



# 6-Year Art in Public Places Workplan – Workshop #3

Arts Council Special Hybrid Meeting  
September 16, 2024



# Goals for Tonight's Workshop

1. Provide feedback on Framework for Developing Public Art Projects.
2. Provide input to update the Public Art Deaccession policy.
3. Provide input for Community Public Art & Temporary Public Art policy.
4. Look ahead and confirm the date/time for Workshop #4.





# Framework for Developing Public Art Projects

*Growing Up* by Richard Beyer  
Commissioned by the City in 1987



# What is the Framework for Developing Public Art Projects?

- Section of the 6-Year Workplan that will include the following for the public art program:
  - Goals
  - Actions
  - Project opportunities
  - Selection criteria
- Staff used Arts Council feedback from previous workshops to draft elements of the section, including the **Public Art Pillars** and **Framing Statements** exercises.
- Tonight, we're discussing the goals, actions, and selection criteria. We will discuss project opportunities after the draft 2025-2030 CIP is released.

# Goals for the Mercer Island Public Art Program

## **Through public art, the Mercer Island Arts Council seeks to:**

- Spark curiosity where Mercer Island residents live, gather, and play.
- Cultivate community pride, civic engagement, high quality of life, and social connection.
- Share Mercer Island's rich history, natural beauty, diverse community, and local creativity with Island residents and visitors.
- Provide accessible, inclusive, and safe public art experiences for people of all abilities.
- Steward a public art collection that future generations can sustainably enjoy, engage with, and enhance.

## Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan

**To work toward these goals over the next six years, the City will focus the public art workplan on the following actions:**

- Activate existing public art installations and spaces with performance, special events, and community-led projects that raise awareness of the public art collection and educate about its many offerings.
- Select locations for public art installations and activations that provide equitable access to residents, create a destination for visitors, and integrate public art into its surroundings. Examples include the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery (centrally located) and the South End (lacking concentration of public art).
- Prioritize diverse and innovative artists, forms of expression, and mediums, including those not currently represented in the public art collection, when developing new public art projects.

## Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan

**To work toward these goals over the next six years, the City will focus the public art workplan on the following actions:**

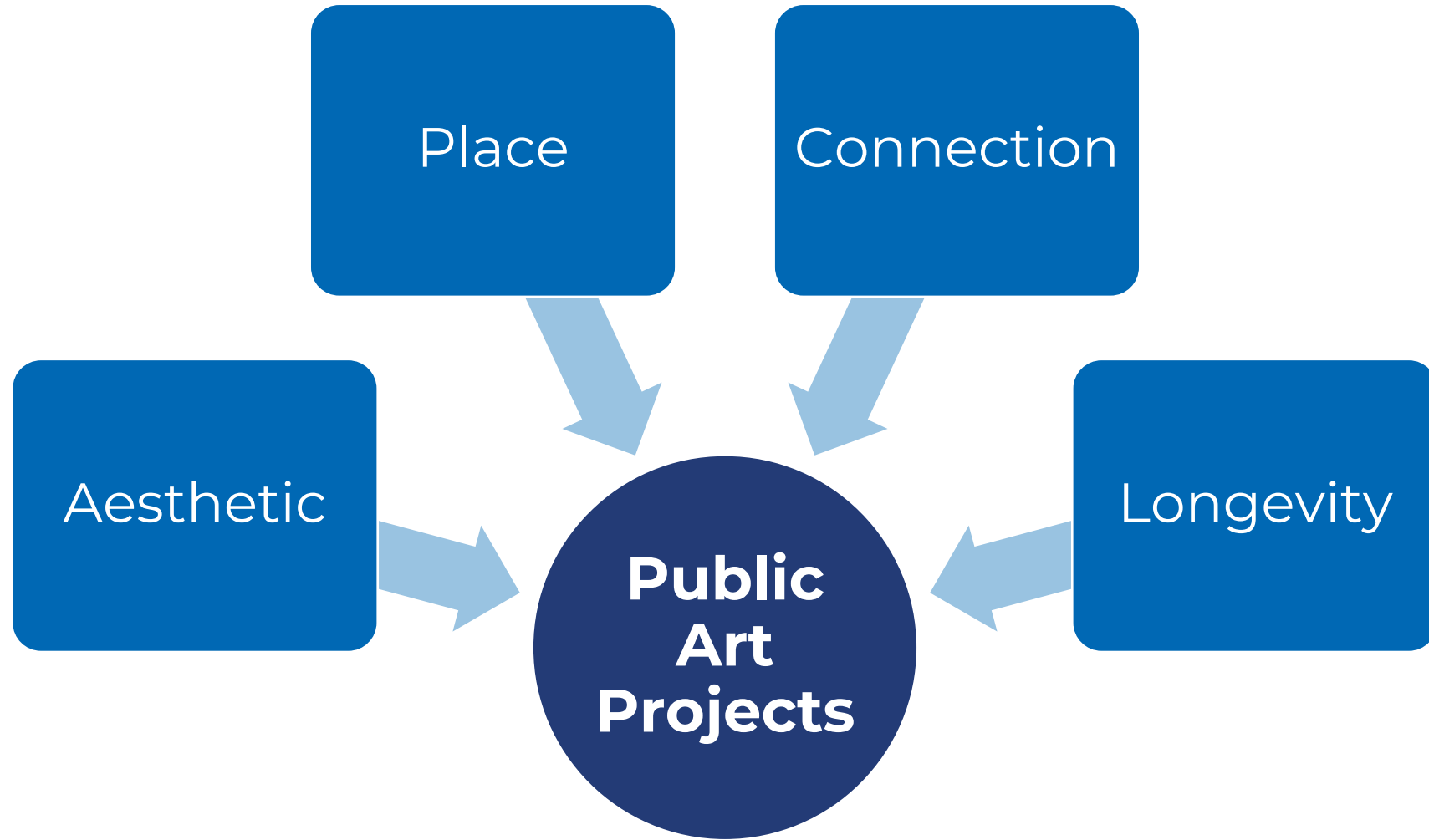
- Embrace Mercer Island's history, natural environment, and local values when identifying themes for new public art projects.
- Provide opportunities for Island residents, community organizations, and local artists to collaborate in developing and implementing public art projects.
- Evaluate project opportunities not only for their immediate impact but also for their potential to endure and inspire future generations. Considerations will include financial, environmental, and cultural sustainability as well as long-term maintenance requirements.

## Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan

- Activate existing public art installations and spaces with performance, special events, and community-led projects that raise awareness of the public art collection and educate about its many offerings.
- Select locations for public art installations and activations that provide equitable access to residents, create a destination for visitors, and integrate public art into its surroundings. Examples include the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery (centrally located) and the South End (lacking concentration of public art).
- Prioritize diverse and innovative artists, forms of expression, and mediums, including those not currently represented in the public art collection, when developing new public art projects.
- Embrace Mercer Island's history, natural environment, and local values when identifying themes for new public art projects.
- Provide opportunities for Island residents, community organizations, and local artists to collaborate in developing and implementing public art projects.
- Evaluate project opportunities not only for their immediate impact but also for their potential to endure and inspire future generations. Considerations will include financial, environmental, and cultural sustainability as well as long-term maintenance requirements.



# Four Public Art Pillars

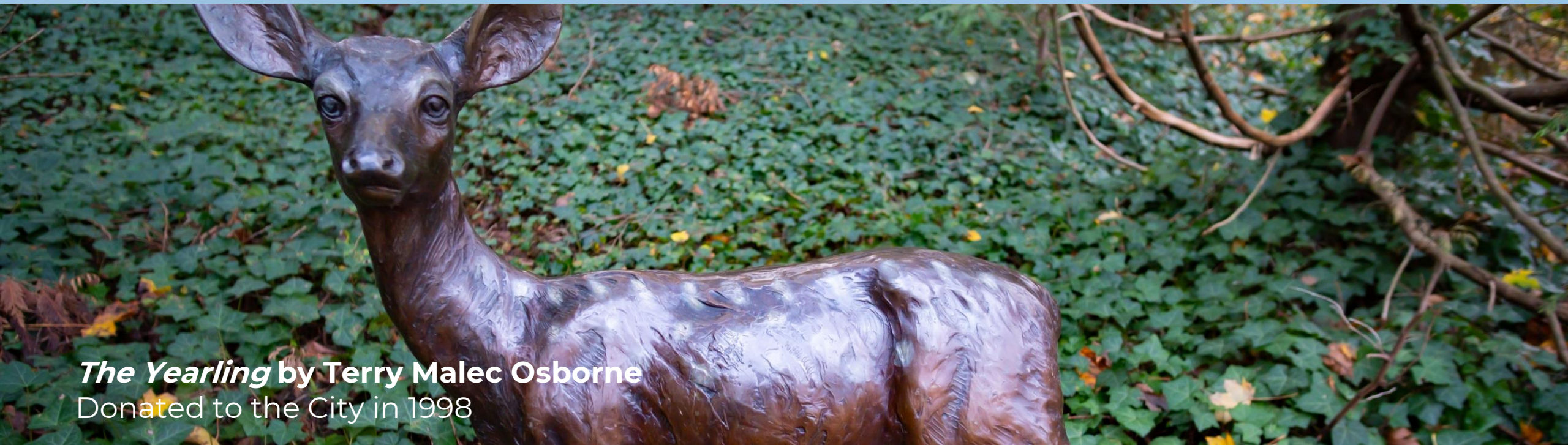


# Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Public Art Pillar	Selection Criteria
Aesthetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quality</b> – Does the proposal demonstrate high artistic merit?</li> <li>• <b>Diversity of Representation</b> – Will the proposal add new mediums, materials, artmaking processes, styles/genres, and/or artists to the public art collection?</li> <li>• <b>Originality &amp; Innovation</b> – Will the proposal bring something fresh and unique to the public art collection?</li> </ul>
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Context</b> – Does the proposal demonstrate understanding of the project site and its historical, cultural, and environmental context?</li> <li>• <b>Functionality</b> – How will the proposal integrate into and/or enhance site?</li> <li>• <b>Sense of Identity</b> – Will the proposal enhance and/or cultivate a strong sense of place for residents and visitors?</li> </ul>
Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inspiration</b> – Will the proposal provoke feeling in the viewer?</li> <li>• <b>Diversity</b> – Does the proposal engage diverse communities and foster community dialogue?</li> <li>• <b>Inclusion &amp; Accessibility</b> – Does the proposal provide a safe and inclusive public art experience for all?</li> </ul>
Longevity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staying Power</b> – Does the proposal demonstrate appeal for future Mercer Island generations?</li> <li>• <b>Collection Care</b> – Can the proposed project be sustainably completed and maintained?</li> </ul>



# Public Art Policy Input



***The Yearling*** by Terry Malec Osborne  
Donated to the City in 1998

# Who is involved in the deaccession process?

Activity	Current “Who”	Updated “Who”
Identify deaccession needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City staff recommend artworks for consideration/evaluation.</li> <li>2. Arts Council appoints Deaccession Subcommittee of the Public Art Committee to evaluate and confirm artwork meets deaccessioning criteria.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than five arts professionals/experts</li> <li>• Includes member of Public Art Committee and an art conservator/curator</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
Approve deaccession recommendation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff prepares a deaccession report.</li> <li>2. Public Art Committee reviews report and makes recommendation to Arts Council.</li> <li>3. Arts Council reviews Committee recommendation.</li> <li>4. Staff present final recommendation to City Council for approval.</li> </ol>	
Implement deaccession.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Art Committee considers options (sale, destruction, donation, etc.)</li> <li>2. Staff carry out selected action and update public art records.</li> </ol>	

# How are deaccession needs evaluated?

## **Current Deaccession Criteria**

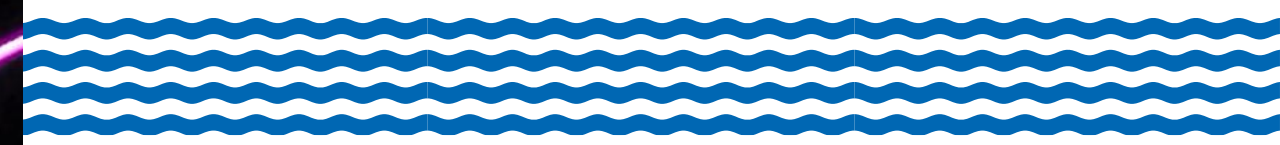
1. A work is not, or is only rarely, on display because of lack of a suitable site.
2. The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonable guaranteed.
3. The artwork has been damaged or has deteriorated and repair is impractical or unfeasible.
4. The artwork endangers public safety.
5. In the case of site-specific artwork, the artwork is destroyed by severely altering its relationship to the site.
6. The artwork has been determined to be significantly incompatible or inferior in the context of the collection.
7. The City wishes to replace the artwork with work of more significance by the same artist.
8. The artwork requires excessive maintenance or has faults of design or workmanship.



## Other Public Art Program Policy Needs

- **Community Public Art Projects:** Requests from the community to install permanent public art projects.
  - Recent acquisition – *Twin Foxes* (2015)
- **Temporary Public Art Projects:** Short-term exhibits generated by City staff, Arts Council members, community members/organizations, and/or others.
  - Recent projects – *Island Lanterns* (2021, 2023, 2024); *Prairie of Possibilities* (2021)

*The Prairie of Possibilities* by Moonlight Collective  
Exhibited in October 2021



# Considerations for Community & Temporary Public Art Projects

## **Project Proposal Process**

- Will the City administer a call for artists or accept unsolicited proposals?
- When will proposals be accepted? (E.g. On a rolling basis vs. specific deadline)
- Should individuals be required to demonstrate community support for the project? (E.g. Require a project sponsor from the community, submit letters of support, etc.)

## **Artwork Details**

- What types of community/temporary public art projects will be considered? (E.g. specific mediums only vs. any type of artwork, etc.)
- Where will community/temporary public art projects be installed/exhibited? (E.g. Any City property? Specific locations identified by staff and the Arts Council? Etc.)



# Upcoming Meetings & Public Art Updates

*Call of the Wild* by Donald Riggs  
Donated to the City in 2013

*Puzzle Play* by John Liczwinko  
2002 Mercerdale Park Playground AIPP



# Upcoming Planning Schedule

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
October 16	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Development Framework</li> <li>• Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Endorsement:</b> Framework for Developing Public Art Projects</li> <li>• <b>Draft Review:</b> Goals for Public Art Interpretation &amp; Engagement</li> </ul>
November 18	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Public Art Policy</li> <li>• Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft Review:</b> 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix</li> <li>• <b>Draft Release:</b> Public Art Guidelines</li> <li>• <b>Endorsement:</b> Goals for Public Art Interpretation &amp; Engagement</li> </ul>
January 15, 2025	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Collection Care</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Endorsement:</b> 25-26 Project Opportunities Matrix</li> </ul>
February 10, 2025	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft Review:</b> Updating the Plan</li> </ul>



# Public Art Updates

- Restoration of the mosaic murals at Luther Burbank Park is **complete!**
- Contracting process to restore *Totem* by Bernard Hosey is still underway. Work likely happening in 2025.
- General public art maintenance wrapping up by end of summer.
- Staff will provide an update on the Street Name Inlays in October.
- Updated STQRY platform is live!