



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (2)  
November 18, 2024  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Endorse the public art program goals as presented and provide feedback on other documents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

<b>STAFF:</b>	Sarah Bluvas
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Ted Weinberg
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places</li> <li>2. Draft Public Art Project Opportunities List</li> <li>3. Draft Guidelines for Administering the City’s Public Art Program</li> <li>4. Current Guidelines for Acquisition and Deaccession – Changes tracked</li> </ol>

## 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. To date, the Arts Council has participated in three special meetings (i.e. workshops) and two regular meetings 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.
- Workshop #3, September 16, 2024 ([Agenda Item #1](#) | [Video Recording](#); item begins at 01:59.) – The Arts Council provided feedback on public art program goals, actions, and selection criteria as well as continued their discussion of public art procedures.
- Regular Meeting, October 16, 2024 ([Agenda Item #4](#) | [Video Recording](#); item begins at 13:25.) – Arts Council members provided feedback on the updated goals, actions, and selection criteria and previewed the first draft of the Project Opportunities List.

### DRAFT RELEASE: 6-YEAR WORKPLAN FOR ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Staff shared the first draft of the Plan (Exhibit 1) with the Arts Council via e-mail on Thursday, November 7. The Plan currently includes the following sections/content:

- Introduction – An executive summary that includes background information and lists the goals of the Plan as identified by the Arts Council.
- Project Opportunities – Includes the Project Opportunities List and Public Art Project Timeline deliverables.
- Funding – Outlines the 1% Fund for Art in Public Places (1% Fund), tracks 1% Fund contributions, and provides information about selecting funding strategies for individual projects.
- Public Engagement – Documents how the City will engage the community in the public art process, connect the community with existing public art works, and communicate information about the public art program.
- Collection Care – Documents collection management tasks, which are overseen by City staff.
- Revising the 6-Year Workplan – Guides the process for updating the Plan, which is intended as a dynamic document that can be reviewed and revised as needed over the 6-year planning horizon.
- Roles and Responsibilities, Terms and Definitions, and Public Art Project Types – Compiles staff and Arts Council responsibilities in stewarding the public art process as well as defines public art terms and project types.

In the draft Plan, staff proposed an additional goal for the Arts Council’s consideration:

*Promote and implement sustainability practices through public art creation and exhibition.*

During Workshop #4 on November 18, staff seek endorsement of the goals for the public art program and feedback on the structure and content of the draft Plan. A second draft will be shared with the Arts Council for discussion at the Regular Hybrid Meeting on January 15, 2025.

**DRAFT RELEASE: PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES LIST**

The Project Opportunities List (Exhibit 2) will be published with 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. The initial list of 26 project opportunities includes ideas submitted by members of the Arts Council, City Council, community, and staff in recent years.

Following the Arts Council’s request on October 16, staff completed a high-level evaluation of each opportunity, including how it connects to the Four Public Art Pillars, its agency and other coordination requirements, its funding potential, and other elements to consider. At Workshop #4, staff will lead the Arts Council in reviewing the list and determining which projects to propose for the 2025-2030 Public Art Project Timeline. Once the proposed 2025-2030 Public Art Project Timeline is developed, staff recommend sharing it via Let’s Talk to collect community input. If desired, staff will launch the Let’s Talk page in December 2024 and collect feedback to share with the Arts Council at meetings on January 15 and February 10, 2025.

On October 16, the Arts Council also requested that staff solicit additional project opportunities from the community as part of this planning process. The Project Opportunities List is meant to be a living list, so staff recommend beginning to solicit for new project opportunities in 2025, after this planning process has concluded. Ideas would be added to the list and reviewed by the Arts Council as part of the biennial public art planning workshop proposed in the draft Plan.

**DRAFT RELEASE: 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 3) 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 changes tracked/notated are attached as Exhibit 4.) Staff seek Arts Council feedback on the updated/proposed procedures on November 18 and will return at the Regular Meeting on January 15, 2025, with a refined draft for review and endorsement.

**UPDATED PLANNING SCHEDULE**

Staff anticipate completing this public art planning process by February 2025. The updated planning schedule is provided below.

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
January 15, 2025	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Public Art Policy</li> <li>• Collection Care</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Review: Public Art Project Opportunities and 2025-2030 Project Timeline</li> <li>• Draft Review/Endorsement: Public Art Guidelines</li> </ul>
February 10, 2025	Special Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Public Art Policy</li> <li>• Collection Care</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Planning Process</li> <li>• Closeout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Review/Endorsement: Public Art Project Opportunities and 2025-2030 Project Timeline</li> <li>• Draft Review/Endorsement: Public Art Guidelines</li> </ul>

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Endorse the public art program goals as presented and provide feedback on other documents.