

Item 4b: 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress
 Exhibit 2: Public Art Project Opportunities List – DRAFT

Log	Proposed By	Project Idea	Comments
1	Councilmember Skone	Transform the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery into Mercer Island's Premier All-Season Destination	<p>Imagine GHOSG as a vibrant, all-season hub that caters to people of all ages, interests, and abilities.</p> <p>Envision the Possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundscape Solutions: Implement freeway noise reduction to ensure a tranquil environment. • Versatile Venues: Introduce small stages for popup and planned performances and events or even tai chi or yoga in the park, alongside water features and play areas to engage visitors of all ages. • Year-Round Comfort: Incorporate covered seating, lighted walkways, and a gallery-like atmosphere with high-quality Northwest and Mercer Island art that will draw visitors. We have world class artists here to showcase. • Community Hub: Design the park as a vibrant town square, perfect for markets, art shows, and seasonal events like a winter wonderland of lights, Art UnCorked, perhaps a temporary ice-skating rink. <p>With these upgrades, GHOSG will not only become a cultural and social centerpiece of our community but also a magnet for visitors arriving by light rail. This is the moment for Mercer Island to prioritize the park's development as a dynamic stage for community engagement and economic growth. Located in the heart of the city and accessible via light rail from across the region, this park stands to become a bustling center that draws both locals and visitors. By enhancing the park, we not only create a welcoming space but also boost support for nearby businesses and restaurants.</p>
2	Community Member	Mural at Aubrey Davis Park Basketball Courts	<p>E-mailed by community member on 07.30.24:</p> <p>Ever since I can remember, the Lid has been an important community hub and the first thing many people see coming onto the island. However, the large cement wall behind the basketball courts is not only an eye sore but also a missed opportunity. Why not have a local artist, kids, or other community members create a mural? The city could even hold a contest where Mercer Islanders vote on proposed designs. I would be more than happy to help generate publicity/put together flyers/whatever is helpful. Added lights over the court would also make it useable for kids in the winter months, when it gets dark in the afternoon.</p>
3	Community Member	Refresh the Town Center Banners	<p>E-mailed by Anne Hritzay of MIVAL on 01.25.24</p> <p>I am having a thought about looking into updating the banners on the streetlight poles. I believe it was a competition years ago through the city and I'm not sure if the funding was through the one percent budget/Arts, Council, or where it came from. As MIVAL, we'd be willing to look into applying for a grant from the community foundation, and hopefully getting some funding from the city as well -along with your permission, of course- to refresh the banners. I'm thinking of using images of some of the art pieces we have around town in the sculpture garden along with references to our community events, such as farmers market summer celebration, first Friday art walks, etc. I'm sure there are lots of other ideas of what we can come up with for imagery, but it seems like it's time for a refresh on the banners.</p>
4	Staff	Community Artmaking Project	<p>Collaborate with the community to develop and implement a small-scale, permanent public art installation on the Island. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mural in collaboration with Urban Artworks • Sculpture made from reclaimed materials (like Thomas Dambo Trolls collaboration but much smaller scale) • Pedestrian safety project – Painted sidewalks, bumpouts, etc.
5	Staff	Outdoor Gallery Golf	<p>Activate the outdoor sculpture gallery with pop-up mini golf events. Each hole would be designed by an artist and/or inspired by artworks in the public art collection. Pilot as a one-day or one-weekend event (during Art on the Island weekend?) and consider for longer installations in the future. Inspiration: https://www.nelson-atkins.org/art-course/</p>
6	Community Member	Aubrey Davis Park Stacks Project	<p>Proposed by anonymous donor (Island resident). Presented to the Arts Council and Parks & Recreation Commission in July 2022 but no additional work has been completed since.</p>
7	Staff	<i>The Source</i> Restoration	<p>50th anniversary of <i>The Source</i> in 2030; could be good milestone opportunity to restore the piece and celebrate the rest of the public art collection</p>
8	Staff	Redesign Luther Burbank Park Amphitheater	<p>Project would be coordinated with Seattle Shakespeare Company and other community groups. Could be a good candidate for Doors Open grant funding.</p>
9	Staff	Public Safety and Maintenance Building AIPP	<p>City is currently in early stages of planning for a new public safety and maintenance building to house Police and Public Works on the City Hall campus. Will contribute to the 1% fund. Could be a good opportunity for art integration. Maybe a project centered on sustainability?</p>

Item 4b: 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress
 Exhibit 2: Public Art Project Opportunities List – DRAFT

Log	Proposed By	Project Idea	Comments
10	Staff	LBP Boiler Building Phase 2: Entrance to the waterfront	Opportunity to create a “signature entrance” at the top of the hill.
11	Arts Council	Historic Street Names project	Highlight Mercer Island historic downtown street names. Ideas approved by City staff so far include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update street directional signage to include historical street name marker • Design a new historical market to install on the street posts
12	Councilmember Skone	Permanent Stage at Mercerdale Park	I think the city demonstrated the success of this opportunity last summer.
13	Councilmember Skone	Enhance activities at the Luther Burbank Park Waterfront	Not every community has access to the water, and we have not taken advantage of one of our best assets.
14	Community Organization	Art Walk at the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery	Provided by Anne Hritzay of MIVAL via Councilmember Rajagopal.
15	Councilmember Rajagopal	Public Art Talks	I am thinking of some art talks, in-person or virtual, on our current existing public art pieces and related topic. It might help to raise the awareness of our public art.
16	Councilmember Rajagopal	Local Art Auction Fundraiser	To raise the fund for public art, I wonder if any artists on the island would love to donate some art work for sale or auction that the proceeds will go towards the funding. If that is possible, we can organize a fundraising exhibition.
17	Councilmember Rajagopal	Events Highlighting Diverse Art Forms/Expressions	As for the diversity of the forms of expression, maybe we can organize some literature events. Possible collaboration with the bookstore on MI. Also for the diversity, maybe poet reading events inviting people to read different poems from different cultures, or just exhibit framed print-outs of the poems in different languages (with English translations) in the community center. I hope it will be a beautiful occasion. Art is always better under the influences of different cultures, say impressionists got inspiration from Japanese wood prints.
18	Community Members	Mural Collaboration with MIHS	<p>Project proposed in 2021 by MIHS students. Could be a good fit for an Urban Artworks project.</p> <p>From their original proposal:</p> <p>The mural would be focused on representing historically oppressed peoples, and helping to make Mercer Island a more welcoming place for people of all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds. In the future it could even become a location for related events, as it would be in a public space already, and it would signify Mercer Island's commitment to racial and ethnic inclusion in a very permanent way.</p> <p>We are thinking of involving art clubs throughout Mercer Island School District to contribute to the mural. With the four elementary schools, middle school, and high school, we hope to have six “panels” of artwork that each club can draft individually and, of course, get approved. We also want to provide opportunities for people in the general arts community to contribute, with possible partnerships with local artists in the Mercer Island Visual Arts League, and regular people interested in art who have ideas for the project. These contributions could also be in a panel format, so that each group could represent a different facet of the diversity of the Island and the US.</p> <p>As for locations, we are still debating between a few. We loved your suggestion of the wall behind the basketball court at Aubrey Davis Park, though we were concerned this may involve ladders/be a larger project than we and other students can handle. You are welcome to offer your thoughts on this, too. We also still are contemplating the original idea of putting the murals in the concrete at Luther Burbank Park, although there would obviously be some challenges that we discussed at the previous meeting, including pre-existing graffiti, uneven surfacing, and possible opposition to a change in the park.</p>