


Public Spaces and Cultural Heritage Board

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation
MEETING: April 7, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff feedback regarding the Public Spaces and Cultural Heritage Board. (Staff Contact: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 <p>Beautiful, Safe, & Vibrant Community</p>	<p>3.1 Encourage placemaking and a sense of belonging</p>

SUMMARY:

The creation of the Public Spaces & Cultural Heritage Committee is the result of two parallel efforts:

- Adoption of the Public Art Master Plan (2025):**
 The plan identified the need for a dedicated advisory body to guide the implementation of a thoughtful, community-driven public art program, ensuring alignment with community values, long-term stewardship, and phased project delivery.
- Review of Existing Boards and Committees:**
 A broader organizational review evaluated the roles, responsibilities, and overlap of existing boards. This process identified an opportunity to consolidate related focus areas—public art, cultural heritage, cemetery stewardship, and senior-focused programming—into a single advisory body to improve clarity, efficiency, and alignment with adopted plans.

Together, these efforts led to the establishment of the Public Spaces & Cultural Heritage Committee as a focused advisory group supporting both strategic initiatives and ongoing programmatic needs.

The Public Spaces & Cultural Heritage Committee serves as an advisory body to City staff and City Council, providing guidance, recommendations, and perspective on key focus areas within public spaces.

The committee is intended to support:

- Transparent and informed decision-making
- Alignment with adopted master plans and policies
- Integration of cultural, historical, and artistic elements into public spaces

As outlined in the committee framework, the role is advisory in nature and does not include operational or administrative authority.

Committee Purview

The committee's scope of work includes the following primary areas:

1. Public Art

- Implementation of the Public Art Master Plan through a phased approach
- Review and recommendation of public art opportunities, including temporary and permanent installations
- Consideration of partnerships, grants, and artist engagement processes

2. Cultural Heritage & Placemaking

- Support for initiatives that reflect Burleson's identity, history, and community character
- Guidance on storytelling elements within parks, trails, and civic spaces

3. Cemetery Stewardship

- Advisory input on preservation, enhancement, and long-range planning
- Consideration of respectful interpretation and historical recognition

4. Senior-Focused Programming in Public Spaces

- Evaluation of accessibility, inclusivity, and program effectiveness
- Identification of opportunities for engagement and connection across generations

These focus areas collectively support the City's broader goals of placemaking, community identity, and quality-of-life enhancements.

To operationalize the committee and begin its work, the following steps are proposed:

1. Board Orientation & Onboarding

- Provide foundational materials, including adopted plans, policies, and program overviews
- Establish a shared understanding of roles, expectations, and advisory responsibilities

2. Establish Meeting Structure & Annual Work Plan

- Confirm regular meeting cadence
- Identify priority focus areas for the first year, including early public art opportunities and program assessments

3. Initial Work Program

- Begin Phase 1 implementation of the Public Art Master Plan (foundation and pilot projects)
- Review current senior programming and identify gaps or opportunities
- Receive overview of cemetery operations and existing conditions

4. Coordination with Staff & Council

- Define communication and reporting processes
- Align recommendations with budget cycles and capital project timelines

5. Early Deliverables

- Provide initial recommendations related to:
 - Public art pilot projects
 - Integration opportunities within upcoming park developments
 - Programmatic enhancements within the committee's purview

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

Insert CSO# if applicable

Insert resolution or ordinance change

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Expenditure/Revenue:

Account Number(s):

Fund:

Account Description:

Procurement Method:

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE

Director of Parks and Recreation

jbasham@burlesontx.com

817-426-9201