

The Framework for Developing Public Art Projects section of the workplan will include the following elements:

1. Goals for the Public Art Program
2. Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan
3. Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix – Prioritized list of project opportunities based on known/anticipated CIP and other projects
4. Artwork/Artist Selection Criteria – Updated selection criteria based on the Four Pillars

This is a running draft of that section.

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### **Goals for the City of Mercer Island’s 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.
- 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.

### **Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria**

After public art projects are identified, the following criteria will be used to evaluate artwork submittals and proposals.

#### *Aesthetic*

- Quality – Does the proposal demonstrate high artistic merit?
- Diversity of Representation – Will the proposal add new mediums, materials, artmaking processes, styles/genres, and/or artists to the public art collection?
- Originality and Innovation – Will the proposal bring something fresh and unique to the public art collection?

#### *Place*

- Context – Does the proposal demonstrate understanding of the project site and its historical, cultural, and environmental context?
- Functionality – How will the proposal integrate into and/or enhance the site?
- Sense of Identify – Will the proposal enhance and/or cultivate a strong sense of place for residents and visitors?

#### *Connection*

- Inspiration – Will the proposal provoke feeling in the viewer?
- Diversity – Does the proposal engage diverse communities and foster community dialogue?
- Inclusion & Accessibility – Does the proposal provide a safe and inclusive public art experience for all?

#### *Longevity*

- Staying Power – Does the proposal demonstrate appeal for future Mercer Island generations?
- Collection Care – Can the proposed project be sustainably completed and maintained?

### **Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix**

Development of the Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix will begin after the draft 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is released.