



ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item 5
October 19, 2022
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Public Art Committee Update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive the staff report and update from committee members.	

STAFF:	Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Salim Nice	
EXHIBITS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> MICC 4.40.200 1% for Art in Public Places Fund Luther Burbank Docks and Waterfront Renovation Project 1% for Art Opportunities 	

SUMMARY

On September 14, the Arts Council established a Public Art Committee to work with staff on upcoming public art project and policy needs. The committee is supported by Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager, and will meet regularly through 2023 to steward CIP-related public art projects, develop a recommended 1% spending plan, review existing and new public art policy drafts, and/or complete other projects as time and priority allow. The committee will ultimately be responsible for recommending public art policy items and projects to the full Arts Council for final review and endorsement. The Arts Council Chair appointed Daniel Becker and Suzanne Skone to the committee.

The committee’s first major project will be developing the request for proposals (RFP) for 1% for Art in Public Places Fund (1%) opportunities for the Luther Burbank Waterfront Improvements (LBWI) capital project. Per MICC 4.40.200 (**Exhibit 1**), the 1% fund pools contributions from qualifying capital improvement program (CIP) projects to support Art in Public Places (AIPP) projects on Mercer Island. Staff estimate a 1% contribution of \$40,000-\$50,000 from the LBWI and associated Luther Burbank docks/waterfront capital projects. CIP Project Manager Paul West has planned for using the estimated 1% contribution for functional art elements that integrate into the LBWI design. West and Noelle Higgins from Anchor QEA presented on arts integration on September 14 (**Exhibit 2**; 09.14.22 Meeting Materials: [Agenda Packet \[Item 2\]](#) | [Video Meeting Recording](#)). They requested that the Public Art Committee work with staff and the consultant to solicit an artist to integrate into the project team and develop arts elements to be included in the 90% design.

The committee, Bluvas, West, and Higgins kicked off this work on October 10, 2022. Below is a summary of the project work plan for the LBWI 1% integration.

- October 2022-March 2023: Artist solicitation process – Includes RFP development, selection process, Arts Council review, City Council appropriation, and contract execution

- March-June 2023: Concept development – Includes integrating into landscape architecture team, public process to collect community feedback on proposals, and conducting joint meeting with Arts Council and Parks & Recreation Commission
- June-October 2023: Arts Council recommendation – Includes two review rounds by Public Art Committee, presentation to Arts Council, and recommendation by Arts Council to be transmitted to the City Council with the 90% design

Additionally, the committee provided feedback on key components of the RFP, including:

- Preference for a regional call for artists (Pacific Northwest focus);
- Interest in a cohesive arts integration to pull the site together; and
- Interest in providing a project budget range that may necessitate recommending additional funds beyond the project estimated 1% contribution be appropriated from the existing 1% fund.

Staff and the consultant are drafting the RFP now to review it with the Public Art Committee at its second meeting on October 31, 2022. Following that meeting, the committee may request that the Arts Council schedule a special meeting in November or December to seek endorsement of the RFP from the full Arts Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive the staff report and update from committee members.