



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6459
May 7, 2024
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6459: 1% for Art in Public Places – Public Art Restorations	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Appropriate \$20,000 from the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund to restore <i>Totem</i> by Bernard Hosey and the Luther Burbank Park Mosaic Murals by Sandy Glass and José Orantes.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Clint Morris, Capital Division Manager Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	1. Public Art Photos
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ 20,000
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ 0
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 20,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to seek an appropriation of \$20,000 from the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund (1% Fund) to restore two installations in the Mercer Island public art collection.

- The 1% Fund is established by MICC 4.40.200 and provides funding for public art acquisition and collection care for Mercer Island’s public art collection.
- Routine maintenance of the collection, such as annual cleaning and waxing, is funded through a public art maintenance appropriation (PRAT40) from the 1% Fund. Occasionally, significant restoration needs arise that require an additional 1% Fund appropriation.
- On April 17, 2024, staff presented restoration needs for *Totem* by Bernard Hosey and the Luther Burbank Park Mosaic Murals by Sandy Glass and José Orantes to the Mercer Island Arts Council (Exhibit 1). The Arts Council voted to transmit a recommendation to the City Council to appropriate \$20,000 from the 1% Fund unassigned fund balance to support these needs.
- At the end of 2023, the 1% Fund balance was \$153,309.

BACKGROUND

The Mercer Island public art collection includes nearly 70 works of two- and three-dimensional art installed in City parks, buildings, and other public locations around the Island. Much of the collection was partially or fully acquired using the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund (1% Fund).

The 1% Fund is established by [MICC 4.40.200](#) and funded by 1% of total project costs for qualifying capital improvement projects, which include City-funded construction and repair of public buildings and parks as well as new construction of public streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities. More information about the City's public art collection can be found at www.mercerisland.gov/publicart.

Maintenance of the public art collection is supported using an annual public art maintenance appropriation from the 1% Fund (PRAT40). Routine maintenance typically focuses on outdoor sculptures and includes cleaning, waxing, sealing, repainting, and other activities to preserve the life and longevity of the collection. The City also mounts major restorations of individual pieces as those needs arise. Recent public art restorations include *Handsome Bollards* by Tom Jay (2019), *Fire Flower* by Gizel Berman (2022), *Now We Are One* by Philip Levine (2023), and *Island Poles* by Steve Jensen (2023). Images of these works are provided in Exhibit 1.

2024 PUBLIC ART RESTORATION NEEDS

At the Regular Arts Council Meeting on April 17, 2024, staff presented two major restoration needs for 2024 ([Agenda Item #3](#) | [Video Recording](#) – Item begins at 10:00). A summary of each project is provided below. Images of the artwork are provided in Exhibit 1.

***Totem* by Bernard Hosey**

This abstract steel sculpture was donated to the City in 1984 by the Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) and is currently installed at Roanoke Park. A July 2023 condition assessment conducted by Alloy Arts, the City's contract public art conservator, found significant corrosion and paint loss as well as rust in visible spots. Alloy Arts proposes cleaning, sanding, treating/sealing rust spots, and repainting *Totem* as well as cleaning the concrete base. The 2024 cost estimate for this work is \$8,018, and staff recommend completing the restoration before the new play area at Roanoke Park opens to the public. Staff will also install a new public art sign and add *Totem* to STQRY, the City's digital public art engagement platform, after the restoration is complete.

Mosaic Murals at Luther Burbank Park

The Mosaic Murals installation at Luther Burbank Park is an Art in Public Places (AIPP) project completed in 2016 as part of the Luther Burbank playground renovation. The installation was created by local artists Sandy Glass and José Orantes in collaboration with Mercer Island students and community volunteers. It features four glass tile mosaics installed near the sport courts and within the play area. Staff and Glass have been tracking maintenance needs for the mosaics since 2019. In March 2024, Glass submitted an updated restoration plan that includes repairing the expansion joints and a damaged section of the large mosaic *Birds in Flight* as well as damage caused by potential vandalism to the mosaics installed in the play area. The estimated cost for these repairs, which will be completed by Glass and Orantes, is \$9,859. The restoration plan also suggested other area improvements, including new signage for the play area pieces and plaza surface improvements near *Birds in Flight*. Staff from the City's Recreation, Capital, and Parks Operations divisions evaluated these suggestions and are scheduling associated work to be completed before/during the mosaic repairs.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

At the end of 2023, the 1% Fund balance was \$153,309. The following expenditures have been appropriated or are expected to be appropriated in 2024:

- Annual Public Art Maintenance (PRAT40): \$15,000 – Most of this funding is committed to other projects, including routine maintenance of nine sculptures, on-call services for small maintenance needs, and storage of *Fire Flower* and *Now We Are One*, which are awaiting reinstallation.
- Luther Burbank Park Dock and Waterfront Improvements AIPP (*Mercer Island Medallions*): \$89,390 – This project was developed in collaboration with the Arts Council, the community, and the capital project design team in 2022-2023. The fabrication/installation scope was accepted by the Arts Council in October 2023, and that recommendation will be transmitted to the City Council for approval at bid award for the Luther Burbank Park Dock and Waterfront Improvements project (PA0122).

On April 17, the Arts Council recommended that the City Council appropriate \$20,000 from the 1% Fund to complete the proposed restorations of *Totem* and the Mosaic Murals. This appropriation will cover the estimated costs for both projects, which total \$17,877, as well as provide a small contingency to support unknowns during the restoration process. Any leftover dollars at project completion will be returned to the 1% Fund balance for future use contingent on City Council budget approval.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of the appropriation request to restore *Totem* and the Mosaic Murals, staff will contract with Alloy Arts and Sandy Glass to complete these projects. Updates on restoration progress will be shared with the City Council via the City Manager's Report at future meetings.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Appropriate \$20,000 from the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund to restore *Totem* by Bernard Hosey and the Luther Burbank Park Mosaic Murals by Sandy Glass and José Orantes.