



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

AC 25-01
January 15, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Provide feedback on planning documents as requested, and schedule the final planning workshop to close out this planning process in February 2025.	<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. Summary of Planning Process 2. Draft 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places – UPDATED 3. Results of Project Opportunities Review Exercise 4. Draft Project Opportunities List – UPDATED 5. Draft 2025-2030 Public Art Project Timeline 6. Draft Guidelines for Administering the City’s Public Art Program 7. Current Guidelines for Acquisition and Deaccession 	

SUMMARY

The Mercer Island Arts Council (Arts Council) has collaborated with City staff since May 2024 to develop a 6-Year Workplan for the Art in Public Places Program (the Plan), a planning-level document that will guide internal decision-making for future public art projects. When finalized, the Plan will include goals for the City’s public art program; public art opportunities to consider over the 6-year planning horizon; guidance for community engagement and collection management; and other information to support the public art program. The Plan does not commit funding or other City resources to specific projects. Instead, it provides a roadmap for making future public art project recommendations to the Mercer Island City Council (City Council) when appropriate.

To date, the Arts Council has participated in four special meetings (i.e. workshops) and two regular meetings to provide input on the Plan. A summary of the planning process with links to agenda packet materials and video recordings is provided as Exhibit 1.

On January 15, the Arts Council will continue its discussion of the draft Plan (Exhibit 2), including reviewing an updated draft of the Project Opportunities List (Exhibits 3 and 4); receiving the draft 2025-2030 Public Art Project Timeline (Exhibit 5); and providing feedback on the proposed Guidelines for Administering the City’s Public Art Program (Exhibits 6 and 7). Staff also recommend scheduling a final workshop in 2025 to seek the Arts Council’s endorsement of the Plan and to close out this planning process.

UPDATED PLAN DRAFT

The Arts Council received the first draft of the Plan at the November 2024 workshop and endorsed the public art program goals. Exhibit 2 includes the latest version of the draft Plan. Additional edits/new content are included in the draft in red. Staff request additional feedback on the overall structure and general content of

the Plan in January. Then staff will prepare a final version for review and, if desired, endorsement by the Arts Council at the next meeting.

UPDATED PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES LIST

The Project Opportunities List will be included in the final version of the Plan and is intended as a dynamic list of public art opportunities that can be added to and reviewed on an ongoing basis. On November 18, the Arts Council reviewed the initial list of 26 project opportunities and provided feedback on which items to keep on the list, remove from the list, or elevate to the Public Art Project Timeline. During the discussion, the Arts Council also noted some project opportunities that were either not suitable for the list (i.e. not a public art project) or better suited for incorporating into other sections of the Plan. Those project opportunities have been moved accordingly.

Exhibit 3 provides the results of the keep/remove/elevate exercise and the associated follow-up actions. Exhibit 4 provides the updated draft Project Opportunities List. Note that staff have added a new column to the updated Project Opportunities List that identifies relevant park master plans associated with opportunities.

At the January meeting, staff will seek the Arts Council's endorsement of the updated opportunities list. Once the Plan is endorsed by the Arts Council and approved by the City Council, staff will move forward with activities to solicit additional project opportunities from the community and add ideas to the list for future review at the biennial public art planning workshop recommended in the Plan.

DRAFT RELEASE: 2025-2030 PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES LIST

Recognizing that the City has limited financial, staff, volunteer, and other resources, only a small number of project opportunities can be pursued during each biennium. The proposed 2025-2030 Public Art Project Timeline (Exhibit 5) identifies projects that will be recommended for development over the course of the Plan and includes ongoing projects (e.g. annual public art maintenance) and discreet projects (e.g. Deane's Children's Play Area AIPP).

Staff considered the following when developing the draft timeline:

- Arts Council feedback – Some project opportunities that received 3 or more Arts Council votes to “elevate” have been added to the draft timeline.
- In-process projects – Some projects (e.g. Luther Burbank Waterfront AIPP – *Mercer Island Medallions*) are in process already so have been added to the draft timeline.
- Projects included in the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – Projects included in out years of the 2025-2030 CIP have been added. (e.g. *The Source* Restoration)
- Time constraints and workplan balance – When placing projects on the timeline, staff aimed to include projects that are more time-sensitive (e.g. GHOSG Activation Plan) earlier in the timeline.

During the January meeting, staff request Arts Council feedback on the draft 25-30 project timeline. Input will be incorporated into a final draft, which will be presented for final review at the next meeting. After the Arts Council identifies their recommended project timeline, individual projects will be explored and recommended to the City Council for approval via the draft CIP, biennial budget, and/or department workplans as appropriate.

DRAFT REVIEW: GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTERING THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The Arts Council also received the draft Guidelines for Administering the City of Mercer Island Public Art Program (Exhibit 6) via e-mail on Thursday, November 7. This document combines and updates the existing

acquisition and deaccession procedures as well as proposes a review process for accepting community-initiated public art project proposals. (The current procedures with notations are attached as Exhibit 7.) Staff seek Arts Council feedback on the updated/proposed procedures on January 15. A refined draft will be presented for review and endorsement at the next meeting.

UPCOMING PLANNING SCHEDULE

Staff previously proposed scheduling the final workshop for this planning process on Monday, February 10, at 5pm, at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center. On Wednesday, the final workshop date and time will be confirmed; then staff will add the special hybrid meeting to the City website.

After the Arts Council endorses the Plan materials, staff will also work with the City Clerk and City Manager's Office to schedule the City Council's review and adoption of the Arts Council's recommendation. That timing will be shared with the Arts Council as soon as it is confirmed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide feedback on planning documents as requested, and schedule the final planning workshop to close out this planning process in February 2025.