

Agenda Item 2: 6-Year Workplan for Art in Public Places
 Exhibit 2: Project Opportunities Matrix – DRAFT – Updated 11.13.24

Log	Proposed By	Project Idea	Comments
1	Arts 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>Project to transform Stacks area into a gathering place, including painting the stacks and installing portable seating, pathways, stage, etc. 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>Restore <i>The Source</i>, earthwork installed in LBP, including fixing the water feature and addressing any landscaping needs. 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	Luther Burbank Park Amphitheater Renovations	<p>Project would be coordinated with Seattle Shakespeare Company and other community groups. Could be a good candidate for Doors Open grant funding.</p>

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9	Staff	Public Safety and Maintenance Building AIPP	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?
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	Arts Councilmember Skone	Permanent Stage at Mercerdale Park	I think the city demonstrated the success of this opportunity last summer.
13	Arts 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	Arts 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	Arts 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	Arts Councilmember Rajagopal	Host Literary Events	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>
19	Arts Councilmember Skone	Public Art Collection Curation	Evaluate existing public art installations for safety, accessibility, integration, and other site-related aspects to determine if installations should be adjusted and identify a timeline for completing the curation work.
20	Councilmember Weinberg	Public Art Installation at Mercer Island Transit Interchange	Re-site an existing sculpture or commission a new sculpture for the Mercer Island Transit Interchange roundabout located at 77 th Avenue SE and North Mercer Way.
21	Councilmember Weinberg	5-Minute Performances at Arts Council Meetings	Partner with local artists and arts organizations to present short performances before each Arts Council meeting.

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22	Councilmember Weinberg	Costume/Stage Design Sponsorships for Live Performance	Support design and creation of costumes, sets, and other elements for local theater and other live performance events.
23	Staff	Community-Initiated Public Art Projects	Host an annual call for proposals that members of the community, local organizations, and Arts Council can submit project ideas to be added to the Project Opportunities List and/or be implemented in a future biennium.
24	Vice Chair Becker	Deane's Children's Park AIPP	The City is about to do a major renovation at Dragon Park (Deane's Children's Park), likely the biggest project under the recently passed 15-year parks levy. It will be a high visibility project and would have lots of possible options for art integration.
25	Staff	Natural Resources + Public Art Collaboration	Commission an environmental artist to create a permanent public artwork highlighting forest stewardship/health, open space restoration, sustainability, and/or another related topic. The project would include a series of forest steward events + art workshops led by the artist in collaboration with the City's Natural Resources division and would build off of work Natural Resources has already done to integrate artmaking into stewardship events. (Recent event: https://www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec/page/restoration-event-rotary-park)
26	Staff	LBP Sport Courts mural project	Staff anticipate increased use of the Luther Burbank Park sport courts after construction of eight new pickleball courts is complete. This capital project will also generate about \$10k for the 1% Fund. Staff recommend using funds to add artistic designs and/or a mural to the walls inside the facility that are currently bare. The Parks Maintenance team proposed this project idea and may have funding available to support execution.

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1	Transform the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery into Mercer Island's Premier All-Season Destination	Imagine GHOSG as a vibrant, all-season hub that caters to people of all ages, interests, and abilities.	Place Connection Longevity	Yes	Maybe	Yes – Outdoor Gallery Improvements (27-28)	Yes – Town Center businesses, MIVAL	Yes - WSDOT	East Link Light Rail scheduled to open EOY25.	Align improvements with Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan.
2	Mural at Aubrey Davis Park Basketball Courts	Mural implemented by local artists and kids.	Place Connection	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Yes – Park neighbors, local organizations, Urban Artworks	Yes – WSDOT	None	Could be coordinated with ADP Lid B Playground Replacement and ADA Improvements (28-30).
3	Refresh the Town Center Banners	Update the existing banners installed on TC light poles.	Place Connection	Yes	No	No	Yes – Town Center businesses, MIVAL	No	None	Current banners installed in 2018. May want to consider something more permanent than vinyl banners if do a project like this again.
4	Community Artmaking Project	Collaborate with the community to develop and implement a small-scale, permanent public art installation.	Aesthetic Connection	Yes	Yes	No	Yes – Depends on location and scope of project	Depends on location.	None	
5	Outdoor Gallery Golf	Activate GHOSG with pop-up mini golf holes designed by an artist and/or inspired by artworks in the public art collection.	Place Connection	Maybe	Yes	No	Yes – Town Center businesses, MIVAL	Yes – WSDOT	Consider piloting during Arts on the Island weekend.	Future Town Center commuter parking project may impact implementation.
6	Aubrey Davis Park Stacks Project	Transform Stacks area into a gathering place, including painting the stacks and installing portable seating, pathways, stage, etc.	Aesthetic Place Connection	Yes	Yes – Proposed by private donor	Yes – Currently not planned in 25-30 CIP		Yes – WSDOT	None	Requires significant Parks & Recreation Commission involvement.
7	<i>The Source</i> Restoration	Fix water feature and refresh landscaping in time for 50 th Anniversary of earthwork.	Aesthetic Place Longevity	Yes	Yes	Yes – <i>The Source</i> Restoration (29-30)	Yes – Friends of Luther Burbank Park	No	<i>The Source</i> turns 50 in 2030	Could be coordinated with LBP Swim Beach Improvements (27-29).
8	Luther Burbank Park Amphitheater Renovations	Design and implement renovations of 50+ year old facility to better serve future performances and audiences.	Aesthetic Place Connection Longevity	No	Yes	Yes – Currently not planned in 25-30 CIP	Yes – Seattle Shakespeare Company, YTN, Friends of Luther Burbank Park	No	None	Project may be eligible for Doors Open or other 4Culture funding but requires close and early collaboration with community partners and Parks & Recreation Commission.

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9	Public Safety and Maintenance Building AIPP	Integrated public art for future capital project.	Aesthetic Place	Yes	Yes	Yes – Future project in CIP		Unsure	Monitor progress for developing building replacement plan.	Could be a good opportunity for sustainability/climate-related public art project.
10	LBP Boiler Building AIPP – Signature Entrance to the Waterfront	Create a “signature entrance” from the Admin Building to the Waterfront as part of P2 of the Boiler Building renovations.	Aesthetic Place	Yes	Yes	Yes – LBP Boiler Building P2 (28-30)	Yes – MI Historical Society, MIVAL, Friends of Luther Burbank Park	Unsure	Monitor progress for developing P2 of capital project.	Requires significant Parks & Recreation Commission involvement.
11	Historic Street Names project	Highlight Mercer Island historic downtown street names.	Aesthetic Place Connection	Yes	Maybe	No	Yes – MI Historical Society, TC businesses, MIVAL	No	East Link Light Rail scheduled to open EOY25.	
12	Construct Permanent Stage at Mercerdale Park	Install a permanent stage at the park for City and community events.	Connection Longevity	No	Maybe	Yes – Mercerdale Park Improvements (26-28)		No	None	
13	Enhance activities at the Luther Burbank Park Waterfront	Activate the waterfront with arts activities.	Place Connection	No	Maybe	No		No	None	Funding and staffing support required from Operations.
14	Art Walk at the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery	Offer tours in GHOSG.	Place Connection	No	Maybe	No	Yes – Chamber of Commerce, TC businesses,	Unsure	Consider piloting during Arts on the Island weekend.	Funding and staffing support required from Operations.
15	Public Art Talks	Offer talks by local artists and/or at works in the public art collection.	Place Connection	No	Maybe	No	Yes – MIVAL, MIHS Art Club	Depends on location.	None	Funding and staffing support required from Operations.
16	Local Art Auction Fundraiser	Art exhibit of local artists to raise funding for public art projects.	Connection Longevity	No	No	No	Yes – MIVAL, local artists, local businesses	No	None	Funding and staffing support required from Operations. Could be a good revenue source for small projects.
17	Host Literary Events	Offer literary art events such as poetry readings and showcase works at Community Center gallery.	Aesthetic Connection	No	Yes	No	Yes – Island Books, MIVAL	No	None	Funding and staffing support required from Operations.
18	Mural Collaboration with MIHS	Produce a community mural in collaboration with MIHS students.	Place Connection	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Yes – MIHS	Depends on location.	None	
19	Public Art Collection Curation	Evaluate existing curation and implement improvements.	Aesthetic Place Longevity	Yes	No	Maybe		Yes if re-siting works of art	None	Likely an ongoing project that could be folded into annual public art maintenance and implemented over time.

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20	Public Art Installation at Mercer Island Transit Interchange	Install a sculpture in the roundabout at 77 th Avenue SE and North Mercer Way.	Place Connection	Yes	Maybe	No	Yes – TC businesses, MIVAL, stART	Yes – Sound Transit	None	Sound Transit previously not supportive of roundabout projects.
21	5-Minute Performances at Arts Council Meetings	Host local artists at Arts Council meetings.	Aesthetic Connection	No	Maybe	No	Yes – YTN, MIVAL, MISD	No	None	Funding and staffing support required from Operations.
22	Costume/Stage Design Sponsorships for Live Performance	Sponsor costume, set, and other design for live performances.	Aesthetic Connection	No	Maybe	No	Yes – YTN, Seattle Shakespeare Company	No	None	Funding and staffing support required from Operations.
23	Community-Initiated Public Art Projects	Host an annual call for proposals from the community,	Connection	Yes	Yes	Maybe	Depends on project proposal.	Depends on location.	None	
24	Deane’s Children’s Park AIPP	Integrate art into the Deane’s playground renovation CIP project.	Aesthetic Place Connection Longevity	Yes	Maybe	Yes – Deane’s Children’s Park Playground (25-26)	Yes – MIPA, Friends of Dragon Park, Outdoors for All	No	Yes – Requires immediate capital project coordination.	Opportunity to implement more functional and/or integrated artwork.
25	Natural Resources + Public Art Collaboration	Public art project in connection with City’s forest stewardship program.	Aesthetic Place Connection	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Yes – City Forest Stewards	Yes – Open Space Conservancy Trust Board	None	Could be a good project for a permanent public art piece at future Public Works/Safety building or City Hall (future capital projects not currently included in CIP).
26	LBP Sport Courts Mural	Add artistic designs and/or mural(s) to the bare walls inside the newly renovated sport court facility.	Aesthetic Place Connection	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes – Dink on Mercer Island	No	Yes – Facility will be complete by summer 2025.	The Parks Maintenance team proposed this project. Could be a good fit for an Urban Artworks collaboration.