



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** February 19, 2026  
**From:** Jeremy Dennis, City Manager  
**Subject:** Revision to the Structure of the Public Art Advisory Committee

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt amended Public Arts Implementation Guidelines that will reflect revisions to the membership of the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) by replacing the seats held by two City Council members and seats held by two Parks and Recreation Commission members with at large appointments from Brisbane residents.

### **Background**

The Brisbane Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) is the City Committee entrusted with ensuring that all public art projects in the City of Brisbane adhere to the program criteria and guidelines for the selection of an artist or artist team, artwork, and artwork location as outlined in the Public Arts Implementation Guidelines. Membership of the PAAC is set forth in the PAAC Guidelines. Membership of the current PAAC consists of two Parks and Recreation Commissioners, two City Councilmembers, and three Brisbane Community members. Among the community members, there must be one individual professionally engaged in the art community, one individual employed by or owning a Brisbane business, and the remaining seat may be filled by either a resident of Brisbane or an employee/owner of a Brisbane business. While serving on the Committee and for one year after vacating their seat, PAAC members are ineligible to propose public art projects.

### **Discussion**

At a Special City Council meeting held on January 15, 2026, the City Council decided on its assignments for 2026. During this process, it discussed the structure of the PAAC. To align the PAAC with other Council appointed committees and commissions, Council unanimously agreed that the membership on the PAAC should be revised. This revision involves replacing the seats held by two City Council members and seats held by two Parks & Recreation Commission members with four Brisbane residents. The recruitment for those seats will be conducted in the coming months. Membership for the three existing community seats will remain unchanged. In order to effectuate this change, Council must approve revised Guidelines, and such Guidelines are attached. In order to maintain a quorum should the PAAC need to meet,

the Council and Park and Recreation membership will continue until the four new members have been selected and appointed.

As to the new members, staff recommend that four new seats be filled by Brisbane residents without regard to whether the person is professionally engaged in the artistic community or whether person owns a business in Brisbane


Council will continue to have final approval of any public art project, after taking into consideration the recommendation of the PAAC.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact in revising the membership of the PAAC.

Attachments:

1. Revised Public Arts Implementation Guidelines



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Jeremy Dennis, City Manager

# Public Art Implementation Guidelines

## City of Brisbane

*Amended by the City Council on 9/18/2025*

### **Purpose**

The City of Brisbane adopted a Public Arts Ordinance in 2014 in order to increase citizens' appreciation of art, to improve quality of life, and to enhance Brisbane's identity as a unique community within the greater Bay Area. Additionally, public art should stimulate creativity, imagination, induce creative conflict, and add a unique human quality to the community environment and enrich public spaces. A city rich in art becomes an outdoor cultural museum accessible to everyone. Public art can and should be an integral part of the design and the planning process of all development.

### **Mission**

The mission for public art in the City of Brisbane is to support community identity, unity, and pride through diverse artwork that grabs attention and distinguishes a unique sense of place.

### **Goals**

1. Community Involvement – A community develops a specific identity and character over time. Residents are uniquely qualified to provide insight into the types of public artwork that are best suited for the community depending on the size of the project. Those who reside in the community are encouraged to participate in the selection process of public art pieces by participating at public meetings.
2. Diversity of Art – The collection should be diverse in its representation of artists and artistic styles and be reflective of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the community.
3. Creation of Sense of Place – Art is important to our common experience because it brings focus, importance, and cohesion to public spaces. Public art develops images and provides experiences that reflect the historical and cultural essence of a community. Public art transforms public spaces by giving them context and relevance and making them places of community interest and pride. Public art has the potential to improve the appearance of an entire business block; to heighten the ethnic, historical or cultural aspects of the community and to attract foot traffic to an area that formerly had little or none.
4. Artist Participation – By encouraging collaboration between artist, architects, and engineers, we can provide an aesthetic dimension that expands possibilities for creating public spaces for the community.

### **Definitions**

- **Artist:** An individual or team of individual artists whose body of work and professional activities demonstrate serious ongoing commitment to the fine arts. Members of architectural, engineering, design or landscaping firms retained for the design and construction of a

development project covered by these Guidelines shall not be considered artists for the purpose of meeting the requirement to provide public art.

- **Arts professional:** An individual who works in the fine arts field (such as arts consultant, fine arts curators, fine arts collectors, art critics, or art educators).
- **Artwork or work of art:** All forms of original creations of visual arts, including but not limited to: 1) sculpture in any material or combination of materials; 2) painting- all media including portable and permanently affixed works, such as murals and frescoes; 3) graphic arts, print making and drawing; 4) mosaics; 5) photography; 6) crafts in clay, fiber and textiles, wood, metal, plastics and other materials; 7) calligraphy; 8) stained glass; and 9) mixed media – any combination of forms or media, including collage.
- **Artwork cost:** Artwork cost is the total amount budgeted by the City for a public artwork project.
- **Building valuation:** The total dollar amount of all construction permits for the same development project using the latest building valuation data as set forth by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) building valuation.
- **Conceptual design plan:** The initial phase of the approval of public artwork that includes review of the artist's or artist team's qualifications, conceptual artwork design, and artwork location.
- **Deaccession:** Refers to the permanent removal of a work of art from a collection.
- **Design:** Artwork detailing project design, including scale drawings within site context, sealed by an engineer, if required.
- **Fabrication:** A detailed description of the methods of fabrication as well as any uncommon or unusual details regarding the approach to creating an artwork piece.
- **Final design plan:** The final phase of the approval of public artwork that involves consideration of a highly defined proposal that conforms to the concept previously considered and approved by the Committee.
- **In-lieu contribution:** In place of an approved artwork on the site, a developer may elect to pay to the City an amount equal to the program allocation set forth in the Public Arts Ordinance. In-lieu fees shall be submitted to the City and deposited into the Public Art Fund before the issuance of a building permit for the development project except when a different time period is approved by the Community Development Director and Parks and Recreation Director.
- **Installation:** A detailed description of the installation procedure if the artwork will not be fabricated directly on the selected site. Installation would include the construction of any required footings or foundation.
- **Public art:** Any permanent display of a work of visual art that was specifically designed to be located on a site where it would be easily accessible to the public, either on private or public property within the City of Brisbane.
- **Public Art Advisory Committee:** A committee made of 2 Parks and Recreation Commissioners as designated by the Parks and Recreation Commission, 2 Council Members, and 3 Brisbane Community members, appointed by City Council. The Community members shall serve two-year terms and one of whom will be professionally engaged in the art community, one of whom will be an employee or owner of a business located in Brisbane, and the other member may be either a resident of Brisbane or an owner or employee of a business located in Brisbane. Members of

the Public Art Advisory Committee will be ineligible to propose public art projects while they serve on the Committee and for 1 year after they leave the Committee.

- **Public art fund:** An interest-bearing account that is managed by the City Manager, or designee, into which public art funds, including donated funds, in-lieu funds and/or public art grant funds are deposited.
- **Public Art Master Plan:** The Public Art Master Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2025, is a strategic guide for developing and managing the city's public art program. It outlines the vision, goals, and policies for incorporating art into public spaces, and defines processes for art selection, acquisition, maintenance, and deaccession.
- **Public place:** An interior or exterior area on public or private property that is easily accessible by and highly visible to the general public.
- **Request for Proposals (RFP):** A formal document published by the City to solicit bids or proposals from prospective artists for projects under \$75,000.
- **Request for Qualifications (RFQ):** A formal document published by the City to solicit bids or proposals from prospective artists for projects \$75,000 or more.

### **General Procedure**

Public artwork is limited to permanent, or semi-permanent (i.e. loaned art on rotation), visual works of art, as opposed to performing, written, or temporary art. Visual art includes but is not limited to murals, sculptures, artist-designed landscape features, streetscape features, earthworks, environmental installations, and water and digital displays.

Any money donated to or collected through the Building Permit process will be deposited in the Public Art Fund. The City Manager, or designee, shall administer the funds and establish accounting records according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The City Manager or designee will authorize all disbursements from the Public Art Fund. The account shall not be added to the City's General Fund.

The process for selecting the public piece to be installed will depend on whether or not the artwork is commissioned by the City of Brisbane or by a private person or entity.

All privately installed Public Art will be reviewed by a Public Art Advisory Committee. The Public Art Advisory Committee is responsible for reviewing and making decisions on conceptual design plans submitted by a developer of a project subject to the public art requirement.

Additionally, on an annual basis the Public Art Advisory Committee will meet to review the balance of funds in the Public Art Fund to determine if they should propose any projects be initiated and commissioned by the City.

The Public Art Advisory Committee shall ensure all public art projects meet the public art selection criteria as outlined in the Public Art Master Plan for selection of an artist or artist team, artwork, and artwork location established in this procedure, before submittal of the Final Design Plan to the City Council.

The following procedure will be used to review and approve public art projects:

**Public Art Selection process for private developers on private property**

A process map within the [Public Art Master Plan](#) outlines the procedure for public art initiated by private developers. Options for private developers include:

- 1) contributing the required amount to the city's Public Art Fund;
- 2) procuring public art themselves with support from the Public Art Advisory Committee; or
- 3) executing a public art project independently.

In options 2 and 3, the private developer must submit detailed design plans to the Public Art Advisory Committee for review, including artist qualifications and budget details. The Public Art Advisory Committee may make a recommendation concerning the project to the City Council for consideration. Between options 2 and 3, it is in the better interest of the private developer to follow option 2 in order to include the community in the public art process and thereby build goodwill, as well as to increase the likelihood of receiving City Council approval.

For option 2:

1. The project contact will meet with the designated staff from the City prior to submitting concept design plans.
2. The Public Art Advisory Committee will assess project goals and internal capacity and make a determination whether to facilitate the developer's art procurement process. If the Public Art Advisory Committee elects to take on the project, it will follow the City's Public Art selection process for City-initiated projects as outlined in the Public Art Master Plan. Alternatively, the Public Art Advisory Committee may refer the developer to a public art partner (e.g. an independent firm) to support the developer's process of art procurement.

For options 2 and 3:

3. Once artwork is selected, the developer will submit the required documentation to appropriate City staff for review. Proposals must include preliminary sketches, photographs, or other documentation of sufficient descriptive clarity to indicate the nature of the proposed work.
4. An appraisal or other evidence of the value of the proposed artwork, including acquisition and installation costs. If the value of a proposed artwork (by past records of comparable work sold, etc.) cannot be verified, City staff may choose to have the artist's proposal and or/other completed works appraised by a qualified art appraiser selected by the City. The developer will pay up-front for any art appraisal service fees. This expense will be deducted from the total artwork allocation cost.
5. Preliminary plans must contain such detailed information as may be required by the Public Art Advisory Committee to adequately evaluate the location of the artwork in relation to the

proposed development, including compatibility with the character of adjacent conforming developed parcels and existing neighborhood if necessary.

6. A preliminary budget must show the proposed public art project is consistent with the public art ordinance requirements.
7. Within 30 days of receiving a completed application, the Public Art Advisory Committee will hold an open meeting to discuss the proposed project. The meeting will be noticed to all properties within 1,000 feet of the property and posted as required by law. With the agreement of the developer, the meeting may take place more than 30 days from receiving the completed application.

The proposed artwork project will be reviewed using the following criteria as applied to the supporting documentation and past projects: Artistic quality (vision, originality, and craftsmanship); Context (architectural, historical, geographical, and socio-cultural context of the site); quality and permanency of materials; maintenance; safety; diversity of artists; representation in the existing collection of publicly-accessible artworks; and diversity of artworks (media, scale, style, intention) in the existing collection of publicly accessible artworks.

8. The Public Art Advisory Committee will make a recommendation on the proposed artwork to the City Council.
9. The City Council will have the final approval for any public artwork project. If the Council does not approve the proposed project, it can refer the item back to the Advisory Committee for reconsideration.
10. All costs of maintaining a privately installed Public Art work will be the expense of the private entity unless the City accepts the Public Art piece as a donation. Refer to the art donation policy in the Public Art Master Plan.

#### **Public Art selection process for the City of Brisbane**

1. A process map within the [Public Art Master Plan](#) outlines the procedure for selecting public art initiated by the city. The Public Art Advisory Committee will recommend to the City Council the amount of money from the Public Art Fund to be used on any publicly installed public art pieces and the breakout between Administrative and Maintenance costs of the project. The Public Art Advisory Committee will also recommend a location for the art project, type of artwork when appropriate, process for involving the community, and method of calling for artists.
2. The Council will approve available funds for the artwork and solicit members to be part of an Art Selection Committee, if needed.
3. The Public Art Advisory Committee shall select an artist, or group of artists, through a public process using one of the following methods:
  - a. Request for Qualifications (RFQ), for projects \$75,000 or more
  - b. Request for Proposals (RFP), for projects under \$75,000
  - c. Invitational competition.

4. The Public Art Advisory Committee will rank various artist proposals during open public meetings at which the community may participate, after which the Committee will make a recommendation to the City Council for the award of an artist contract.
5. The City Council shall consider the Public Art Advisory Committee's recommendations on the artist or artist group and then make a decision.
6. The Public Art Advisory Committee, any outside professional hired by the City for assisting with the selection of the artwork, and the appropriate City staff (as needed for the particular project) shall meet regularly with the selected artist, or group of artists, in developing the Conceptual Design Plan that meets the artwork and location criteria.
7. Once the Conceptual Design Plan has been approved by the Public Art Advisory Committee, the artist or artist's team shall refine the project objectives and the Conceptual Design Plan according to the direction of the Public Art Advisory Committee.
8. The final design will be approved by the City Council.

### **Use of Funds**

All funds appropriated for public art will be deposited in the Public Art Fund. The City Council shall authorize projects for funding as prescribed in the public art implementation guidelines. In circumstances where it is not feasible to incorporate artistic features into a particular project, such money will be pooled and used for art in other projects. Disbursements shall be made in connection with projects approved by City Council. Nothing herein prohibits the City from soliciting or receiving grants, donations, bequests or gifts from private or public sources.

For individual pieces of art, the Public Art Advisory Committee will recommend to the City Council what percentage of the funds will be set aside for the Public Art, Maintenance and Administration, and Education based on the guidelines below and those established in the Public Art Master Plan:

#### **1. Public Art Funds**

No less than sixty-five percent (65%) of the fees collected shall be directed for Public Art Acquisition and may be spent for the following purposes:

- a) Artists' services and fees.
- b) Acquisition of art.
- c) Artist selection processes, including jury selection costs and model or design fees.

No more than fifteen percent (15%) of the money collected may be directed for maintenance and curatorial services:

- a) Identifying plaques
- b) Repair, maintenance, surveys, curatorial services, and other conservation work necessary to keep all artworks in the City collection in standard condition.

No more than twenty percent (20%) of the fee may be directed for Public Art Administration and may be spent for the following purposes:

- a) Project administration.

- b) Community education programs, publicity, dedications, temporary ephemeral projects, and other purposes as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee and approved by the City Council.