
Public Spaces and Cultural Heritage Board

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation

MEETING: July 14, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff feedback regarding the survey of public art in Burleson in the development of a public art inventory. (*Staff Contact: Sarah Heath, Senior Administrative Specialist*)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 Great Place to Live Through Expanded Quality of Life Amenities	4.3 Provide outstanding cultural, educational and entertainment opportunities

SUMMARY:

The City of Burleson has developed the Public Art Master Plan to provide a long-term framework for guiding the development, funding, and management of public art throughout the community. In accordance with the Public Art Plan, staff are conducting a survey of existing publicly accessible works located throughout the community. The purpose of this survey is to gather preliminary information on each piece so that the Board may evaluate whether it meets the definition of public art as established in the Public Art Policy. Initial data collected for each piece includes site name, address, general area, indoor or outdoor designation, title of work, artist, type of work, and photograph.

Pieces determined by the Board to meet the definition of public art will proceed to a verification phase. Staff will collect the following additional information for each qualifying work:

- Location descriptor and GPS coordinates
- Year of installation
- Dimensions

- Ownership, funding source, and any agreements on file
- Formal photographs suitable for future website publication
- Plaque information and artist or staff notes
- Condition assessment, maintenance concerns, and initiation of a maintenance log
- Deaccession documentation, as applicable

Upon completion, this data will be added to the City's official Public Art Inventory, representing an initial and foundational step in establishing the program structure outlined in the Public Art Plan.

The survey report presented at the July 14, 2026 Board meeting will encompass works identified in Burleson. The Board will be asked to review these pieces and determine which qualify for verification and inclusion in the Public Art Inventory.

As the presented work include privately murals on private property, the Board will take into consideration the guidelines presented in the Public Art Plan:

“MURAL OPTION A - MURAL GUIDELINES INTRODUCTION

Murals are a relatively quick and highly impactful way to bring public art into the built environment. Murals provide an opportunity for visual artists to show their talent and creativity while also contributing to a community's landscape and identity.

PRIVATE MURALS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The City of Burleson and City Manager's Office encourage the installation of private murals on private property in order to support artists and enhance the visual environment in City of Burleson. Private property owners are encouraged to voluntarily follow the policies set forth in this document as applicable and are also encouraged to consult with the City Manager's Office and the Public Art Coordinator with regard to any questions or concerns as they develop and implement private murals...

MURAL EASEMENTS

In order to create additional mural opportunities within City of Burleson, these policies encourage property owners to enter into easement agreements with the City that allow for public funds to be expended for murals on private property. Though there may be positive benefits for a property owner as a result of the creation of a publicly-owned mural on their building, there must be no direct correlation between the content of the mural and the property or any business housed in the property. In order for the City to implement a publicly owned mural on a privately-owned building the building owner must sign an easement created by the City of Burleson which Texas that the owner will not paint over, destroy, cover, or alter the mural for the duration of the agreement. Agreements typically last for a minimum of 5 years but may be shorter or longer depending on the project. As part of easement negotiations, the City should also consider negotiating with the property owner for nightly illumination of the mural for the lifetime of the easement...

MURAL OPTION B - CITY OF BURLESON MURAL PROGRAM (PRIVATE PROPERTY) PERMITTING PROCESS AND REGULATIONS

Murals play an important role in City of Burleson's past and present. The City of Burleson has a long tradition of mural placement on private property, and encourages this and other forms of creative community expression. Murals provide an opportunity to transform blank walls into vibrant spaces. Murals can celebrate a place's history, tell memorable stories of residents, and be a source of beauty. Murals are a relatively quick and highly impactful way to bring public art into a city's built environment. The Mural Program regulates privately commissioned murals visible to public property or public rights-of-way and is implemented through the issuance of Mural Permits pursuant to CODE. The Mural Program does not apply to the following:

- Public art and murals funded by the City of Burleson or public art funds. These are governed by the "Acquisition" chapter in the Public Art Policy;
- Privately-commissioned public art and murals not visible to public property or public rights-of-way. These are governed solely by CODE; and
- Public art and murals on property where said use is not permitted pursuant to CODE...

EXISTING PRIVATELY-COMMISSIONED MURALS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY VISIBLE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY OR PUBLIC RIGHTS-OFWAY ("LEGACY OR MURALS")

Any mural on private property and visible to public property or public right-of-way installed prior to the effective date of these Public Art Policy for which a land use entitlement such as a Minor Conditional Use Permit or Conditional Use Permit has not been obtained may continue as a nonconforming use for a period of five years from the effective date of the Public Art Policy so long as it and/or the surface or property on which it is located is maintained such that it is not a public nuisance or otherwise creating a public safety issue. Legacy Murals may be expanded, modified and/or have the lifespan extended only in compliance with an approved Mural Permit..."

RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Spaces and Cultural Heritage Board may approve or deny the 10 works in Burleson presented for consideration as meeting the definition of public art.

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

The survey report presented at the June 23, 2026 Board meeting encompassed works identified in Old Town Burleson.

REFERENCE:

Burleson Public Art Policy.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

STAFF CONTACT:

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