



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 18, 2025
From: Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director
Subject: Amend the Public Art Implementation Guidelines

Recommendation

Review and adopt the revised public art implementation guidelines to ensure consistency with the recently adopted Public Art Master Plan and the Art in Public Places Program Ordinance.

Background

City Council adopted Brisbane's Art in Public Places Program Ordinance ("Public Art Ordinance") in 2014 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. Shortly after, the City Council adopted the Public Art Implementation Guidelines to ensure community involvement, provide for a diverse art collection, create a sense of place, and engage artists. The Guidelines set forth general policies and procedures for the procurement of public art in Brisbane as well as the use of funds contributed for public art. The Guidelines were last amended in 2021.

Discussion

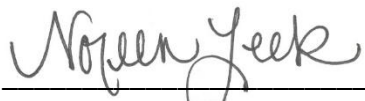
In 2023, the City of Brisbane staff (with support from art consultants, NINEdotARTS) began working to establish the City's first Public Art Master Plan, intended to integrate public art into the fabric of the City. The Master Plan, formally adopted by City Council in March 2025, provides long-term guidance and direction to the Public Art Advisory Committee and the City Council on the planning and processes necessary to administer and maintain a successful public art program. In order to ensure that the Master Plan aligns with the City's Public Art Ordinance and Implementation Guidelines, the Public Art Advisory Committee reviewed the Guidelines and have proposed amendments. The redlined version of the Guidelines highlighting proposed amendments is included as Attachment 1. Legal Counsel has reviewed the amendments, and the Public Art Advisory Committee unanimously recommends Council's adoption.

Fiscal Impact

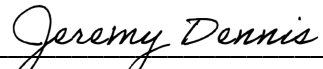
There is no direct fiscal impact as a result of amending the Public Art Implementation Guidelines.

Attachments

1. Redlined version of the Public Art Implementation Guidelines



Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director



Jeremy Dennis, City Manager

Public Arts Implementation Guidelines

City of Brisbane

Approved by Council 06.17.21

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 a 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.
- **Ephemeral Art:** [Temporary artistic creations that exist for a limited time and are often made with natural materials that are at hand.](#)
- **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 ~~(the Council's Parks and Recreation Commission Liaisons)~~, 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 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, ensuring its integration with the community, and defining 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 over \$75,000.
- **Request for Qualifications (RFQ):** A formal document published by the City to solicit bids or proposals from prospective artists for projects under \$75,000.

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 ~~program~~public art selection criteria as outlined in the Public Art Master Plan-criteria and guidelines 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:

Privately Installed Public Art Selection process for private developers

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 then recommends approved projects to the City Council for final approval. Of options 2 and 3, it is in the best 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 assesses project goals and internal capacity and makes a determination whether to guide the developer's art procurement process. If the Public Art Advisory Committee elects to take on the project, they would 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 could refer the developer to a public art partner (i.e. an independent firm) to support the developer's process of art procurement.
- ~~2. The developer must contract the services of an artist for any public art project. The developer will provide the work vitae of the art consultant or artist.~~

For options 2 and 3:

3. Once artwork is selected, the developer submits 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 Installed~~ Public Art [selection process for the City of Brisbane](#)

[A process map within the Public Art Master Plan outlines the procedure for public art initiated by the city.](#)

1. 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 ~~in the process~~, 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 under \$75,000
 - b. Request for Proposals (RFP), for projects over \$75,000
 - c. Invitational competition.
4. The Public Art Advisory Committee will rank various artist proposals during open public meetings at which the community can participate, and then will make a formal recommendation to the City Council for the award of the artist contract.
- 4.5. The City Council shall make a decision on the Public Art Advisory Committee's recommendations on the artist or artist group.
- 5.6. 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.
- 6.7. 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.
- 7.8. 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, [ephemeral projects](#), and other purposes as recommended by the Public Art [Advisory](#) Committee and approved by the City Council.