



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Castle Park Dragon

May 7, 2026

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Castle Park is located at 201 Prewett Drive, south of Oak Chan Elementary School in the Willow Creek Estates South neighborhood. The park is 2.1 acres and has a footprint of roughly 13,000 square feet. It consists of two separate play areas: a "Tots Lot" for children 2–5 years old and a play area for children 5–12 years old. The playground was originally designed by Robert Leathers and built by the community in 1996.

The original wooden play structures were almost 30 years old and had reached the end of their useful life. With replacement parts no longer available, the City decided to completely replace the wooden play structures while staying within the footprint of the original design.

The play structure and park construction work is on-going. In April, more than 1,000 volunteers joined 40 city staff members and their families for a six-day community build at Castle Park, making significant progress despite challenging weather conditions. The remaining work list items will be completed by community partners and skilled labor due to the complexity of work and heavy machinery use.

II. PROJECT OVERVIEW

As part of the Castle Park project, the City is seeking a volunteer artist(s) to paint a dragon to be installed on the play structure. Ideally, the dragon painting will be completed by either an individual artist or small team/partnership of artist with previous experience working together. Due to the large size of the artwork and outdoor location, the selected artist(s) will preferably have experience creating murals, wall paintings, frescoes, etc.

Materials, tools, and supplies will be provided by the City. This project is a volunteer opportunity, and the City is asking for artist(s) to donate their time and experience. The artist(s) will be recognized for their contribution by including their signature(s) on the artwork and recognition on City of Folsom Parks & Recreation social media. The artist(s) name will also be displayed on a plaque in the park.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The dragon artwork is 21 feet in total length and will wrap around three sides of a playground climbing tower. The dragon will be at least 8 feet above ground. Construction Drawings which show the dimensions and a line drawing of the dragon are included as Attachment C.

The dragon will be painted on a 'canvas' made of 2x6 Moisture Sheild composite decking planks. The decking material will be cut and framed in advance. The artist is only asked to complete the painting of the artwork. The dragon will be painted onto the 'canvas' before it is installed onto the playground structure.

The playground manufacturer recommends the artwork be painted with Behr Solid Body Deck stain. This medium has been selected to age well over time and require less maintenance. No primer or varnish is needed. The stain on the Moisture Sheild material dries quickly. The following colors are recommended by the playground designer:

- A. Main Body – Green
- B. Underbelly – Yellow
- C. Top Scales – Brown (or leave as the color of the Moisture Shield)
- D. Pupils – Brown (or leave as the color of the Moisture Shield)
- E. Teeth & Claws - White
- F. Inside of Mouth – Dark brown

A rendering of the completed Castle Park playground (Attachment A) and example photographs of artwork on Leathers playground structures (Attachment B) are included.

IV. SELECTION PROCESS & QUESTIONS

Artists interested in participating in this project should prepare the following materials:

- A. Photographs of relevant artwork samples
- B. A mockup sketch outlining your proposed dragon design
- C. A brief written description that includes:
 - i. A summary of your or your team's background
 - ii. Your interested in this opportunity
 - iii. An estimated timeline for completing the project
 - iv. Any specialty supplies or equipment required that are not mentioned in this document

City staff will review all complete submissions received. Artists who are determined to be qualified will be invited to attend a meet-and-greet with the project team, which may include an art subject matter expert. Following this meeting, selected artist(s) will be invited to participate in the project. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

To be considered, please email all required materials to Kate Cannon Nguyen **no later than Thursday, May 21**. For questions about the project, you may also contact Kate.

Kate Cannon Nguyen
Park Planner
916-461-6627
Knguyen@folsom.ca.us

V. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The following schedule is anticipated for the artist(s) review, selection, and dragon project painting. Dates may change due to material availability and other factors.

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| A. May 21, 2026 | Artist application packets due to the City |
| B. May 27 – 28, 2026 | Artist meet-and-greets |
| C. May 29, 2026 | Artist selection notification |
| D. June 2026 | Execution and completion of the dragon painting |

VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Castle Park Playground Rendering
- B. Example Leathers Playground Artwork Photographs
- C. Castle Park Dragon Construction Drawings

ATTACHMENT A



ATTACHMENT B





ATTACHMENT C

DRAGON 2 TRANSFER GRID FOR ART

5-1/2" SQUARES TRANSFER GRID
VERTICALS ARE BOARD JOINTS

