (I-70 and Horizon Drive, Meander Court and Park Drive, I-70 and 24 Road) due to these projects having demonstrated the ability to optimize the use of the available space within the roundabout and features that elevate the artwork.

After initial review by city staff, the three proposals were sent out to the Grand Junction Commission on Art and Culture (GJCAC) on Friday, January 12 for review and final selection.

Funding for this artwork, \$148,000, was provided by the city's Art in Public Places Program, which specifies 1 percent of certain capital projects be devoted to the acquisition of art. The resolution also lays out the selection process of artwork by GJCAC with facilitation through the Parks and Recreation Department. This ensures consistent funding for artwork on certain city capital projects.

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