



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (1)
September 16, 2024
Special Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan – Workshop #3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Discussion only; no action needed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Plan Section: Framework for Developing Public Art Projects 2. Guidelines for Deaccession of Public Art

SUMMARY

This special meeting is the third in a series of workshops to develop a 6-Year Workplan for the Art in Public Places Program (the Plan). The Mercer Island Arts Council has participated in two special meetings (i.e. workshops) and one regular meeting to provide input on the Plan.

- Workshop #1, May 20, 2024 ([Agenda Item #2](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 7:13) – The Arts Council reviewed City planning documents relevant to public art and explored the City’s public art collection and program. They shared their observations as well as short phrases/sentences they wrote responding to two prompts.
- Workshop #2, June 17, 2024 ([Agenda Item #2](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 3:02) – For the second workshop, the Arts Council began discussing the framework for developing public art projects over the six-year planning horizon and shared feedback on public art policies.
- Regular Meeting, July 17, 2024 ([Agenda Item #5](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 1:30:00) – Staff recapped planning progress, and the Arts Council endorsed the “public art pillars” as well as provided feedback on the planning process and timeline.

FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

Staff used Arts Council input to start drafting the Framework for Developing Public Art Projects (Exhibit 1), a section of the Plan that will include the public art goals, actions, project opportunities, and selection criteria identified through this process.

During Workshop #3, staff seek feedback on the following elements of this section:

1. Goals for the City of Mercer Island’s Public Art Program
2. Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan
3. Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Proposed goals and actions were drafted using the Arts Council’s input from Workshop #2, and the selection criteria are based on the “public art pillars” endorsed by the Arts Council on July 17. Feedback received at Workshop #3 will be used to refine those elements into a second draft that will be shared with the Arts Council at the October 16 Regular Meeting.

The Framework section will also include the Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix, which the Arts Council will begin reviewing after the draft 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is released in the fall.

PUBLIC ART POLICIES

A draft public art policy document will be presented to the Arts Council as part of this planning process in Q4 of 2024. Arts Council members previously provided input related to public art acquisition, and staff now seek policy feedback for deaccession and community/temporary public art projects.

Public Art Deaccession

The current guidelines for deaccession (Exhibit 2) were provided on June 3 but were not discussed during Workshop #2. Staff seek Arts Council feedback on this public art policy at Workshop #3.

Community Public Art and Temporary Public Art Projects

Aside from Art in Public Places (AIPP) projects, the City’s public art program includes the following:

- Community Public Art Projects: Requests from the community to install permanent public art projects. Recent completed 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) and *Prairie of Possibilities* (2021)

Staff recommend using the same selection criteria identified for AIPP acquisitions to evaluate the other public art project types. If the Arts Council wishes to identify supplemental criteria to include in public art policy, staff seek input during Workshop #3 to draft those criteria.

UPDATED PLANNING SCHEDULE

The updated proposed schedule for this internal planning process is provided below.

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
October 16, 2024	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Development Framework • Interpretation / Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement: Framework for Developing Public Art Projects • Draft Review: Goals for Public Art Interpretation / Engagement
November 18, 2024	Special Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Opportunities • Public Art Policy • Interpretation / Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Review: 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix • Draft Release: Public Art Guidelines • Endorsement: Goals for Public Art Interpretation / Engagement
January 15, 2025	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Opportunities • Collection Care • Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement: 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix
February 10, 2025	Special Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Review: Updating the Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion only; no action needed.