

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Solara Clark, Project Coordinator, Cultural Services
Liz Good, Visual Arts Coordinator, Cultural Services
Ellen Martin, Lead Specialist, Cultural Services
Eileen May, Director, Cultural Services

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 091, 2025, Amending the Code of the City of Fort Collins to Discontinue the Art in Public Places Board and the Cultural Resources Board and Merge their Functions into the Arts and Culture Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to discontinue the existing Art in Public Places Board and Cultural Resources Board and to merge and adjust their functions for a new Arts and Culture Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Cultural Services Department is proposing the dissolution of the Art in Public Places Board and the Cultural Resources Board to merge their responsibilities into a single Arts and Culture Board. This change supports the City's broader goal of shifting from complexity to simplicity in its Boards and Commission's structure. After reviewing peer city models and internal needs, the department concluded that one cohesive board will more effectively provide advocacy and strategic guidance across the department's work, including public art, cultural initiatives, and community engagement. The new board structure is designed to ensure a balanced workload and allow members to focus deeply on a wide range of art and cultural priorities without becoming overextended.

The proposed Arts and Culture Board will be established as a Type 2 advisory board, consistent with the current structure of both the Art in Public Places Board and the Cultural Resources Board. The board is expected to include nine members, with responsibilities focused on providing guidance and advocacy across the full spectrum of Cultural Services. This includes advocacy for the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, The Lincoln Center, Gardens on Spring Creek, Art in Public Places, Cultural Community Programs, Center for Creativity, Fort Fund Grant Program, and Arts and Culture Masterplan. The structure is intended to ensure broad representation and engagement across the department's diverse programs and initiatives. The new Board would be anticipated to start in April of 2026 in alignment with the Boards and Commission's new member timeline and start dates across the organization.

Both current boards have been informed of the proposed transition. Existing members will not automatically transfer to the new board; instead, all current interested board members are encouraged to apply for a seat on the new board. This will ensure an open and equitable process. This restructuring streamlines how the department receives input and also strengthens its ability to elevate a range of community perspectives and respond more effectively to the evolving art and cultural landscape of Fort Collins.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The proposed Arts and Culture Board is not expected to have any direct financial impact on the City finances. While the board may review and provide input on budgets related to the Art in Public Places Program, which operates with a dedicated funding source, and the Cultural Services department, it will not oversee or manage funding directly. This is consistent with the current roles of the Art in Public Places Board and the Cultural Resources Board, and no additional financial resources or staffing are anticipated as a result of this transition.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Both the Art in Public Places Board and the Cultural Resources Board have been informed of the proposed changes, and the overall consensus has been supportive of the plan to merge the two boards. As expected, some questions were raised regarding potential impacts on board responsibilities. Staff have been actively working with board members to address these inquiries and provide as much clarity and information as possible throughout the process.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

If the proposed ordinance and changes are approved by Council, staff will actively engage with the public to share information about the transition and highlight opportunities to get involved with the newly established Arts and Culture Board.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance No. 091, 2025