

# Discovery Park Public Art Project Plan

**Location:** Discovery Park, multiple locations

**Total Project Budget:** \$150,000 from the Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) fund

**Overview:** Meridian's vision is to be the West's premier community in which to live, work, and raise a family by 2035. Part of that vision and Meridian's Strategic Plan is to create a vibrant community through creating art and cultural opportunities to enhance the overall quality of life for Meridian residents and visitors. Discovery Park has been identified as a priority opportunity for implementing public art as Phase II of the Park is being constructed. The objective of this public art project is to create multiple public art elements in the new park construction that enhance Discovery Park's overall identity. Artworks will incorporate the themes of learning, exploration, and "Discovery."

**Artist selection method:** Use three prequalified artists/artist teams from the Parks Identity Public Art Roster to create site specific public artworks that meet the project objectives. The Parks Identity Public Art Roster is a list of pre-qualified, professional artists/artist teams and organizations that have been approved to collaborate and contract for the City's park theming, signage, and other public art projects. Artists/artist teams on this list submitted applications through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to be on the Parks Identity Public Art Roster; applicants were evaluated by a panel consisting of Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) and City staff. Evaluation criteria included adherence to the RFQ, artistic quality, craftsmanship, level of professionalism, and appropriateness of experience with similar public art projects.

## Project Details:

The Public Art Committee has identified three public art project opportunities in Discovery Park and have recommended implementing the following three projects:

**Project: Interactive, bike-themed artwork that engages the public through direct interaction and manual manipulation of the artwork to create soft acoustic sounds. (\$50,000)** Artist Steve Parker recently submitted a proposal through an RFQ+RFP process for another project, the Five Mile Creek Pathway Trailhub project, and was the second highest scoring proposal. The sound feature of his project was considered less desirable at that location due to the neighborhood proximity of the site, but the sound would not be an issue at this location. Steve Parker is on the Parks Identity Public Art Roster, and the Public Art Committee recommends him for this project. Meridian Parks and Rec Staff have identified an area visible from the existing playground and at the end of a long walkway, creating a visual terminus for the walkway.

**Project: Softball field central area sculpture. (\$45,000)** This sculpture would be prominently located in an elevated, central grassy area, surrounded by three softball fields. This project could potentially incorporate a softball element or theme in addition to the learning, exploration, and "Discovery" themes. The Public Art Committee recommends UrbanRock to develop this project based on the range of exploratory, interactive projects submitted in their Parks Identity Public Art Roster application.

**Project: Functional bench seating located between children's bike track area and road. (\$35,000)** An opportunity for bench seating and bike racks between the planned youth bike track and the roadway has been identified. Parents with younger children desire areas where they can sit and watch their children play, and parents typically prefer to position themselves between their children and the road. An installation of public art that can function as bench seating is an opportunity to fulfill needs for seating and create memorable public art. Artist Colin Selig included many examples of creative and unique public art bench seating. Colin Selig was identified and recommended from the Parks Identity

Public Art Roster by the Public Art Committee for this project based on his prior work of many unique bench designs made from recycled propane cylinders, and his focus on sustainable practices.

**Budget Details:**

A total budget of \$150,000 has been allocated for implementation of this Discovery Park Public Art Plan. All funding will come from the Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) fund. Funding for public art at Discovery Park has been planned since 2018, and MAPS funds have been carried forward from multiple years to save up for this implementation of public art at Discovery Park.

Planned Budget breakdown:

Project: Interactive bike themed sound art:	\$ 50,000
Project: Central softball field sculpture:	\$ 45,000
Project: Functional Bench seating/bike racks:	\$ 35,000
Compensation for proposals:	\$ 5,000
Contingency:	\$ 15,000
<hr/> Total Budget:	\$150,000

**Proposed Timeline (subject to changes):**

February 2023:	Project plan approvals by MAC and Parks and Rec
March 2023:	Agreements with artists to develop project concept proposals
April 2023:	Artists develop concept proposals and may conduct a site visit
May 2023:	Proposals submitted
June 2023:	Public input on proposals collected via survey
July 2023:	City Staff and MAC review projects and public input, make recommendations
August 2023:	MAC final approval
October 2023:	Artist’s signed agreement with City, and City Council approvals
Nov. – Jan. 2024:	Fabrication
February 2024:	Installation of artworks
March 2024:	Discovery Park Phase II planned unveiling