



Mayor Robert E. Simison

City Council Members:

Treg Bernt
Joe Borton
Luke Cavener

Brad Hoaglund
Jessica Perreault
Liz Strader

August 16, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Robert Simison and City Council

FROM: Jessica Peters, Meridian Arts Commission, Vice Chair
Cassandra Schiffler, Arts and Culture Coordinator, MPR Dept.

RE: Amendment to Meridian Art in Public Spaces Ordinance (MAPS Ordinance)

Background

The Meridian Art in Public Spaces ordinance (MAPS Ordinance) was adopted by the Meridian City Council on April 21, 2015. This ordinance established the Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) program, under which the City Council annually dedicates funding in the amount of 50 cents per resident, not to exceed \$50,000 per year to establish art in public spaces in Meridian. The MAPS funding is used to purchase visual, tangible artworks and install them on public property within Meridian city limits. Since adoption of the MAPS ordinance, approximately 85 pieces of artwork have been successfully installed, and 15 new public art projects, including 10 traffic boxes, 3 murals, and 2 major sculptural installations are currently in progress.

The population levels used to estimate the number of residents in Meridian are provided by the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS)¹. In 2015, when the MAPS ordinance was adopted, the COMPASS population estimate for Meridian was 91,310. In 2022, the COMPASS population estimate for Meridian is 133,470, indicating that the Meridian population has grown by 42,160, or 46 percent, in 7 years. The Meridian Arts Commission believes that more MAPS funding is needed to contribute to the growing culture throughout the city as the preeminent place for people to live and work in the Treasure Valley. In addition, as public art has gained attention and support throughout the Treasure Valley, the Meridian Arts Commission believes that larger public art project budgets are necessary in order to attract the interest of a wider range of artists and project ideas.

Recommendation

To approve the amendment to remove the \$50,000 cap on the MAPS funding so that funding levels are commensurate with population levels in Meridian, and so that public art funding in Meridian can grow as the city continues to grow.

¹ Population estimates can be found at the website <https://www.compassidaho.org/prodserv/demographics.htm>.