

Updated based on Arts Council feedback provided on September 16. Items in blue represent new content.

GOALS

Through public art, the Mercer Island Arts Council and City staff seek 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, and local creativity with Island residents and visitors.
- Invite and encourage community members to share their own diverse experiences, backgrounds, and beliefs through artmaking.
- Provide accessible, inclusive, and safe public art experiences that make all feel welcome.
- Steward a public art collection that future generations can sustainably enjoy, engage with, and enhance.

To achieve these goals, the 6-year workplan is divided into three focused actions related to **Project Opportunities, Funding, and Public Engagement**.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Action: Maintain a dynamic list of public art opportunities that can be implemented as resources allow.

- Items to include on the opportunities list:
 - Preferred locations for pursuing public art projects
 - Locally significant events, locations, or details that can be highlighted through projects
 - Capital projects eligible/strong candidates for Art in Public Places projects using 1% funds
 - Project ideas proposed by Arts Council members, community groups, and Island residents

FUNDING

Action: Identify new funding strategies to support public art on Mercer Island.

- Track local, state, and federal grant opportunities for public art projects.
- Forecast 1% for Art in Public Places Fund contributions and expenditures and update the forecast on a biennial basis aligned with the City’s Capital Improvement Program.
- Consider opportunities for soliciting private donations, sponsorships, and other outside funding from individuals and organizations.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Action: Engage the community throughout the public art process.

- Collaborate with community organizations to develop public art projects.
- Solicit project ideas from Island residents.
- Activate public art sites with events, gatherings, and other engagement methods.

SELECTION CRITERIA

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

Aesthetic

- Quality – Does the proposal demonstrate high artistic merit?
- 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?
- Sustainability – Is resource conservation thoughtfully considered for the design and creation of the proposed project?

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 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?
- Collaboration – Does the proposal provide opportunities for Mercer Island residents, community groups, and others to participate in the public art process?
- Diversity – Will the proposed project resonate with people of diverse abilities, backgrounds, and beliefs?
- Community Cohesion – Will the proposal foster community dialogue and enhance community members' understanding of each other?
- 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 completed and maintained within budget?