



City Council Agenda Report

Meeting Date: April 9, 2024

Initiated By: City Council

Prepared By: Anthony Carnesecca

Approved By: Gabriel Engeland

Subject:
Criteria for Art in Public Places

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Housing
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- General Government

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss the Criteria for Art in Public Places.

POLICY QUESTION(S) FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

- How would the City Council like to proceed with Art in Public Places?

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not applicable

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

July 10, 2018

SUMMARY

- City Council approved Ordinance No. 2018-446 establishing a development fee of 1% for public art, creating a Public Art Fund, and establishing requirements for inclusion of public art in private development projects.
- The Public Art Fund has historically expended funds used on the maintenance and acquisition of various art installations on City-owned, public property throughout the City.

BACKGROUND

On July 10, 2018, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 2018-446 establishing a development fee of 1% for public art, creating a Public Art Fund, and establishing requirements for inclusion of public art in private development projects.

This ordinance requires that private, non-commercial developers devote an amount not less than one percent (1%) of such costs for the acquisition and installation of publicly accessible art on the development site. At the discretion of the applicant, and in lieu of developing on-site public artwork, a Public Art in-lieu contribution of one percent (1%) may be placed into the Los Altos Public Art Fund to be used pursuant to Section 3.52.020. Such contribution shall not exceed two hundred \$200,000.

This ordinance defines “publicly accessible art” as “art which can be reasonably viewed or experienced from the public right-of-way or to which access is unrestricted to members of the public at all times of day.” This governs the acquisition and installation of art on private development sites.

This ordinance also created the Los Altos Public Art Fund, which is where all Public Art in-lieu contributions are deposited. These funds shall be restricted to implementation of the Los Altos Public Art Program. Per LAMC 3.52.020, these in lieu funds may only be used on the “acquisition, placement, maintenance, and promotion of temporary and permanent art and art programs on City-owned, public property throughout the City.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This means that the Public Art funds from Public Art in-lieu contributions may only be spent on art located on City-owned, public property.

The Public Art Fund has historically expended funds used on the maintenance and acquisition of various art installations on City-owned, public property throughout the City. In the past two fiscal years, the fund has been used to purchase sculptures, artwork informational signage, and complete maintenance on existing art installations.

As of March 29, 2024, the Public Art Fund has \$433,631.04.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance No. 2018-446