

Meridian Public Art Master Plan

Draft for Meridian Arts Commission Review

7/02/2026

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Acronyms Used in this Document

Ada County Highway District (ACHD)

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS)

Meridian Arts Commission (MAC)

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Unified Development Code (UDC)

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Special appreciation is extended to the many community members who participated in engagement activities and contributed their ideas, perspectives, and creativity through the questionnaire, community engagement events, and the *Imagine Art Here!* workshop. Their involvement and enthusiasm were invaluable in shaping the vision and recommendations presented in this document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meridian is a city on the move. As it grows, public art has become an increasingly visible part of what makes Meridian feel like home. Since the Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) Program was established by City Council ordinance in 2015, the City has installed over 100 works of public art, including 94 traffic box wraps, eight murals, two transit shelter artworks, and 19 sculptures across parks, civic buildings, and streetscapes. This Public Art Master Plan builds on that foundation with a comprehensive roadmap to guide the program's continued growth and long-term sustainability.

The plan is grounded in robust community engagement, including an online questionnaire with more than 200 responses, four in-person tabling events, and the *Imagine Art Here!* workshop with city staff, artists, and civic stakeholders. What came through clearly: Meridian residents love their public art, and they want more of it. They're drawn to interactive, family-friendly installations and art that reflects the city's agricultural heritage, natural environment, and the diverse people who call it home. They see public art not just as beautification, but as a vital contributor to civic pride, placemaking, and quality of life.

Those values are reflected in the plan's vision: **that public art in Meridian builds the city's unique identity rooted in place and community, develops Meridian as a creative and engaging city for all ages, and transforms public spaces into distinctive, engaging destinations that connect past, present, and future.**

Three core goals support this vision:

- Unique Identity and Sense of Place. Public art will strengthen Meridian's distinct identity by reflecting its heritage, landscape, and community character.
- Creative and Engaging City. Public art will demonstrate that Meridian values creativity and cultural expression while prioritizing interactive experiences that engage families and people of all ages.
- Distinctive and Engaging Destinations. As Meridian continues to develop, public art will transform public spaces into attractive, engaging environments to which people actively want to use and return.

The plan identifies a prioritized set of opportunities across parks, downtown, community facilities, and transportation corridors. Because opportunities outpace current resources, projects will be sequenced through an Annual Public Art Work Plan process that aligns investments with funding, staffing, and community priorities.

The plan also strengthens the operational foundation of the MAPS Program, with updated guidelines for commissioning, collection management, conservation, and artist contracting, as well as clear roles across the Mayor's office, City Council, Meridian Arts Commission, and Arts & Culture Coordinator. Updates to the city's Unified Development Code, creation of a new developer guide for public art, and establishing a city-sponsored program to recognize private developments that incorporate public art will help raise the bar for public art citywide.

Funding flows primarily through the MAPS per-resident appropriation, with opportunities to grow through capital project line items, interagency partnerships, and grants. Together, these strategies position Meridian's public art program to grow as thoughtfully as the city itself, enriching public spaces, celebrating community identity, and ensuring art remains accessible to everyone who lives, works, and visits here.

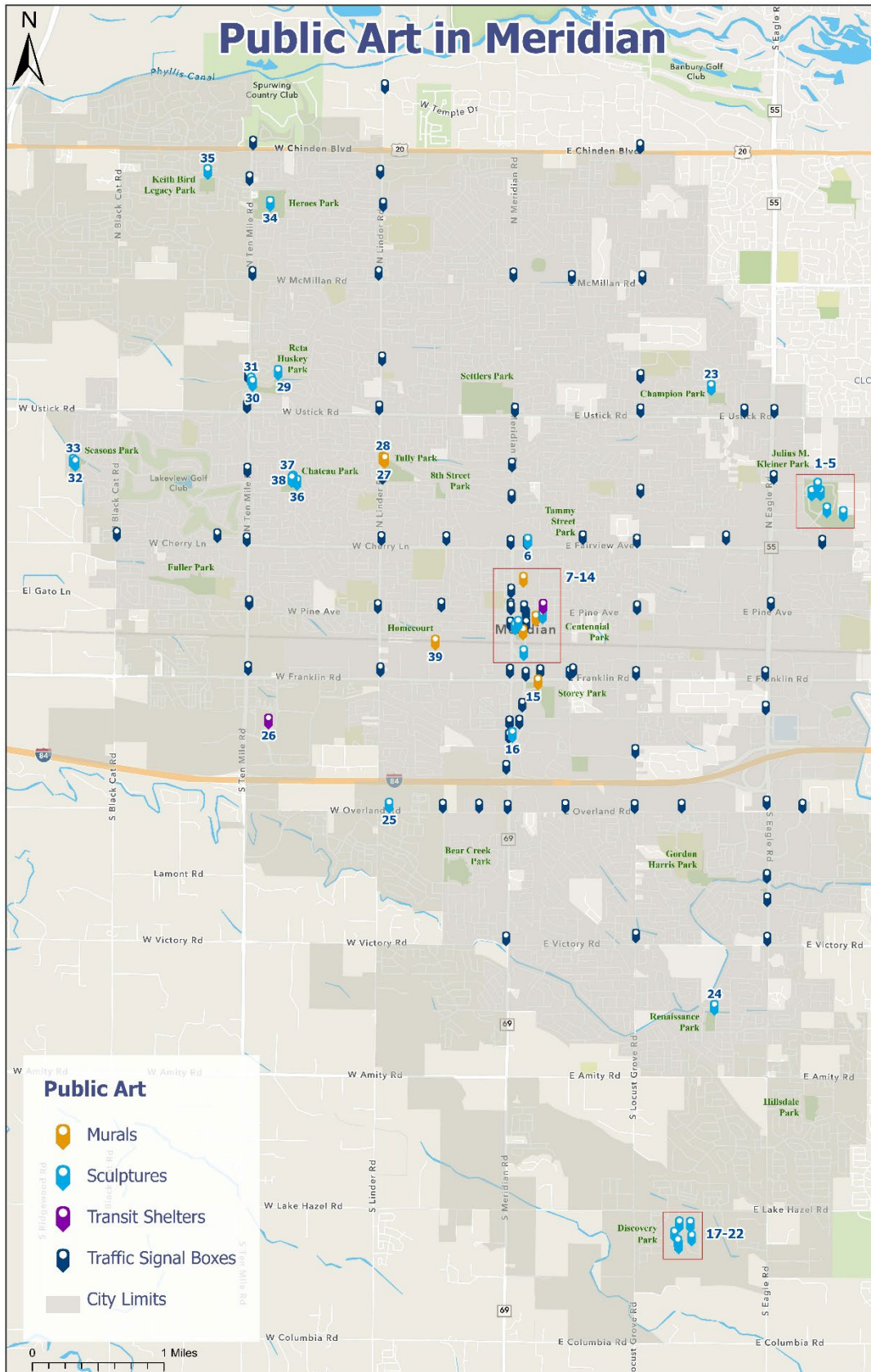
INTRODUCTION

Meridian, one of the fastest growing cities in Idaho, is known for its family-friendly atmosphere and robust recreational opportunities. Public art in Meridian has become an increasingly visible part of the community's cultural identity, adding creativity and character to everyday spaces. Guided by the Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) and supported through the Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) program, the city has invested in a range of public art installations, from murals to sculptures, that have become recognizable community assets throughout parks, civic buildings, and streetscapes.

To support the growth of public art, the MAPS Program was established by City Council ordinance in 2015. The ordinance allocates 50 cents per resident annually to fund public art installations in Meridian and designates the MAC to recommend program expenditures for City Council approval. Since adoption of the MAPS ordinance, over 100 pieces of public artwork have been successfully installed, including 94 traffic box wraps, eight murals, two transit shelter artworks, and 19 sculptural installations.

One of the central goals in the Meridian Arts Commission 2020-2025 Strategic Plan is to create opportunities for all Meridian residents and visitors to experience public art. As part of an effort to thoughtfully and deliberately build the City's public art collection, the City of Meridian commissioned Via Partnership during the period covered by this strategic plan to develop a Public Art Master Plan.

This plan presents a comprehensive roadmap to guide the growth and sustainability of the City's public art program. Built from a foundation of research and analysis that evaluated existing policies and programs, alongside robust community engagement findings, the plan ensures the recommendations reflect local values and priorities. It establishes a clear vision, mission, and set of goals to direct future efforts, as well as a prioritized list of public art opportunities. In addition, the plan outlines technical recommendations, including policies, procedures, roles and responsibilities to support effective program management and long-term success. Together these components provide an actionable and cohesive strategy for Meridian's public art program.



Reference	Title	Artist	Install Year
1	Ben Kleiner	(Thomas) Jay Warren	2015
2	Obelisk 1	J. Amber Conger	2013
3	Julius M. Kleiner Statue	(Thomas) Jay Warren	2013
4	Obelisk 2	J. Amber Conger	2013
5	Obelisk 3	J. Amber Conger	2013
6	Native Grasses	C.J. Rench	2016
7	Cyclist	Ben Konkol	2021
8	Bower Street Railyard	Antonia Hedrick	2024
9	Girl with Calf "Showtime"	Bernie Jestrabek-Hart, Patty Young, Lori Hoagland, Vada Manhire	2007
10	Perfect Union	Key Detail	2022
11	Out on the Town	Daniel Borup	2016
12	Origin	J. Amber Conger	2009
13	Far & Wide	Sector Seventeen	2018
14	Under the Sun and Dreaming	C.J. Rench	2014
15	A Place to Shine	Sector Seventeen	2023
16	Meridian Gateway Signage	Bernie Jestrabek-Hart, Jim Mullenberg, Dane Michelsen	2006
17	Fanfare	Steve Parker	2024
18	Peregrine Falcon Bike Racks	Colin Selig	2024
19	Trout Benches	Colin Selig	2023
20	The Hole Ball Game	UrbanRock Design	2023
21	Peregrine Falcon Bike Racks 2	Colin Selig	2024
22	Hawk Benches	Colin Selig	2023
23	Champion's Flame	Trademark Creative	2020
24	Illuminations	Ken McCall	2020
25	All In - Another Day at the Office	Daniel Borup	2020
26	Bloom Meridian	Blake Coker	2024
27	Tully Mural	Macy Ratzesberger	2022
28	Tully Skatepark Halfpipe Mural	Miguel Almeida	2022
29	Reta Huskey	Stephanie Inman	2020
30	Cattail Bike Racks	Ken McCall	2023
31	Water Metrics	Eileen Gay	2023
32	Season's Park	Trademark Creative	2023
33	Girl Reading Book	Unknown	2006
34	Journey of Heroes	Ken McCall	2018
35	Flushing Pheasants	Stephanie Inman	2018
36	Chateau Park Sign	Ken McCall	2025
37	Coneflower and Hummingbird Bench	Ken McCall	2025
38	Sunflower and Butterfly Bench	Ken McCall	2025
39	Evening Sunset in the Foothills	Lorelle Rau	2025



Figure 1: Current Public Art in Meridian <<MAP AND KEY WILL BE FORMATTED FOR FINAL DESIGN>>

Public art assets are categorized by type, including murals, sculptures, transit shelters, and artist-designed traffic signal box wraps. Numbered locations correspond to individual public art installations and provide a visual inventory of Meridian's current public art collection.

Methodology

Throughout the planning process, the consultants worked closely with the Arts & Culture Coordinator and the Meridian Arts Commission. They met with the Mayor and City Council members, staff from City departments and partner agencies that have incorporated public art in their facilities or that touch the public art process.

Public input was gathered through a variety of methods:

- **Questionnaire.** An online questionnaire with over 200 responses asked participants about their awareness of existing public art in Meridian, the types of art they value most, preferred locations for new installations, and what they believe public art should express or achieve.
- **Tabling Events.** Four in-person tabling events invited participants to engage in interactive stations designed to gather community input on favorite works in the Meridian Public Art Collection, preferred locations for art, and the kinds of projects that Meridian should aspire to in the future.
- **Workshop.** Staff from City departments, MAC members, staff from partner agencies, local artists and arts professionals, and civic stakeholders attended an interactive *Imagine Art Here!* workshop. Workshop participants brainstormed ideas for public art projects throughout the community.

The planning team reviewed relevant City plans and documents, including the City's Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan, the Unified Development Code, and the Meridian Arts Commission Strategic Plan. They also reviewed policies and documents specific to the MAPS Program including the ordinance establishing the MAPS Program, the Acquisition and Deacquisition Policy, Calls for Artists, and artist contracts.

Engagement Findings

The findings from the community engagement process provide a critical foundation for shaping this plan. Input gathered through the questionnaire, tabling events, and the *Imagine Art Here!* workshop offers insights into how the community experiences public art and how it can evolve in service of the community. The feedback highlights clear themes that include strong appreciation for existing public art, a desire for interactive and family-friendly experiences, and a preference for art that is accessible, inclusive, and reflective of Meridian's identity. In addition, community input underscores the importance of public art as a tool for placemaking and economic development. These insights directly inform the plan's goals, guiding where public art should be located and what types of projects should be prioritized.

Several key themes emerged from the community engagement process.

High Awareness and Appreciation for Existing Public Art. Community engagement revealed a strong awareness and appreciation for Meridian's current public art. Respondents consistently recognized and celebrated artworks, especially those located in central, highly traversed areas such as Downtown Meridian and Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park.

Desire for Interactive, Functional, and Family-Friendly Art. Participants consistently expressed a preference for public art that invites physical interaction, particularly installations that engage children and families. There was a strong emphasis on art that people can physically engage with, including climbable sculptures, play structures, musical elements, and educational components.

Residents appreciate public art that is accessible, tactile, and designed for people of all ages and abilities, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and usability in public design.

Strong Support for Art in Parks and Everyday Spaces. The preferred locations for public art are those where people already gather, with parks emerging as the top choice among participants. Participants also expressed interest in spreading public art more equitably across the city, suggesting areas such as northwest Meridian and commercial corridors as future priorities.

Preference for Locally Relevant and Inclusive Art. Respondents are drawn to art that celebrates inclusivity, nature, and the city's history. Ideas included art that honors Meridian's agricultural past and that draws attention to Meridian's natural environment. Public art can reflect Meridian as a community, fostering belonging and shared meaning among people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Art as a Contributor to Quality of Life and Community Vibrancy. Public art is a meaningful part of Meridian's growing cultural ecosystem, alongside festivals, concerts, public libraries, and recreational spaces. Respondents see public art not only as a beautification tool but also as a way to enhance community vibrancy, strengthen civic identity, and elevate the overall quality of life. Well-designed and durable artworks are long-term investments in shared public spaces.

Public Art as a Tool for Placemaking and Identity. Respondents see public art as a vital contributor to placemaking and the expression of Meridian's identity. Iconic, memorable landmarks can serve as visual anchors that reflect the city's values, culture, and heritage, serving as symbols of local pride. Respondents spoke about art as a way to tell stories, foster connection, and represent Meridian's character in a way that resonates with both residents and visitors.

MISSION, VISION, GOALS, STRATEGIES

As a part of this planning process, the mission, vision, goals, and strategies for the MAPS Program were refined to provide a clear and unified direction for public art in Meridian. Together, they establish the framework that will guide the program's future growth, decision-making, and investments. The mission defines the purpose of MAPS and its role in commissioning, preserving, and promoting public art. The vision articulates the long-term aspiration for how public art can contribute to Meridian's identity and character. The goals identify the program's primary areas of focus, and the strategies build upon these goals by outlining specific actions and approaches for implementation. Collectively, the mission, vision, goals, and strategies create a roadmap for integrating public art into Meridian's ongoing development and community experience.

MAPS Mission

The MAPS Program supports the MAC mission by:

- Commissioning and acquiring public art for Meridian's parks, facilities and public spaces.
- Stewarding the City's public art collection, ensuring its preservation and accessibility.
- Promoting community access to and engagement with public art.
- Partnering with other entities, including other public agencies and developers, to create public art in Meridian.

MAPS Vision

Public art in Meridian builds the city's unique identity rooted in place and community, develops Meridian as a creative and engaging city for all ages, and transforms public spaces into distinctive, engaging destinations that connect past, present, and future.

MAPS Goals

- Unique Identity and Sense of Place. Public art will strengthen Meridian's distinct identity by reflecting its heritage, landscape, and community character.
- Creative and Engaging City. Public art will demonstrate that Meridian values creativity and cultural expression while prioritizing interactive experiences that engage families and people of all ages.
- Distinctive and Engaging Destinations. As Meridian continues to develop, public art will transform public spaces into attractive, engaging environments to which people actively want to use and return.

MAPS Program Strategies

1. Unique Identity and Sense of Place.

- Strategy 1A: Focus public art commissions in places that people strongly identify as special to Meridian, building upon the popular or iconic nature of these locations, including civic buildings, parks, trails, downtown, and entryways and corridors in the City.
- Strategy 1B: Use public art to create individual identities for Meridian's parks, making them distinctive from each other and unique within the region.

- Strategy 1C: Commission public art focused on the ideas and stories that have shaped Meridian, including its agricultural heritage, the landscape and natural environment, and the people who make up the community. Artists should be encouraged to develop their artistic concepts based on research and community engagement.
- Strategy 1D: Develop a diverse collection of works with a wide range of artists and including a variety of styles, media and approaches to siting.

2. Creative and Engaging City

- Strategy 2A: Develop a critical mass of highly visible works of art that signals that Meridian is a creative community. Individual public art projects and the collection as a whole can welcome people to Meridian and let them know they are in a place that values art and culture.
- Strategy 2B: Seek public art opportunities that allow for community participation—from artists inviting community members to help paint or create the work, to inviting participation and engagement in the creative process.
- Strategy 2C: Generate public art opportunities, such as the electrical box wraps, that can be specifically developed to highlight the strengths of local creatives.
- Strategy 2D: Commission temporary or changing public art installations in destination locations. These projects can bring fresh energy to a place and can draw in new and repeat visitors.

3. Distinctive and Engaging Destinations.

- Strategy 3A: When the City builds a high-profile or public-facing facility or new public space, make it a practice to incorporate public art.
- Strategy 3B: Public art is most successful when it is part of a well-designed public space. Work with other City boards and commissions to advocate for quality design of public places.
- Strategy 3C: Revise the Unified Development Code to clarify the definition of public art as a qualified site amenity, increase the point designation for public art, and include a review and approval process for ensuring that developers are meeting the requirements. Developers and property owners who are not required to create site amenities should also be encouraged to consider public art for their property.
- Strategy 3D: Provide guidance for groups and individuals, including arts and community organizations, artists, private property owners and developers, that want to initiate their own projects.

OPPORTUNITIES

Public art can take many forms, each offering different opportunities to shape public spaces, engage the community, and express Meridian's identity. The following categories outline the primary types of public art projects that the MAPS Program could support and commission. Together, these approaches create a flexible framework for integrating art throughout the city, ranging from permanent landmark installations to temporary projects that are responsive to community needs. Defining these categories helps clarify the range of opportunities to artists, partners, developers, and community members.

Project Types

Permanent Public Art

Permanent public artworks are newly commissioned works of art, occasionally developed in conjunction with capital projects. Artworks are site-specific, with artists creating work that responds to the unique aspects of each site. For each permanent work commissioned, the program develops location-specific goals that ensure the artwork reflects the program's desires around siting, connecting to community, and audience engagement. While described as "permanent," public artworks are intended to be long-term, but not intended to exist indefinitely. They may evolve, be relocated, or removed over time due to environmental conditions, site changes, public safety considerations, or the changing needs of the community.

Temporary Public Art

Temporary public art consists of newly commissioned, site-specific installations that respond to the unique aspects of each site. These are individual artist commissions rather than curated exhibitions and can be one-time projects or part of an ongoing series. The duration of these projects can range from ephemeral, event-based artworks to installations on display for up to 2 years, or the traffic box wraps, with a lifespan expectancy of 5 to 10 years. Temporary public art installations offer a way to commission work that responds in the moment to community needs and interests.

Rotating Public Art Exhibitions

Rotating public art exhibitions are artworks displayed in designated public locations that change periodically. Unlike individual temporary commissions, these exhibitions feature an artwork or multiple artworks selected through an open call or curatorial process, with new exhibitions installed in the same location on a regular schedule. This approach offers fresh experiences, enlivens urban areas, and provides opportunities for diverse artists to showcase their work while fostering ongoing community engagement with art.

Functional Public Art

Functional public art projects invite artists to lead or collaborate on the design of parks, facilities, or infrastructure. These projects may include elements like benches and other street furniture, paving, pavilions, railings, and wayfinding systems, transforming necessary features into distinctive artworks. Functional public art is distinct from creative infrastructure elements that are mass-produced. Artists are involved from the conceptual design phase, ensuring art and function are integrated.

Murals

Murals are artist-designed painted or graphic artworks created specifically for vertical or horizontal surfaces. Murals are original, site-responsive artworks developed through artist research and community engagement and are distinct from generic decorative painting or branding graphics. The durability and intended lifespan of murals varies based on surface materials, environmental exposure, and project objectives—some may be temporary installations while others are designed for long-term display.

Socially Engaged Public Art

Socially engaged public art is a process-driven approach that emphasizes social interaction, collaboration, and community participation as central elements of the artwork's creation and experience. These projects involve the active participation of individuals beyond the artist through dialogue, co-creation, community involvement, or collective response to community-identified issues or goals. Socially engaged projects may result in various outcomes, including permanent artworks, temporary installations, murals, functional art, or experiential works where the collaborative process is as integral to the artwork as the final product.

Priority Opportunities

The following priority opportunities identify strategic locations and initiatives for future public art investment throughout the city. Organized into the following categories: parks, downtown, community facilities, and transportation, these opportunities reflect areas where public art can strengthen sense of place, improve the public realm, and create meaningful visual and cultural experiences.

Some of the opportunities included below were identified in coordination with planned capital improvements, facility upgrades, infrastructure projects, or new development initiatives. Integrating public art into these projects during the planning and construction process creates opportunities for more cohesive design and cost-effective implementation. In other cases, opportunities were selected because they represent highly visible community spaces with strong potential for activation and placemaking.

Each opportunity outlines a potential site or project where public art could be integrated to support broader community goals, activate public spaces, celebrate local character, and contribute to the city's long-term vision. The listings include an overview of the opportunity, initial goals, timing considerations, technical factors, and recommended next steps to help guide future planning, coordination, and project development efforts.

While this plan identifies a broad range of potential public art opportunities, the number of opportunities exceeds the resources currently available for implementation. As a result, projects will be evaluated, prioritized, and sequenced through the Annual Public Art Work Plan process, allowing the City to align investments with available funding, staffing capacity, project readiness, and emerging community priorities. This flexible approach ensures that public art investments remain responsive to changing needs while advancing the long-term vision outlined in this plan.

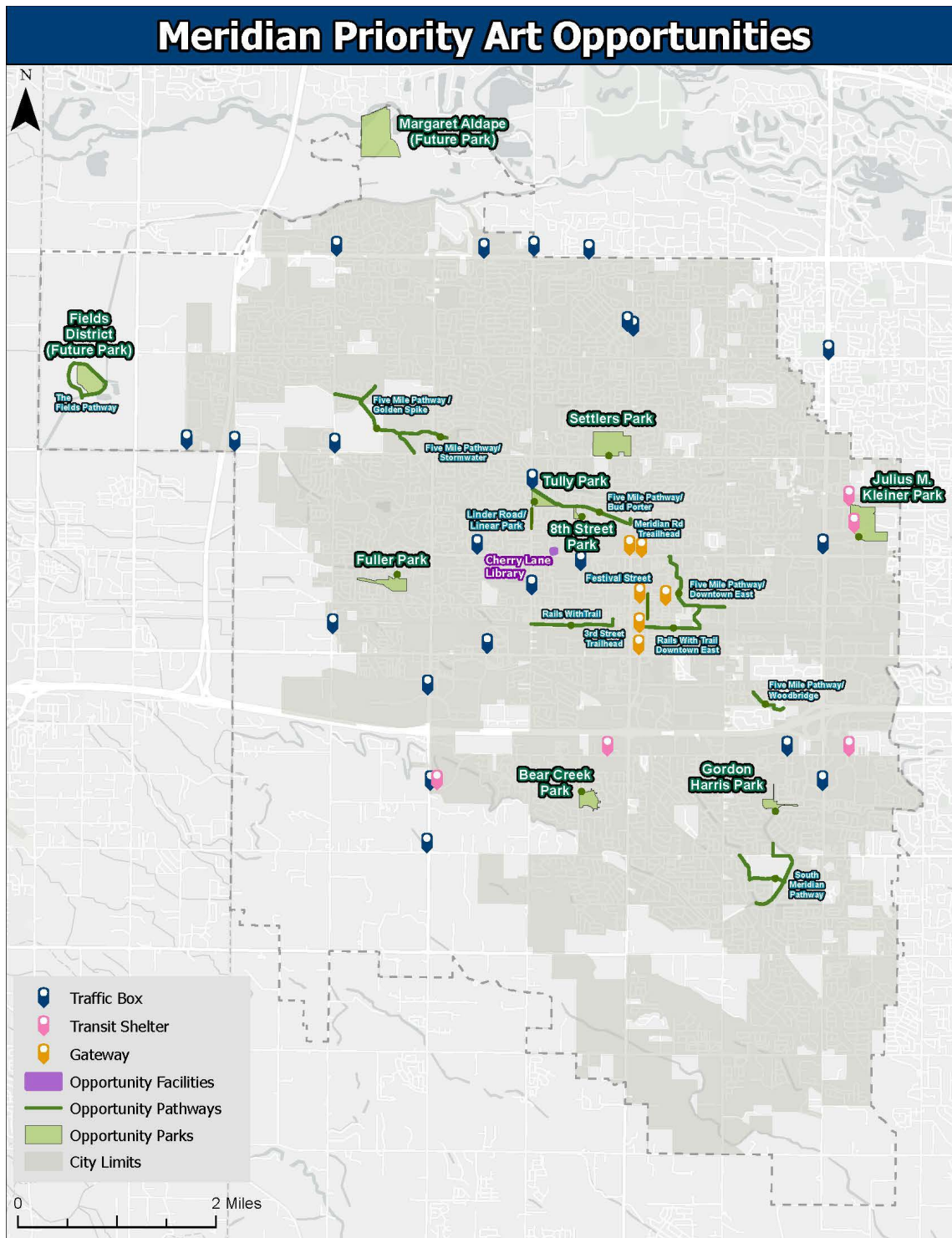


Figure 2: Priority Public Art Locations <<MAP AND KEY WILL BE FORMATTED FOR FINAL DESIGN>>

Opportunity sites are categorized by project type and include parks, pathways, transit shelters, gateways, and civic facilities. The map is intended to provide a geographic overview of the priority public art opportunity sites, while additional details and recommendations for each location are provided in the following section.

Parks

Julius M. Kleiner Park

Overview

Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park is a 58-acre regional park established in 2012. This project proposes installing an additional permanent public art piece at Kleiner Park, using an existing 8-foot by 8-foot space formerly occupied by a large tree. The proposed site is near the Memorial Plaza, a contemplative space where loved ones are honored through personalized engraved pavers. Given this proximity, artwork exploring themes of remembrance and legacy would be especially meaningful. Kleiner Park currently features five public art pieces, including the obelisk sculptures, establishing a strong artistic presence within the park.

Initial Goals

- Activate an existing park feature with a high-quality public art installation
- Enhance visitor experience and visual interest within Kleiner Park
- Introduce an artwork that reinforces the park's existing themes of legacy and remembrance

Timing

Near-Term (Under 3 years): A tree was recently removed from the plaza, and there is a desire from Parks to replace it with something meaningful at the site. This immediate site opportunity is also in a significant, high-impact location

Technical Considerations

Artwork design must comply with park safety standards, durability expectations, and electrical codes. Coordination with parks and facilities staff will be required for installation scheduling and long-term maintenance planning.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Work with the Parks Department to confirm site specifics
- Select and contract artist
- Schedule production and installation
- Coordinate installation logistics with Parks Department
- Establish maintenance and stewardship plan

Settlers Park

Overview

Settlers Park is a 58-acre regional park built in phases between 2003 and 2014, with an expansion planned in 2027. It is located at the intersection of Meridian and Ustick Roads in Meridian. There is an opportunity to commission public art as part of the Parks Department's planned identity project in 2026. With upcoming investments in park signage and the expansion of the Community Center, including a new dog park, Settlers Park presents an opportunity for an iconic, highly visible project that reinforces Meridian's identity and sense of place in the southeast corner of the park near the historic oak tree. The park is receiving investment to establish a distinct identity through branding and signage, creating an opportunity to develop public art alongside these efforts.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department, find ways to engage artists to develop creative, visually engaging public art that complements and connects with the adjacent Community Center.
- Consider the creation of an iconic public art element that reflects Meridian's character and benefits from the park's central, high-traffic location.
- Integrate public art thoughtfully with the Community Center expansion to enhance the overall visitor experience.

Timing

Near-Term (Under 3 years): Given the current investment in new capital projects in proximity.

Technical Considerations

Coordination with the Parks Department's timeline and the Community Center expansion will be essential to ensure cohesive design and efficient use of funds. Technical considerations include durability, visibility, wayfinding functionality, and compatibility with existing and planned infrastructure.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm public art goals in coordination with the Parks Department, Community Center expansion, and upcoming signage investments.
- Identify high-visibility location for an iconic public art element that reinforces Meridian's identity.
- Understand timelines to align public art with Community Center and dog park improvements.
- Develop an artist call focused on historic "settlers" themes and neighborhood character.
- Establish funding strategies and partnerships appropriate for a highly visible, centrally located project.

Fuller Park

Overview

Fuller Park is a 23-acre community park located within Meridian's Parkside Creek Subdivision. One of Meridian's oldest parks, it features towering cottonwood trees and scenic forested grounds with a large pond. This project recommends public art that emphasizes natural systems, environmental stewardship, and the park's role as a green space within a neighborhood. With its landscape features and mature trees, Fuller Park offers an ideal setting for art that is integrated into the environment and encourages visitors to slow down and connect with nature. The park is receiving investment to establish a distinct identity through branding and signage, creating an opportunity to develop public art alongside these efforts.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department, identify opportunities for public art that incorporates natural themes or materials.
- Encourage artists to create work that blends into the landscape, enhancing rather than competing with the park's natural features.
- Explore interpretive or educational elements that highlight local ecosystems or environmental history.

Timing

Near-Term (Under 3 years)

Technical Considerations

Coordination with the Parks Department to understand park maintenance and any planned improvements that could be leveraged. Technical considerations include material durability, environmental impact, maintenance requirements, and safety, as well as ensuring installations are resilient to weather and respectful of existing habitats.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm public art goals in partnership with the Parks Department, emphasizing environmental themes and neighborhood character.
- Identify potential locations where art can be integrated into the landscape and natural features.
- Conduct a site assessment to understand environmental constraints, maintenance considerations, and feasibility.
- Develop an artist call focused on environmental themes and neighborhood character.
- Coordinate implementation with any planned park improvement projects.

*8th Street Park***Overview**

A 2.8-acre neighborhood park, 8th Street Park was established in 1985 and is located within a residential neighborhood adjacent to the City of Meridian's Water Department building. The park is receiving investment to establish a distinct identity through branding and signage, creating an opportunity to develop public art alongside these efforts. Its urban setting and visibility within the surrounding neighborhood create opportunities for public art to enhance the park's character, support placemaking, and contribute to a welcoming environment.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department, identify opportunities for public art in visible, well-used areas such as park entrances, pathways, seating areas, or edges adjacent to the street.
- Encourage artists to create durable, approachable works that resonate with a broad range of park users and complement the park's scale and setting.
- Consider art that reinforces neighborhood identity or reflects the park's role within the surrounding community, helping to establish a stronger sense of place.

Timing

Near-Term (Under 3 years): Signage and identity upgrades are planned for 2028, but may be pushed to a future year. Explore opportunities to align public art investments.

Technical Considerations

Coordination with planned park improvements, maintenance, or upgrades will be important to ensure public art is integrated efficiently. Technical considerations include durability, safety, visibility, ADA accessibility, and suitability for an outdoor, high-use environment.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm public art goals with the Parks Department, with an emphasis on neighborhood context and everyday park use.
- Identify potential sites within the park, including entrances, pathways, gathering areas, or street-facing locations.
- Develop artist selection criteria.
- Coordinate installation with scheduled maintenance or capital improvement projects where feasible.

Fields District Park

Description

Fields District Park is part of Meridian's planned growth in the Fields District in the northwest part of the city, which is a large, mixed-use area envisioned to include a central park and community gathering spaces as part of new residential, civic, and open-space development. A wide range of public art opportunities can be integrated throughout the site to include gateway or entry features that establish identity, sculptural landmarks, functional artwork incorporated into seating, shade structures, or play elements, art integrated into pathways, bridges, or gathering areas. Opportunities may also exist for temporary or rotating installations, interactive works, and community-driven projects that activate the park over time, allowing public art to evolve alongside the Fields District as it develops.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department, confirm public art goals and identify opportunities for public art during park planning and design phases.
- Encourage community engagement using interactive art
- Enhance connectivity and wayfinding

Timing

Mid-Term (3–5 years): Although Phase 1 of construction isn't scheduled until 2030, near-term efforts should concentrate on engaging the Parks Department to coordinate public art integration during the planning stages.

Technical Considerations

Because this park is still in the planning and design phases, there is an opportunity to integrate public art early in the planning and construction processes. This will allow for artworks to be thoughtfully embedded into the landscape, circulation routes, structures, and infrastructure rather than added as an afterthought. Early integration also allows artists to meaningfully respond to the site's features, uses, and goals while working in parallel with designers and engineers. Artwork can be incorporated into park infrastructure, utilities, and construction phasing, reducing the need for retrofits or redesign. This coordinated approach simplifies permitting and improves efficiency. Permanent artworks that require foundations, utilities, or structural coordination should be planned alongside initial site grading and construction, while temporary or rotating installations could be introduced later to activate the park as new areas open. There is also an opportunity to coordinate community engagement related to public art to coincide with any broader park planning and design outreach efforts.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Create a public art vision that supports sense of place, community engagement, and connectivity within the evolving Fields District Park.
- Identify priority art locations during early park planning, including entry points, pathways, gathering areas, and integrated infrastructure.
- Coordinate early with park designers, engineers, and planners to embed public art into site design and construction phasing.
- Develop a phased public art strategy that aligns permanent artworks with initial construction and allows temporary or rotating installations as the district builds out.
- Establish funding, artist selection, and community engagement approaches.

Bear Creek Park

Overview

Bear Creek Park, a 19-acre community park established in 2002, is located in southwest Meridian adjacent to the Bear Creek subdivision. Opportunities for public art at Bear Creek Park should focus on its role as a neighborhood-focused and family-friendly recreational space while also responding to its proximity to the Stoddard Road corridor. With the Stoddard Road Project nearing completion in 2026 and significantly improving traffic flow and safety adjacent to the park, there is an opportunity for public art to serve as a visual gateway between transportation infrastructure and park space. Art at Bear Creek Park can enhance the park's identity, soften the roadway edge, and create a welcoming experience for both park users and passing motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. The park is receiving investment to establish a distinct identity through branding and signage, creating an opportunity to develop public art alongside these efforts.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department and other relevant City Departments, identify opportunities for public art that is integrated into park amenities such as play areas, pathways, and gathering spaces, as well as along edges that interface with the Stoddard Road improvements.
- Encourage artists to develop engaging, approachable work that appeals to families and reflects themes of play, movement, and neighborhood identity, complementing the park's recreational character.
- Explore public art that reinforces wayfinding, enhances safety and visibility near the roadway, or acts as a gateway feature acknowledging the connection between Bear Creek Park and the Stoddard Road corridor.

Timing

Mid-Term (3-5 years): Signage and identity upgrades are planned for 2030. Explore opportunities to align public art investments.

Technical Considerations

Technical considerations include durability, safety, ADA accessibility, sightline requirements near the roadway, and materials suitable for a high-use park environment adjacent to an active transportation corridor.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Align public art goals with the Parks Department and City transportation partners in coordination with the Stoddard Road Project.
- Identify opportunities for art at park entrances, along pathways, and along Stoddard Road.
- Develop artist selection criteria.

Aldape Park

Overview

Aldape Park is envisioned as a nature-based destination that integrates recreation, ecology, and cultural storytelling. Planned within a natural floodway, the park will feature elements such as boardwalks and natural pathways, creating a setting where public art can interact with water and seasonal environmental changes. The park also holds cultural significance, with opportunities to reflect the Basque heritage of the Aldape family and its influence in the region. Aldape Park is also important as it is Meridian's only direct connection to the Boise River Greenbelt.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department, confirm public art goals and identify opportunities for public art during park planning and design phases.
- Engage with the local Basque community to understand cultural context.
- Encourage artists to create work that blends into the unique landscape, enhancing the park's natural features.
- Explore interpretive or educational elements that highlight local ecosystems or environmental history.

Timing

Mid-Long Term (3+ years): Although the park is still in the concept phase, mid-term efforts should concentrate on engaging the Parks Department to coordinate public art integration during the planning stages.

Technical Considerations

Because this park is still in the concept phase, there is an opportunity to integrate public art early in the planning and construction processes. This will allow for artworks to be thoughtfully embedded into the landscape, circulation routes, structures, and infrastructure rather than added as an afterthought. Early integration also allows artists to meaningfully respond to the site's features, uses, and goals while working in parallel with designers and engineers. Artwork can be incorporated into park infrastructure, utilities, and construction phasing, reducing the need for retrofits or redesign. This coordinated approach simplifies permitting and improves efficiency. Permanent artworks that require foundations, utilities, or structural coordination should be planned alongside initial site grading and construction, while temporary or rotating installations could be introduced later to activate the park as new areas open. There is also an opportunity to coordinate community engagement related to public art to coincide with any broader park planning and design outreach efforts.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Create a public art vision that supports a sense of place, local Basque culture, and the ecological systems of the park.

- Identify priority art locations during early park planning, including entry points, pathways, gathering areas, and integrated infrastructure.
- Coordinate early with park designers, engineers, and planners to embed public art into site design and construction phasing.

Gordon Harris Park

Overview

Gordon Harris Park is an 11-acre neighborhood park established in 2007 and located behind Meridian's Mountain View High School. The park features open green space, walking paths, and playground areas that serve nearby residents. Public art opportunities here are best focused on the pathway entrance along the Ridenbaugh Canal, positioning the park as a welcoming gateway to a future paved canal path while reflecting neighborhood character. Planned investments in park branding and signage create an opportunity to integrate public art alongside these improvements.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department, identify opportunities to integrate public art into high-traffic areas such as pathways, entrances, playground edges, and gathering spaces, with a particular focus on the pathway entrance along the Ridenbaugh Canal.
- Implement approachable, durable works that appeal to families, children, and casual park users, potentially including interactive or playful elements.
- Consider art that enhances neighborhood identity or highlights the park's natural features, creating a stronger sense of place for visitors.

Timing

Long-Term (5+ years): Signage and identity upgrades are planned for 2032. Explore opportunities to align public art investments.

Technical Considerations

Coordination with routine park maintenance, landscaping, pathways, or playground improvements will be important to ensure seamless integration. Technical considerations include durability, safety, visibility, ADA accessibility, and suitability for outdoor, high-use environments.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm public art goals with the Parks Department, emphasizing neighborhood character and everyday park use.
- Identify potential locations along pathways, playground edges, entrances, and gathering areas.
- Develop selection criteria.
- Coordinate installation with routine park maintenance or minor capital improvements.

Tully Park

Overview

Tully Park, a 17-acre community park established in 1999, is located along Linder Road. One of its most unique features is a skatepark adorned with murals. Tully Park is a neighborhood park in Meridian that provides open space and amenities for nearby residents and families. The park functions as a local gathering place and supports casual recreation and daily use. Its neighborhood

setting presents opportunities for public art to enhance the park’s identity, encourage engagement, and contribute to a welcoming and cohesive environment. The park is receiving investment to establish a distinct identity through branding and signage, creating an opportunity to develop public art alongside these efforts.

Initial Goals

- In partnership with the Parks Department, identify opportunities for public art in visible and frequently used areas such as park entrances, pathways, seating areas, or gathering spaces.
- Encourage artists to create durable, accessible works that appeal to a wide range of park users and are appropriate for a neighborhood-scale park.
- Consider art that reflects neighborhood character, community values, or the park’s role as a shared local space, helping to strengthen a sense of place.

Timing

Long-Term (5+ years): Signage and identity upgrades are planned for 2034. Explore opportunities to align public art investments.

Technical Considerations

Coordination with routine park maintenance, landscaping, or planned improvements will help ensure smooth integration of public art. Technical considerations include durability, safety, visibility, accessibility, and suitability for an outdoor, high-use environment.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm public art goals with the Parks Department, focusing on neighborhood context and everyday park use.
- Identify potential locations within the park, including entrances, pathways, and gathering areas.
- Develop artist selection criteria aligned with the park’s scale and community function.

Downtown Meridian

Archways - Downtown Gateways

Overview

Large-scale gateway archways are frequently used to define entry points into downtown and offer a powerful opportunity to express an identity for an area. The *Destination: Downtown* plan that the Meridian Development Corporation drafted in 2025 identifies gateways as a priority, and these gateways can be reimagined not simply as infrastructure or signage, but rather as public art that creatively announces arrival to the district. Archways are the most visible and impactful form of gateway art, but other large, symbolic markers could be used. Some locations may allow for full archways, while others may be better suited for artist-designed signage, median installations, or pathway-scale artworks that contribute to the same overarching artistic identity. Thoughtfully designed archways can become defining works of art that shape how Downtown Meridian is perceived and experienced.

Initial Goals

Monitor planning and progress with the Planning Division and the Meridian Development Corporation on any progress for gateway implementation. Key entry points were discussed at the *Imagine Art Here!* event, as well as identified in the *Destination: Downtown* plan. These include:

- *Imagine Art Here!* Event
 - Main & Fairview
 - Main between State and Pine
 - Main & Bower
- *Destination: Downtown* Plan
 - Meridian Rd. & Cherry/Fairview
 - Main & Franklin
 - Pine between 4th & 5th
 - Pathway System

Timing

Watch List: This is a project that should be monitored on an ongoing basis to identify opportunities for public art integration. It is a high-impact project that should be planned for in the near-term, but implementation will take time due to required traffic engineering and multi-agency coordination.

Technical Considerations

Archways will require careful coordination between artistic vision and technical realities. Each site will need further study to determine how large-scale artworks can be integrated with roadways, pedestrian movement, utilities, and safety standards. Collaboration with the Ada County Highway District, Meridian Development Corporation, the City, and other agencies will be essential to define design parameters while preserving artistic integrity. This project will need to be a collaboration between artists who lead the creative concept and engineers and architects who ensure structural performance and long-term durability.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Monitor other agencies as they refine and prioritize gateway locations identified in the *Destination: Downtown* plan and the *Imagine Art Here!* discussion.

- Support the effort to determine the appropriate treatment for each site (archway, signage, mural, median feature, pathway-scale element, or hybrid solution).
- Support the effort to define the balance between engineered/architectural components and artist-designed elements.
- Understand whether the effort is limited to signage or intended to be a comprehensive downtown branding and identity initiative.
- Understand role in developing and implementing an invitational artist selection process to solicit site-responsive concepts.

Festival Street

Overview

The City of Meridian is planning for a festival street along Second Street designed to support community gatherings and events. The street will prioritize a vibrant, people-focused environment with space shared by pedestrians, cyclists, event activities, and motorists. The section of Second Street between Broadway to Pine is already planned for, but a second phase is recommended in the *Destination: Downtown* plan from Pine to Carlton since this section serves no real function in the motor vehicle network. Per the *Destination: Downtown* plan, elements of a festival street include:

- Pedestrian movement at all points;
- Flexible design for temporary closures;
- Street furniture, trees and planter boxes;
- Public art and performance areas; and
- Overhead and streetside lighting.

Initial Goals

- Create a signature downtown destination for events and community activity
- Support local businesses by increasing foot traffic and dwell time
- Improve public realm design and placemaking in the downtown core
- Pilot and evaluate shared-street concepts for long-term viability

Timing

Watch List: This is a project that should be monitored on an ongoing basis to identify opportunities for public art integration.

Technical Considerations

As a long-term project, implementation may occur in phases, beginning with temporary or pilot treatments before permanent construction. Considerations include traffic flow, emergency access, accessibility, utilities, drainage, and maintenance. A phased strategy allows the City to test concepts and adapt to community needs to align implementation with available funding and other downtown development. Ongoing data collection, such as pedestrian counts, event usage, and business feedback will be essential to evaluate performance over time.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Monitor planning and progress for Festival Street development and implementation to understand how public art can be integrated into the street.

Rotating Downtown Public Art Program

Overview

Explore the creation of dedicated public art platforms in Downtown Meridian. Platforms will serve as a flexible, purpose-built foundation for rotating public art that highlights temporary, site-responsive installations. The rotating nature of the program encourages repeat visitation, supports the local creative economy, and aligns with Meridian's broader placemaking goals. Installations can be paired with artist talks, educational programming, temporary performances, or seasonal events.

Initial Goals

- Create recognizable cultural anchors downtown that encourage repeat visitation
- Foster ongoing public engagement with art
- Support artistic expression and creative opportunity

Timing

Mid-Term (3-5 years)

Technical Considerations

At the core of the program are permanent, integrated sculpture platforms that will be engineered to accommodate a wide range of installations including sculptures, interactive works, and mixed-media pieces. By standardizing structural and utility elements, the platform reduces installation costs and logistical barriers. Installations would be required to meet safety, accessibility, and durability requirements appropriate for temporary display. Coordination with property owners, public works, and downtown partners is required. Artwork rotations would follow a schedule to align with seasonal conditions and downtown events.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Identify and confirm sites through a feasibility assessment evaluating visibility, access, infrastructure, and operational requirements.
- Define artwork criteria and display timelines
- Establish artist selection and contracting process for temporary project

Community Facilities

Cherry Lane Library

Overview

The Cherry Lane Library Project focuses on opportunities for public art at Meridian's oldest and most centrally located library. Although the building is not city-owned, the library presents a strong potential partnership and an opportunity to leverage MAPS Program funding. While the current Cherry Lane Library Renovation Project is already underway and too far along to fully integrate a public art project into the renovation itself, the library remains a strong potential partner. Even outside the renovation scope, there are still meaningful opportunities for public art, particularly within prominent interior wall spaces and entry areas that can support mixed media works and 3D sculpture.

Initial Goals

- Establish a partnership with the library to support public art installation.
- Use available wall areas for mixed-media works and explore opportunities for 3D sculpture, particularly at main entrances and high-traffic areas.
- Create artwork that reflects the library's historical significance, central location, and role as a civic and cultural gathering space.

Timing

Near-Term (Under 3 years): With the current renovation and scheduled reopening in Winter 2026-2027, there is a near-term opportunity to highlight new amenities and incorporate public art.

Technical Considerations

Coordination with the ongoing renovation to ensure compatibility with building design.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Initiate conversations with library leadership to confirm interest, partnership structure, and funding eligibility.
- Coordinate with the renovation project team to identify specific locations and technical constraints for artwork.

Transportation

Traffic Boxes

Overview

Building on the success of the existing program, an additional 5-10 mural-wrapped traffic boxes per year should be produced that feature artwork developed in partnership with the school district and professional artists.

Initial Goals

- Beautify public infrastructure and improve visual interest in key corridors
- Engage students through collaboration with the local school district
- Support professional artists and foster community pride
- Deter graffiti and vandalism through professionally designed and maintained wraps

Timing

Ongoing: This successful program should continue.

Technical Considerations

Designs must meet traffic safety, visibility, and durability standards. Wrap materials should be weather-resistant and compatible with traffic box specifications. Coordination with public works and signal maintenance schedules is required, as well as consideration of seasonal installation windows.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm locations of traffic boxes
- Select and contract artists
- Schedule production and installation

Valley Regional Transit

Overview

This initiative focuses on integrating public art into Valley Regional Transit infrastructure through the continued enhancement of bus shelter projects. As new shelters are installed across Meridian, these functional public spaces present consistent, highly visible opportunities for artist-designed elements. Incorporating public art into transit shelters can elevate rider experience while reinforcing neighborhood identity and access to community destinations.

Initial Goals

- Continue and expand the integration of public art into new and replacement transit shelters.
- Collaborate with Valley Regional Transit to identify priority locations with high visibility and community impact.
- Engage artists to design shelter elements that are durable, welcoming, and reflective of surrounding parks, neighborhoods, and civic amenities.
- Use transit art to support placemaking, wayfinding, and a sense of safety for transit riders.

Timing

Ongoing: This successful program should continue.

Technical Considerations

Public art opportunities will be closely tied to Valley Regional Transit’s shelter installation schedule. Technical considerations include shelter standards, safety and sightline requirements, material durability, vandal resistance, maintenance responsibilities, and accessibility. Designs must integrate seamlessly with prefabricated shelter components while allowing for artistic expression.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm public art goals in coordination with Valley Regional Transit, focusing on rider experience, placemaking, and neighborhood identity.
- Identify and prioritize transit shelter locations for artist-designed elements.
- Coordinate early with Valley Regional Transit staff to align public art concepts with shelter standards, installation schedules, and maintenance responsibilities.
- Establish artist selection criteria emphasizing durability, safety, accessibility, and compatibility with shelter components.
- Develop an implementation approach that integrates public art into transit shelters across Meridian.

Linder Road from Pine Avenue to Ustick Road

Overview

The Linder Road corridor from Pine Avenue to Ustick Road presents opportunities for integrating public art into a major north–south transportation thoroughfare in Meridian. As Linder Road evolves into a continuous route from the Snake River to the Boise Foothills, planned roadway improvements, property acquisitions, and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure create multiple touchpoints for public art. Opportunities are especially strong in areas between West Sandalwood Drive and West Chateau Drive and include roundabouts, multi-use pathways, and new or retrofitted roadway elements. Artwork is already underway for a sculpture series in a median at the Linder Overpass that will be completed in 2027, and new installations along the Linder Road corridor could align in theme with that artwork.

Initial Goals

- Identify strategic locations for public art along Linder Road that align with planned roadway, pathway, and intersection improvements.
- Explore large-scale, linear, or repeatable art elements that can unify the corridor and reinforce it as a recognizable civic route.
- Incorporate public art into potential linear park areas between West Sandalwood Drive and West Chateau Drive to support placemaking and community use of future open space.
- Enhance pedestrian and cyclist experiences at crossings, multi-use pathways, and roundabouts through highly visible, context-sensitive artworks.
- Leverage infrastructure elements such as medians, concrete walls, railings, and bridge or culvert replacements as functional and artistic opportunities.

Timing

Mid-Term (3-5 years)

Technical Considerations

Public art planning will need to be closely coordinated with Ada County Highway District's design, property acquisition, and construction timelines. Technical considerations include safety and visibility near travel lanes, durability in a high-traffic roadway environment, maintenance responsibilities, and compliance with Ada County Highway District and City of Meridian standards. Opportunities may arise both during initial construction and as retrofits, particularly at roundabout center islands and along pathway intersections. Flexibility will be important as landscaping treatments and cost-share agreements are finalized.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Coordinate with Ada County Highway District and City of Meridian Planning staff to understand project phasing, schedules, and constraints.
- Map potential public art sites along the corridor, prioritizing high-impact and high-visibility locations.
- Determine funding strategies and partnerships for corridor-scale or phased public art installations.
- Develop preliminary concepts or typologies for art along Linder Road, including linear elements, gateway features, and site-specific installations.
- Engage community stakeholders, including nearby neighborhoods and schools, to inform themes and goals for the corridor's public art program.

Pathways & Trails

Overview

Public art along Meridian's trails and pathways can enhance movement and recreation while reinforcing identity, wayfinding, and connection to place. Integrated throughout greenways and neighborhood trailheads, art may include sculptural features; functional elements such as seating, bike racks, lighting and shade; artist-designed signage; interpretive installations; and nature-based artworks. Trailheads and gathering spaces offer opportunities for gateway and placemaking elements, while longer pathway segments can support repeated or themed artworks that create continuity and encourage exploration. Planned and coordinated with pathway design and development, public art can become a unifying feature of the trail system that supports wayfinding, accessibility, and community identity.

Opportunity Areas:

These projects have been identified by the City of Meridian Pathways Manager as upcoming pathway initiatives. Each should be tracked as it moves forward to identify opportunities for integrating public art.

- Bud Porter Pathway: A linear parkway opportunity along the north side of the creek west of Meridian Road, emphasizing open grass, wildflower meadow, and native/pollinator plantings.
 - Timing: Near-Term (Under 3 years)
- Church Parking Lot Trailhead (Bud Porter Pathway): A small trailhead adjacent to Bud Porter Pathway on church-owned property, with seating, bike racks, signage, and improved access to the existing food truck area.

- Timing: Near-Term (Under 3 years)
- Linder Road Pedestrian Spine: Establishing Linder Road as a north–south pedestrian spine through Meridian, reinforced through consistent plantings, pathway branding, and repeated art or bird-themed elements despite limited corridor width. The most immediate opportunity is from West Sandalwood Drive to West Chateau Drive.
 - Timing: Near – Mid-Term (Under 5 years)
- NW 3rd Street Trailhead: A future trailhead at the eastern terminus of the Rail with Trail Pathway on City-owned land, including parking, seating, green space, and NW 3rd Street right-of-way improvements.
 - Timing: Near – Mid-Term (Under 5 years)
- Rail With Trail Pathway Extension (NW 8th Street to Linder Road): Continuation of the Rail With Trail pathway west to Linder Road, completing nearly one mile along Fivemile Creek west of City Hall.
 - Timing: Mid-Term (3-5 years)
- Golden Spike Pathway (Ten Mile Road to Black Cat Road): Enhancement of the existing pathway corridor with linear park elements and amenities as adjacent properties develop, including potential placemaking at the bridge.
 - Timing: Mid-Term (3-5 years)
- Fivemile Creek Trailhub Natural Area: A future partnership project creating a natural area with unpaved nature paths, wetland and upland native vegetation, stormwater interpretation, and potential pedestrian-only creek crossing to Reta Huskey Park.
 - Timing: Mid – Long-Term (3+ years)
- Fields Area / Community Park Linear Parkway: A linear parkway opportunity within and adjacent to the new Community Park, with potential for mixed-use edges and Greenbelt-style amenities between Fairview Avenue and East 36th Street, consistent with the Fields Area Plan.
 - Timing: Long-Term (5+ years)
- ACHD Stormwater Parcel (Ten Mile Road to Linder Road): An opportunity to integrate trail-adjacent natural space within an Ada County Highway District-owned stormwater accommodation parcel between Ten Mile and Linder Roads.
 - Timing: Long-Term (5+ years)
- Fivemile Creek Pathway – Woodbridge: Extension of the Fivemile Creek Pathway through the Woodbridge subdivision from the intersection of Franklin Road and Locust Grove Road to Wells Street, building on existing segments as easements become available.
 - Timing: Long-Term (5+ years)
- Downtown East Edge Fivemile Pathway: Development of the Fivemile Creek Pathway at the eastern edge of downtown as part of a connected green space network integrating art, rail-with-trail, and urban open spaces.
 - Timing: Long-Term (5+ years)
- South Meridian Linear Parkway (Eightmile Creek): A future pathway and linear parkway opportunity within a 79-acre development area along Eightmile Creek and the Ridenbaugh Canal at Victory Road, including connections to the Tuscan neighborhood pathway network.
 - Timing: Long-Term (5+ years)

Technical Constraints

Public art along Meridian's trails and pathways should be coordinated with the planning, design, and construction timelines of individual pathway and trailhead to ensure early and more simple integration. Permanent artworks requiring foundations, utilities, lighting, or structural coordination should be planned alongside initial pathway construction or capital improvements when possible. Technical considerations include durability, safety and sightlines along active transportation corridors, accessibility, and compatibility with bridges, stormwater facilities, and natural areas.

Next Steps for MAPS Program

- Confirm public art goals in coordination with the Pathways Project Manager and Planning Division.
- Identify priority locations along trails, trailheads, and key segments where public art can be most visible and impactful.
- Coordinate early with pathway planning, design, and capital improvement projects to embed public art into grading, utilities, structures, and right-of-way improvements.
- Establish a phased implementation strategy that aligns permanent artworks with pathway construction and introduces temporary or rotating installations to activate completed segments.
- Define artist selection criteria and design guidelines addressing durability, safety, accessibility, environmental sensitivity, and long-term maintenance.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Translating the vision for public art in Meridian into reality requires clear processes, well-defined roles, and consistent guidelines that can guide the MAPS Program over time. The Implementation Guidelines section establishes the operational framework for how that work is accomplished, from annual planning to the step-by-step processes for commissioning, purchasing, and accepting artwork into the MAPS Program Collection.

The guidelines and procedures that follow are designed to support good decision-making at every stage of a public art project: identifying the right opportunities, selecting the right artists, executing agreements that are fair to all parties, and stewarding the resulting works for years to come. They also reflect the MAPS Program's commitment to collaboration with City departments, community partners, and the public – an essential ingredient in projects that resonate with and serve the Meridian community.

Planning for Public Art

The MAPS Program thoughtfully plans for public art, both through an Annual Public Art Work Plan process and by developing specific plans for each new public art commission. In addition, the MAPS Program works closely with the Planning Division as well as other City departments, to reference strategies for public art in the Comprehensive Plan, the Unified Development Code, the Meridian Arts Commission Strategic Plan, and other City plans and planning processes.

Annual Public Art Work Plan and Budget

Each year, the MAPS Program will adopt an Annual Public Art Work Plan and Budget. The Work Plan should list projects that are expected to begin in the coming fiscal year, projects that are carrying over from previous fiscal years, and projections for the following two to four fiscal years.

For projects beginning in the coming fiscal year, the Work Plan should provide the project location, a brief description, the budget, and anticipated timeline. It should also indicate how projects will be resourced, in terms of funding and staffing, and indicate any internal and external partnerships necessary for the successful completion of the project.

Work Plan Development Process

The Work Plan is prepared by staff in collaboration with a Work Plan Task Force, reviewed by the Meridian Arts Commission, and shared with City Council as an information item during the MAC annual report and incorporated into the Parks and Recreation budget as part of the City budget process.

The Task Force should consist of at least five and up to seven members. Up to three members should be drawn from the MAC; at least one should be a Parks and Recreation Commissioner; at least two members should have professional expertise in visual art as a visual artist, arts educator, arts administrator, curator, or fabricator; and at least one member should have professional expertise in a field of environmental design, such as urban design, city planning, architecture or landscape architecture. Some members may satisfy more than one category described above.

To develop the Annual Public Art Work Plan and Budget:

- A. The Arts & Culture Coordinator will collect information regarding potential public art opportunities, as well as program opportunities and conservation needs, consulting the Public Art Master Plan and other relevant planning documents; and meeting with other City staff, including the Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Division, as well as potential external partners such as Ada County Highway District, Meridian Development Corporation, Meridian Library District, or the Chamber.
- B. The Arts & Culture Coordinator will present information to the Task Force for discussion. The Task Force should use the criteria for evaluating opportunities (below) as a guide for discussing which projects to pursue.
- C. The Task Force may opt to hold a subsequent meeting to conduct site visits to potential sites to aid in the evaluation process.
- D. The Arts & Culture Coordinator will develop a draft Work Plan and Budget based on the recommendations of the Task Force and present it to that group for feedback and endorsement.

- E. The Arts & Culture Coordinator will present the Work Plan and Budget to Parks and Recreation Department senior leadership and the MAC for review and approval.
- F. Once approved, the Work Plan will be presented to Council as an information item and the Budget will be incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Department budget for approval.

Criteria for Evaluating Potential Public Art Opportunities

During the process of developing the Annual Public Art Work Plan, many ideas for projects will come forward. The projects described in this Public Art Master Plan can be a starting point for discussion, but other ideas may arise. The Work Plan Task Force will prioritize these ideas and make a recommendation as to the best projects to pursue each year.

The following criteria provide some key questions that the Task Force should ask when evaluating opportunities. While these questions can be applied to each specific opportunity, not all necessarily carry the same weight or pertain to every project. These questions also establish a way to consider the body of public art projects that are being developed each year and, over time, ensure that there is a diversity of locations, artistic approaches, artists, and audiences that are engaged.

Content/Vision Alignment

- Does the project provide an opportunity to tell a story about that place? To reveal something new? Or bring to light something that is not readily accessible?
- Does the project provide an opportunity to tell the story of Meridian?
- Does the project provide an opportunity to connect to a larger civic initiative?
- Does the content of the work provide an opportunity to forge a partnership that will strengthen the outcomes of the project?

Location

- Does the site provide an opportunity to reach a broad and diverse audience?
- Does the site offer an opportunity to bring art to a part of the community that does not already have public art?
- Does the site offer good visibility and/or sight lines?
- Would artwork at this site complement its use?
- Is there a capital project at the site that could allow for site integration and/or leveraging of resources?
- Does the site create an opportunity to forge a partnership that will strengthen the outcomes of the project?
- Does the site pose any concerns around environmental impact?
- Does the site allow for accessibility to all, including those with disabilities?

Experience

- Could the artwork be experienced in a manner appropriate to its goals and location?

- Is there the potential to create a work that could be interactive or experienced from multiple vantage points?
- Are there opportunities for activation or programming to happen in conjunction with the artwork?

Resources

- Are there sufficient resources to commission an artwork at the site that would be of an appropriate quality, durability, and scale for the site?
- Is there sufficient staff time to be able to manage the commissioning process, programming, and other related activities around the project?
- Are there opportunities to leverage resources through grants, partnerships, volunteers, etc.?
- Would a significant portion of the project budget be consumed by site work and/or engineering/utility needs (whether due to siting or complexity of the work)?
- Is there an opportunity to leverage resources by integrating the work into a capital project?

Project Plans

Careful planning for each public art project ensures that they are thoughtfully considered and that all project stakeholders are informed. For each public art project, the Arts & Culture Coordinator should draft, and Parks and Recreation and the MAC should adopt a Project Plan that sets out the basic framework of a project, including:

- A description of the project's location and other information regarding the proposed siting.
- The project's expected lifespan.
- The project goals and how the project relates to the overall vision for public art in Meridian.
- Evaluation criteria against which the artist selection and Concept Proposal can be evaluated.
- The budget and funding source(s).
- The project schedule.
- Art Selection Committee members.
- Internal and external stakeholders.
- The artist's scope of work.
- The artist solicitation method and artist selection method.
- A community engagement strategy.
- Potential partners and needed agreements.

Public Art in the City's Strategic Plan (2021-2025)

The last City of Meridian's Strategic Plan was completed in 2021 and provided a five-year outlook. While references to arts and culture within the City's Strategic Plan are somewhat limited, the plan

establishes an important foundation for future public art initiatives through its emphasis on creating vibrant public spaces and cultivating cultural opportunities.

Within the “Vibrant and Sustainable Community” section, the Strategic Plan states that Meridian will “create vibrant places for our citizens,” partner with the community and developers to create “beautiful open spaces,” and “cultivate art and cultural opportunities.” The plan further identifies the development of “public art projects” as a strategy to enhance overall quality of life. Although broad in scope, these statements position public art as an important component of community development, placemaking, and civic investment.

As Meridian updates future Strategic Plans, there is an opportunity to elevate the role of public art within the City’s overall vision and policy framework. The Public Art Master Plan should serve as a key guiding document during these efforts, providing a framework for public art priorities, implementation strategies, funding approaches, and policy recommendations that can be integrated into broader city planning initiatives. Leveraging the Master Plan during future strategic and comprehensive planning processes will help ensure consistency between arts and culture goals and the City’s long-term growth, infrastructure, parks, transportation, and economic development objectives.

Public Art in the Comprehensive Plan (2019)

The Comprehensive Plan provides more direct policy guidance related to arts and culture than the Strategic Plan. Table 5.3, “Arts and Culture Goals, Objectives and Action Items,” establishes several goals that directly support the advancement of public art throughout Meridian. Most directly, Goal 5.03.00 calls for the City to “create opportunities for all Meridian residents and visitors to experience public art.” This objective is actively being realized through the MAPS program, rotating exhibits at Initial Point Gallery, and a growing number of public art installations throughout the city.

Several implementation actions further reinforce the City’s commitment to public art. Policy 5.03.01A encourages the exhibition of both permanent and rotating artwork in City Hall and other public places, an effort currently supported through regular gallery exhibitions and installations in community facilities. Policy 5.03.01B promotes integrating public art into new development projects. Recommendations on how to continue to encourage new development projects are included in the Public Art in Private Development section and include updating the Unified Development Code, creating a Developer Guide, and pursuing opportunities to recognize private developments that install public art.

The Comprehensive Plan also emphasizes support for local artists and broader community engagement with the arts. Policy 5.03.01D seeks to provide local artists with opportunities to showcase their work, which is currently achieved through Initial Point Gallery exhibitions and public art commissions. Policy 5.03.02 focuses on raising awareness and promoting existing arts offerings and artwork throughout the community. Recent efforts supporting this objective include the development of a public art interactive GIS website and the creation of a downtown public art walking tour brochure, both of which improve accessibility, visibility, and public engagement with Meridian’s growing art collection.

Partnerships are also identified as a key implementation strategy. Policy 5.03.02B encourages collaboration with the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to incorporate artwork into

transportation infrastructure, including traffic boxes, roundabouts, and roadway improvement projects. Meridian's traffic box art program has become one of the City's most visible public art initiatives, while current coordination with ACHD on the Linder Road project demonstrates the continued potential for infrastructure-based public art partnerships.

The City is anticipated to update its Comprehensive Plan in the near future, creating an important opportunity to strengthen and expand policies related to public art. It should formally recognize and support implementation of the Public Art Master Plan as a guiding strategy for advancing public art throughout Meridian. Incorporating the Master Plan into the Comprehensive Plan framework will help align future public art initiatives with broader city priorities and ensure longer-term institutional support for arts and culture planning.

Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) Strategic Plan

The MAC Strategic Plan is a 5-year plan that outlines the goals for the Commission, and provides prioritized and implementable objectives, strategies, and actions. The strategies also align with goals in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The last MAC Strategic Plan was completed in 2019 and provided a 5--year outlook. Future MAC Strategic Plans should reference the Public Art Master Plan for implementation of the MAPS Program.

Public Art in the Unified Development Code

The Unified Development Code (UDC) is the official zoning ordinance for the City of Meridian. It sets rules guiding development, especially for new homes, setting standards for open space, densities, and processes for rezoning or permits, integrating with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The UDC includes Common Open Space and Site Amenity Requirements for specific development types. Public art is currently listed as an optional site amenity for all new single-family, townhouse, and two-family duplex, and multi-family developments of 5 acres or more, where it is given a point value of one. Public art is also listed as a site development amenity for multi-family developments.

This option for developers has resulted in some creative projects, but could be strengthened to ensure that developers are incorporating public art that is of high quality and longevity, and that supports the City's overall vision for public art. In the future, the UDC should be amended to address the following:

- Establish a definition of public art that aligns with the Public Art Master Plan.
- Increase the point value awarded for incorporating public art to both encourage its incorporation and to reflect the standards that the City sets for the quality of work provided by developers.
- Create a process and set of criteria by which City staff reviews and accepts the developer's public art contribution.

Incorporating Public Art Recommendations into Specific and Subarea Plans

While the Comprehensive Plan is the principle long-range planning document for the City, the City of Meridian Planning Division develops Specific and Subarea Plans which go into greater detail for unique areas of interest within the City. These active planning documents are adopted by reference in the Comprehensive Plan and contain an additional level of information relevant to planning activities.

When applicable, the Arts & Culture Coordinator should work with the Planning Division to consider public art recommendations within Specific and Subarea Plans, and to reference the Public Art Master Plan as a guiding document for the implementation of those recommendations.

Incorporating Public Art Recommendations into Master Plan Park Concepts

The Parks and Recreation Department develops Master Plan Park Concepts at the early stage of new park development. These plans begin the process of determining the future park uses, layout, and access points.

When applicable, the Arts & Culture Coordinator should work with Parks and Recreation Department colleagues to consider public art siting within Master Plan Park Concepts. While the siting and direction of public art may evolve as the park moves through a design process, the consideration of public art at this planning stage helps establish it as a priority in future planning and for incorporation into future Public Art Annual Work Plans.

Acquiring Public Art

The following guidelines for commissioning, purchasing, and accepting gifts of artwork build upon Meridian's Resolution No. 20-2186, the "Policies and Procedures for Acquisition and Deacquisition of Artwork" in Appendix X.

Standard Commissioning Process

New public art acquisitions will, with rare exceptions, be site-specific commissions where an artist is selected to develop a project for the City of Meridian that is informed by the context of the site. The Standard Public Art Project Management Process will serve as a starting point for how to commission artwork, with the exact details outlined in each Project Plan.

Step 1: Develop a Project Plan and Convene a Public Art Project Task Force

The Arts & Culture Coordinator develops a Public Art Project Plan, described above. This plan includes the project goals, location, timeline, and budget; the artist selection process; and a list of internal and external stakeholders.

Once the Project Plan has been developed, a Public Art Project Task Force is appointed specifically for that project. The Arts & Culture Coordinator provides an orientation to the Task Force that provides context about the public art project and site, describes the role of the Task Force in the selection process, and gives an overview of the Project Plan.

Step 2: Develop the Artist Pool

Based on the Project Plan, the Arts & Culture Coordinator develops and issues a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), sometimes referred to as a Call-to-Artists. Artist qualifications can include a cover letter from the artist expressing their interest in the project, a resume, and examples from the artist's portfolio with a corresponding description of each project.

The RFQ can be an Open Call, where any artist can apply who meets project eligibility, or an Invitational, where the RFQ is only sent to a short list of artists. In rare situations the MAPS Program may opt for Direct Selection of an artist for a project. Methods for developing the artist pool are described below.

Step 3: Select the Finalists

The Public Art Project Task Force reviews artist qualifications based on criteria outlined in the approved Project Plan and selects 3-5 finalists.

Step 4: Select the Final Artist and Concept

At the finalist stage, there are two options for selecting the artist. The Public Art Project Task Force can interview finalists and select an artist based on qualifications and an interview. Or the Panel can ask finalists to each develop a Concept Proposal and base the selection on qualifications and the Proposal.

Concept Proposal-Based Selection

In a Concept Proposal-based selection, finalists are paid a stipend to develop renderings, concept description, description of materials and fabrication, initial budget, and timeline and present that proposal to the Public Art Project Task Force.

Prior to the finalists presenting their proposal to the Panel, their draft proposal should be reviewed by the Arts & Culture Coordinator and other relevant City staff to flag potential technical concerns. The finalists should be given time to address any concerns raised in the review.

The Public Art Project Task Force recommends selection of an artist to the MAC based upon the favored Concept Proposal. For projects in Parks, the Concept Proposal is also shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission for their recommendation.

The artist agreement, along with the recommendations of the MAC and the Parks and Recreation Commission, are then submitted to the Mayor and City Council for final approval either via a formal presentation to Council, or an agreement approval on the consent agenda, depending on the scope and budget of the project.

Interviews

In an Interview-based selection, rather than develop a Concept Proposal, finalists are invited to interview with the Public Art Project Task Force. Questions focus on the artist's approach to developing a concept and executing the artwork and other skills that are considered desirable for that project, such as conducting research and community engagement or working collaboratively with a design team.

The Public Art Project Task Force recommends an artist based on the success of their interview and their qualifications. Once approved by the MAC, the selected artist is then contracted to develop a Concept Design.

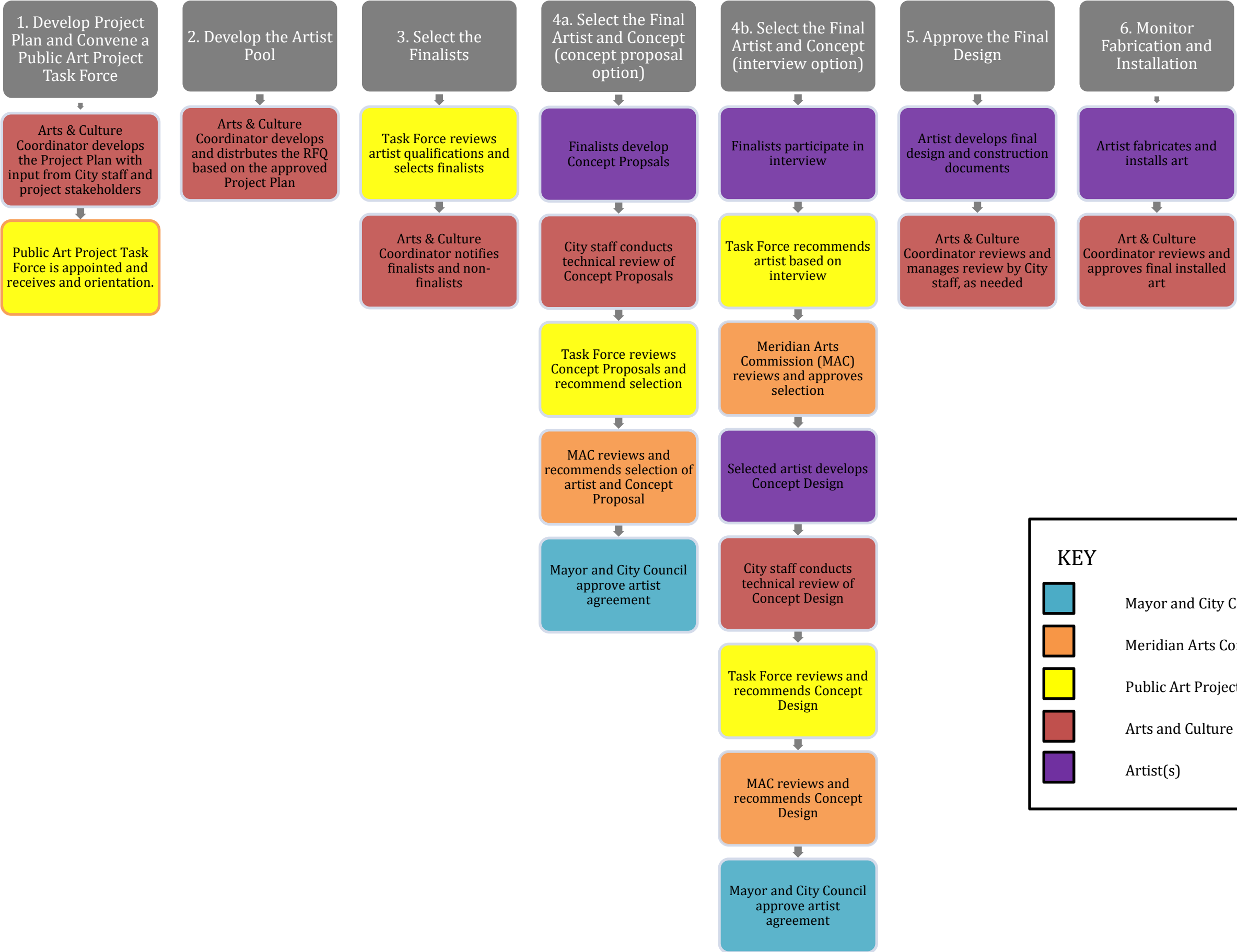
To develop the concept, the selected artist should conduct a site visit and meet stakeholders. Depending on the artist's practice and the nature of the project, the artist may conduct additional research, outreach, and community engagement at this time.

Prior to the artist presenting their proposal to the Panel, their draft proposal should be reviewed by the Arts & Culture Coordinator and other City staff, as needed, to flag potential technical concerns. The artist should be given time to address any concerns raised in the technical review.

The Public Art Project Task Force recommends approval of the concept to the MAC. For projects in Parks, the recommendation is also shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission for their recommendation.

The artist agreement, along with the recommendations of the MAC and the Parks and Recreation Commission, are then submitted to the Mayor and City Council for final approval either via a formal presentation to Council, or an agreement approval on the consent agenda, depending on the scope and budget of the project.

STANDARD
COMMISSIONING
PROCESS



KEY

- Mayor and City Council
- Meridian Arts Commission
- Public Art Project Task Force
- Arts and Culture Coordinator
- Artist(s)

Concept Proposal Based Selection	
PROS ● Allows for the Task Force to see different approaches to a project's site, context and goals. ● Can allow the Task Force to take a risk on one or more finalists that may not have as much experience or a relevant body of work.	CONS ● Some well-established artists will not submit for projects where there is a competitive concept proposal selection process. ● Does not provide finalists with the ability to do in-depth engagement and research in the development of their concept proposal. ● Does not allow for the finalists to receive guidance and feedback from the Arts & Culture Coordinator and the design team during design development. ● A portion of the budget goes to proposal fees, which can impact the project budget. ● The process requires a longer time to complete.
Interview Based Selection	
PROS ● Provides the Task Force with the opportunity to learn about how the artist will approach the project, work with the design team, engage the community and get their inspiration. ● Once selected, allows the artist to spend time developing an understanding of the site and community before developing a concept. ● Provides an opportunity for the community to have significant interaction with the artist during the design development process.	CONS ● Favors artists that have a stronger portfolio of past projects.

● Provides an opportunity for the artist to collaborate with the design team to integrate their artwork into the site or develop functional amenities. ● Allows the Arts & Culture Coordinator to provide guidance and feedback during the design development process. ● Less time is required to get to a final concept.	
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Step 5: Approve the Final Design

The artist then takes the concept through Final Design and Construction Documents, further refining the design, fabrication techniques, materials, and budget. The artist will submit the Final Design and Construction Documents to the Arts & Culture Coordinator for review. The City of Meridian may require that elements of their design be reviewed and stamped by a licensed engineer in the State of Idaho. The artist will not proceed with fabrication until receiving approval of the final design from the Arts & Culture Coordinator.

Step 6: Monitor Fabrication and Installation

In most cases, the artist is responsible for fabrication. The Arts & Culture Coordinator monitors fabrication to ensure it is on schedule and in conformity with the approved design. The Arts & Culture Coordinator should inspect the work, through photographs or in-person, prior to the work being shipped.

The Arts & Culture Coordinator works with the artist, relevant City staff, and other stakeholders to schedule and facilitate installation.

In some cases, the Arts & Culture Coordinator and other City staff may play a more direct role in overseeing the fabrication of artwork and/or installation, with the artist acting in an advisory role. In these cases, the City would contract directly with the fabricator and/or installer, who would work under the direction of both the City and the artist.

Step 7: Project Close Out

When the project is installed, the Arts & Culture Coordinator should ensure that administrative aspects of the project are finalized. These tasks include:

- Execute an acceptance agreement with the artist.
- Photograph the work for documentation.
- Notify the Finance Department of the acquisition and request that the artwork be added to the City inventory.

- Notify the Office of Risk Management and request that the artwork be added to the City's insurance policy.
- Obtain from the artist the Maintenance Plan Worksheet, as well as documentation of manufacturers' warranties for specific components (if applicable), materials and fabricators used in the creation of the artwork.
- Obtain from the artist any other outstanding documentation of the project.
- Complete the installation of an on-site label.
- Add the project to the MAPS Program website and GIS database.
- Submit the artist's final invoice for payment.
- Complete a contract/task order close-out form.
- Celebrate the completion of the project through a dedication or other public event.

Community Engagement in the Artist Selection and Concept Development Process

Interview-Based Selections and Concept Proposal-Based Selections both allow for community engagement in the selection process. Finalists who are asked to participate in interviews or develop proposals can participate in an orientation to the site prior to developing their proposals; this orientation can include a tour of the site and surrounding area and could be joined by key stakeholders. Finalist proposals can also be released for public comment, which can be considered by the Public Art Project Task Force.

In addition, artists who are selected based on their qualifications and interviews can engage with the community prior to developing their concept proposal through artist meet-and-greets, artist talks, or other activities designed to gather information or develop an understanding of the community in ways that may be part of the artist's practice.

Variations to the Standard Commissioning Process

Smaller-Budget Projects

For public art projects with a budget of \$5,000 or less, the Standard Commissioning Process should be followed, but the MAC should provide final approval of the artist and concept.

For certain small-scale temporary projects, the MAPS Program could consider selecting artists through a design competition, where applicants would be invited to submit a design as part of their initial submission. While it is generally best practice to only request designs from finalists who are paid a stipend to compensate them for their creative work, design competitions for lower-budget projects can open the door to artists who have never done a public art project and can greatly streamline the selection process.

Other Variations

There may be instances in which the City and the MAC decide it is appropriate to alter the Standard Commissioning Process for permanent projects or for larger-budget temporary projects. Generally, these variations would be intended to streamline the process and could be appropriate when a project needs to be fast-tracked. This would be outlined in the Project Plan and approved by the Public Art Panel. Options for altering the solicitation and selection processes include having the MAC serve as the review body rather than convening a separate Public Art Project Task Force or

having the Arts & Culture Coordinator recommend an artist for approval by the MAC. Selections made by the MAC or by the Coordinator could be based on interviews or concept proposals. Variations would need to comply with the City's procurement policy. Once the artist or concept is selected, the Standard Commissioning Process would be followed.

Developing the Artist Pool

In the Standard Artist Selection Process, there are a variety of methods for developing the pool of artists for consideration by the Public Art Project Task Force. The Arts & Culture Coordinator will identify the method in the Project Plan that best meets the needs of the project.

Open Competition

In an open competition, an RFQ is issued for a specific project, and artists are asked to submit evidence of their past work. Any artist may submit qualifications subject to any limitations established in the RFQ. An open competition allows for the broadest range of possibilities and can bring in new, otherwise unknown, and emerging artists. However, an open competition can sometimes generate hundreds of responses, consuming a large amount of staff resources, as well as volunteer time.

Invitational Competition

In an Invitational Competition, an RFQ or Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued to a limited number of artists. If an RFP is issued, artists would be paid a stipend for their proposals. Artists are invited, based on their past work and demonstrated ability to successfully respond to the conditions posed by the particular project or based on other non-aesthetic MAPS Program goals. Artists can be identified through research conducted by the Arts & Culture Coordinator, consulting with the Public Art Project Task Force, consulting an Artist Roster, or working with a contracted curator or consultant to identify candidates. A limited competition is useful when looking for a small group of experienced artists, when there is a limited time frame, or if the project requirements are so specialized that only a limited number of already identified artists would be eligible. It is also less time-consuming and more likely to attract experienced artists.

Direct Selection

At times, the Arts & Culture Coordinator may elect to recommend a direct selection in which it contracts with a specific artist for a particular project without reviewing a broader pool of candidates. Such an election may occur for any reason but will generally occur when circumstances surrounding the project make either an Open or Invitational Competition unfeasible (for example: project timeline, community or social considerations, etc.).

Artist Roster

The Parks and Recreation Department has historically developed an Artist Roster as a tool for developing a pool of artists for consideration for multiple public art opportunities. An Artist Roster is developed based on a comprehensive review of qualifications from artists who respond to an open RFQ. A Roster can be focused on a specific set of opportunities or could be used broadly for a range of commissions. If the list is meant to be used for several years, it should be updated regularly.

Purchase of Existing Artwork

In certain cases, the Arts & Culture Coordinator and the MAC could determine that it is in the best interest of the MAPS Program to purchase an artwork directly from an artist or from a gallery

rather than commissioning an artist to create a site-specific work. The reasons for purchasing a work instead of commissioning would be outlined in the Project Plan.

When the MAPS Program wishes to consider purchasing an artwork, it should follow the procedures as outlined in the Standard Commissioning Process, with the following modifications.

Step 1: Develop a Project Plan and Convene a Public Art Project Task Force

Use the same process as outlined above under the *Standard Commissioning Process*.

Step 2: Select the Art

In lieu of the steps in the *Standard Commissioning Process* to develop the artist pool, select finalists and select artist and artist concept, the Purchase Process moves directly to selecting a work of art.

In this step, the Arts & Culture Coordinator invites artists and/or galleries to submit images and descriptions of existing and available artwork. The information should include the artist's basic qualifications (resume or bio, portfolio), an image or images of the artwork, dimensions, weight, materials, date fabricated, condition, provenance, and asking price.

The Task Force is convened to review submissions of existing work based on the goals and criteria outlined in the Project Plan and makes a recommendation to the MAC.

The Arts & Culture Coordinator, staff from the City department in charge of the site where the art will be located, and other applicable City staff will review the recommended selection to identify any technical concerns. Concerns are addressed with the seller. If concerns cannot be addressed, the Task Force will be asked to re-review submissions and make a new recommendation.

Step 3. Execute the Agreement

The City enters into an agreement of sale with the seller. The transaction will include a transfer of title from the seller to the City and an indemnification regarding past and future claims related to the provenance of the artwork.

Step 4. Oversee Installation

Depending on the nature of the agreement with the seller, the City may have to take full or partial responsibility for site preparation, design of foundations, landscape and hardscape, shipping and installation.

Step 5. Project Close Out

Use the same process as outlined above under the *Standard Commissioning Process*.

Donations of Artwork

The Arts & Culture Coordinator and the MAC have an important role to play in the review of donations of permanent public art to the City. The Arts & Culture Coordinator should conduct the initial review and help facilitate the review and approval process, while the MAC should play a role in the review to ensure that public art sited on City property is of high quality and is appropriate to its site.

Donations of public art can be an important way of building the MAPS Collection. The procedures for accepting donations are designed to:

- Ensure that new public art is in keeping with the MAPS Program vision.
- Ensure the quality of public art accepted into the MAPS Collection.

- Ensure that works are sited appropriately in terms of media, scale, site usage, and aesthetics.
- Anticipate technical concerns and hidden costs such as installation, lighting, insurance, easements, maintenance, conservation, and safety.
- Ensure fairness and transparency in the decision-making process.
- Prevent City property from being used by a donor to promote an artist, gallery, business, or other entity or person for future financial gain.

Procedures For Review of Donations of Permanent Artwork

The following steps should be taken for review of gifts of public art.

1. The Donor should begin the process by conferring with the Arts & Culture Coordinator about the requirements and process for proposed donations of artworks.
2. The Donor should submit a proposal with information about the artwork that has sufficient detail for review, including:
 - Photos and a written description of the artwork(s) proposed for donation. This should include title, size, colors, weight, materials, and any information that will establish that the item has the requisite physical integrity to be placed on public display and withstand exposure to the natural elements.
 - The artist's name and background (a biography or curriculum vitae).
 - A description of the proposed location, method of display and required site improvements (including any necessary hardscaping, landscaping, buildings, utilities, security devices, anchoring or other necessary information to ensure public safety).
 - Cost estimates for installing the item(s) for public display, including but not limited to: foundation or other anchoring methods; retrofit of existing buildings or improvements; landscaping, seating, lighting, and other site improvements.
 - Written explanation of legal issues, including but not limited to: certifying the current legal owner of the artwork(s) and the existence of any copyrights, patents or other title rights in or to the artwork(s); and an explanation of any conditions or limitations on the donation of the artwork(s), such as any interests to remain with the artist.
 - The estimated fair market value or insurance value of the artwork.
 - The anticipated date for the donation to occur.
 - For existing works, a condition report prepared by a conservator.
 - Any additional information the Arts & Culture Coordinator deems necessary or appropriate.
3. The Arts & Culture Coordinator will make a preliminary determination whether the proposed gift is of appropriate theme, character, design, and condition for public display; whether it is composed of the highest quality design, materials and construction; whether the City has adequate resources to install, sign, and maintain the artwork; and whether the artwork is designed to retain its intended appearance and function over a substantial period of time. The Coordinator may consult with other City staff to make this determination.

4. If the Arts & Culture Coordinator determines that the proposed gift meets this criteria, the MAC will review the information provided and prepare a recommendation regarding whether to approve the gift.
5. The MAC will forward its recommendation to the Mayor, including a recommendation regarding a suitable location for the artwork
6. Following the Mayor's decision to accept the artwork, the City Attorney's Office prepares for City Council's approval and the Mayor's signature on an acceptance agreement establishing the terms and conditions of the gift.
7. Upon receipt of the gift, the Arts & Culture Coordinator notifies the Finance Department of the acquisition and requests that the artwork be added to the City inventory and shall notify the Office of Risk Management and requests that the artwork be added to the City's insurance policy.

Artificial Intelligence (Sidebar)

With growth and expanded capabilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI), many artists are using these tools in the development of proposal materials and in the creation of their artwork. The Meridian Arts Commission and Arts & Culture Coordinator have been engaged in thoughtful discussions on the moral, ethical, and legal ramifications of exhibiting and commissioning artwork developed using AI.

The MAC AI Use Statement in Appendix X outlines the Commission's current stance on artists' use of AI tools. It addresses topics related to prioritizing human authorship, artist disclosure of how AI tools were used in the development of the work, ensuring work does not infringe on copyright, and how to label works that were created utilizing AI tools.

As AI is a rapidly changing technology, the MAC and Arts & Culture Coordinator should continue to revisit and revise the AI Use Statement on a regular basis.

Portable Works Collection

The Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) established its portable works collection between 2008 and 2010. This initial effort was spearheaded by the MAC and the Mayor's office and focused on acquiring permanent artworks for display within City Hall. Through annual calls to artists living or working in the Treasure Valley, the City successfully purchased ten foundation pieces for their collection.

The City of Meridian recognizes that a portable works collection is a vital civic asset. It serves to invest in local artists and bolster the creative community, build and strengthen Meridian's unique identity, and to creatively engage the community while enhancing public spaces.

Portable Works Collection Goals

- **Invest in Our Local Art Community:** Providing support to Idaho artists through fair-market purchases and recognition through the collection.
- **Strengthen Community Identity:** Strengthening Meridian's distinct identity by building a visual record of its heritage, landscape, community character, and the diverse cultures that shape the region.
- **Enhance Civic Spaces:** Culturally enhance the environment of City Hall and other municipal buildings by offering staff, elected officials, community leadership, and visitors access to and engagement with fine art in public spaces.

Acquisition Strategy & Budget

To ensure the steady growth and quality of the collection, a budget of up to \$5,000 should be allocated annually from MAPS Program funds. All purchase prices should reflect the artist's fair market value in accordance with their regular sales history. Acquisitions should follow the City's Acquisition and De-Acquisition Policy and can be made through the following three primary pathways.

1. **Annual/Periodic Call to Artists :** The MAC may issue a formal "Call for Portable Works." This call will define specific themes, mediums, or size requirements. This is the preferred method for large-scale collection growth and ensures a competitive, transparent selection process open to a wide pool of artists.
2. **Purchase Awards:** Acquisitions may be made as "Purchase Awards" from curated exhibitions at the Initial Point Gallery. These works are chosen by the MAC or appointed jurors to recognize excellence in currently exhibiting artists.
3. **Direct Recommendations (Staff/MAC):** MAC members or City staff may suggest specific works for acquisition. To ensure professional integrity, all suggestions should be accompanied by a formal acquisition memo addressing the work's merit, quality, and alignment with collection goals before being presented for a formal MAC vote.

Selection Criteria

All acquisitions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Artistic Quality and Technical Mastery:** Selected works should be examples of exemplary skill, professional execution, and add value to the City's collection.
- **Representation and Geographic Focus:** Priority will be given to artists from the Treasure Valley and the State of Idaho. While the focus of the collection is local and regional, it will remain open to works from outside these areas if they provide significant cultural or thematic value to the City. The collection shall prioritize works that represent diverse voices, varied cultural perspectives, and a wide range of artistic mediums to ensure the collection reflects the modern identity of Meridian and a variety of voices, themes, and mediums. To maintain a broad representation of the creative community, the Commission will prioritize acquiring works from artists not yet represented in the collection and will generally limit acquisitions to no more than three pieces per artist.
- **Narrative & Cultural Relevance:** Selected works should represent diverse voices, local heritage, landscape, and/or reflect community culture.
- **Durability:** Preference will be given to works made of archival, high-quality materials capable of withstanding public display.
- **Portability and Spatial Versatility:** Works must be non-site-specific and easily reinstalled in various city-owned environments (City Hall, community centers, police and fire stations, etc.). This includes framed 2D media (paintings, prints, photography, textiles) and small-scale 3D works (sculpture) that are display-ready.

Guidelines for Contracting with Artists

During the commissioning process, the City will generally enter into two different types of agreements under the MAPS Program: 1) agreements with artists that have been selected to develop Concept Proposals, and 2) an agreement with the selected artist for Final Design, Fabrication, and Installation based on their approved Concept Proposal.

The following guidelines, adapted from the *Best Practices for Public Art Projects* published by Americans for the Arts in 2016, should be used to guide the development of agreements.

Artist Selection and Concept Proposal Phase

- All Concept Proposals should have a written agreement between the City of Meridian and the Artist that outlines the Concept Proposal deliverables and any other expectation of the Artist during the development process.
- The City should pay artists for concept proposals from MAPS Program funds.
- The City should provide artists with sufficient information about the public art project to develop a concept proposal, including scope, budget, timeline, technical needs and constraints, and other relevant contextual information.
- Artists should design to available budgets and timelines and propose what they can realistically deliver within those constraints.
- Artists should retain copyright to and ownership of their concept proposals. However, Artists should grant license to the City for reasonable use of images of the artwork for publicity, educational, and promotional purposes as mutually agreed upon by the parties.

Final Design, Fabrication, and Installation Phase

- All public art projects should have a written agreement between the City of Meridian and the artist that includes a clear articulation of scope of work, budget and schedule.
- Agreements should clearly articulate the process by which project changes are approved, and any changes should be made in writing.
- If substantial redesign of a contracted artwork or an entirely new proposal is requested, due to no fault of the artist, the artist should be compensated.
- Realistic life span of an artwork should be mutually agreed by all parties and written into the agreement.
- Artists should choose appropriate materials for artwork based on the expected life. Care should be taken when integrating components into the artwork that are not warranted for the minimum warranty period required in the agreement. Attention should be paid to integrated components that may void underlying warranties.
- Artist warranties should not exceed 2 years.
- With regard to manufacturer warranties for integrated components, artists should be required to pass along those warranties provided by the manufacturer.
- Where reasonable, obtainable insurance is required by law, municipal policy and/or in an agreement, the City should work with artists to assess the true cost of this insurance so that

artists can budget. As only licensed professionals can obtain professional liability and/or errors and omission insurance, artists who are not licensed professionals should have this requirement waived. However, agreements may require licensed sub-contractors carry professional liability or errors and omissions insurance.

- Artists should have agreements with their subcontractors and include all relevant requirements of the prime contract in the sub-contract agreement.
- Project payment schedule should meet the cash flow needs of the artwork schedule of deliverables.
- Artists should retain copyright to their artwork. However, artists should grant license to the City for reasonable use of images of the artwork for publicity, educational, and reasonable promotional purposes upon which the parties agree.
- Artists and the City should provide reciprocal credit for their respective roles in commissioned artworks.
- Maintenance and conservation plans should be discussed and mutually agreed upon, and artists should prepare detailed and feasible maintenance and conservation instructions.
- If an artwork is damaged, the City should make a good faith effort to consult the artist about repairs. The City is not obligated to work with artists to make repairs but should use best conservation practices.
- If Visual Artist Rights Act (VARA) rights are waived, agreements should nonetheless provide that, in the event of damage, alteration, or destruction of an artwork that is not remedied to the artist's satisfaction, or relocation without the artist's approval, if the artist believes the artwork no longer represents their work, the artist should have the right to remove their name from the artwork.

Public Art in Private Development

Public art commissioned or acquired as part of new private development can benefit the entire Meridian community. Developers should be encouraged to include public art, and the City should look for ways through the MAPs Program to support and recognize developers that feature public art.

Updating the Unified Development Code

As discussed above under the section on *Planning for Public Art*, public art is currently listed in Meridian's Unified Development Code (UDC) as an optional site amenity for all new single-family, townhouse, and two-family duplex, and multi-family developments of five acres or more, and multi-family developments. The UDC should be amended as outlined above to result in stronger public art outcomes.

Developer Guide

The City of Meridian should consider developing a guide for developers interested in public art. This could be used by developers providing art as part of the UDC, or for any developer or private property owner interested in public art. A guide could include helpful information about how to identify a site and set a budget, how to find and hire an artist, how to manage the execution of the project, and how to care for artwork over time.

Recognition

The City should pursue opportunities through the MAPS Program to recognize private developments that install public art on private property. Developers that would like to have their art recognized could apply to the MAPS Program for recognition. Recognized projects would include a plaque placed near the artwork to recognize their contribution to public art in Meridian, inclusion on the MAPS Program website and public art map, and promotion of the art and the developer's contribution in City publications and social media.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Mayor, City Council, Meridian Arts Commission, Public Art Project Task Forces, and Arts & Culture Coordinator all play important roles in the success of the MAPS Program. The following outlines their responsibilities related to public art.

Mayor

The Mayor of Meridian is elected to a four-year term. The mayor's responsibilities include supervising all City departments and agencies, preparing and implementing the City budget.

MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Appoints members of the Meridian Arts Commission for approval by City Council.
- Reviews the Annual Work Plan.
- With council approval, signs agreements over certain thresholds according to Finance policies.

City Council

The Meridian City Council is the six-member legislative body of the City of Meridian. City Council members are elected by district to four-year terms.

MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Approves members of the Meridian Arts Commission appointed by the Mayor.
- Approves the annual Parks and Recreation Department budget, which includes MAPS Program funding.
- Approves agreements over certain thresholds according to Finance policies.
- Approve donations of permanent artwork.
- Approve deacquisition of permanent artwork.
- Approve ordinances that pertain to public art.

Meridian Arts Commission

The Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) is composed of nine members, appointed by the Mayor and Approved by City Council. MAC members have an interest, competence, or knowledge in the arts. The MAC advises the Mayor, City Council, and City staff on matters regarding Meridian's arts and cultural resources, the City's aesthetic environment, and the development of economic, educational, recreation, and tourism opportunities within Meridian through the advancement of publicly accessible arts and cultural enrichment.

MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Review and recommend the MAPS Annual Public Art Work Plan.
- Participate on Public Art Project Task Forces.
- Review and recommend concept designs for public art projects for approval.
- Make recommendations regarding acceptance of gifts of permanent artwork on City property.
- Review and recommend deacquisition of public art from the Meridian Public Art Collection.
- Make recommendations regarding proposed revisions to public art policies and procedures.
- Serve as an advocate for public art in Meridian.

Public Art Project Task Force

A Public Art Project Task Force is an ad-hoc Task Force of the MAPS Program that reviews artist qualifications and artist Concept Designs for public art projects.

Each Public Art Project Task Force should include the following representation:

- A member of the Meridian Arts Commission.
- At least one member with experience/expertise in the arts (artists, curators, administrators, educators).
- At least one member with experience/expertise in design (architects, landscape architects, etc.).
- At least one member with specific knowledge and experience about the site, including site/facility staff.
- At least one member with specific knowledge and experience with the subject matter/ ideas being addressed, if applicable.
- A member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, if applicable.
- The architect or landscape architect of the related capital project, if applicable.

MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Review artist qualifications and select finalists.
- Review artist concepts/interview artists and recommend final selection.
- Review and recommend approval of artist Concept Design.

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission is a nine-member body that advises the Mayor and the City Council on matters regarding the City parks system and recreational programming.

MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Appoint a member to sit on Public Art Project Task Forces for public art projects in parks.
- Review and recommend approval of artist concept designs for public art projects in parks.

Arts & Culture Coordinator

The Arts & Culture Coordinator works within the Parks and Recreation Department and is responsible for all program and project administration for activities related to the Meridian Historic Preservation Commission and the Meridian Arts Commission, including: overseeing monthly rotating gallery exhibits at City Hall; coordination of special events related to the commissions such as concerts, art events, and preservation month events; publishing meeting agendas and minutes; and management of the MAPS Program.

MAPS Program Responsibilities

- Work with the Meridian Arts Commission and other City staff to develop and implement the Annual Public Art Work Plan.
- Oversee the commissioning and installation of new works of art for the Meridian Public Art Collection, including:
 - Developing Project Plans in collaboration with City departments and community partners.
 - Developing artist solicitation materials.
 - Organizing and facilitating artist selection processes.

- Preparing and negotiating artist contracts.
 - Facilitating technical review of artist designs.
 - Inspecting the final work and coordinating and scheduling installation with artists.
 - Documenting the work as a part of collection management.
- Ensure that the City's adopted public art policies and procedures are followed.
- Ensure that the Meridian Public Art Collection is properly documented, maintained and conserved.
- Pursue potential collaborations.
- Develop materials and programs to inform and engage the public about the Meridian Public Art Collection.
- Oversee the review of permanent public art donations to the City.
- Oversee the review of works of art being considered for deacquisition.

Funding and Staffing

The success of the MAPS Program and its ability to commission new work and engage the public is shaped by its resources, including funding and staffing.

Funding

Public art is primarily funded through the MAPS Program. The City can leverage this funding through partnerships, collaborations, and grants.

MAPS

The Meridian Arts in Public Spaces (MAPS) ordinance was adopted by the Meridian City Council in April 2015, establishing a “stable, predictable means by which public art can be incorporated into long-range planning for our community.”¹ The ordinance instituted an appropriation from the general fund “equivalent to fifty cents (\$0.50) per resident, as estimated by the current annual population estimate adopted by the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho.”² If not spent, these funds can carry over to following years. In 2022 City Council amended the ordinance to remove the cap of no more than \$50,000 of general funds being appropriated for public art.³

Through the MAPS ordinance, the City of Meridian has established a unique method for funding public art that achieves its goals of a stable and predictable pool of funds that keeps pace with the growth of the community. Unlike a “percent for art” method that public agencies commonly use to fund public art, MAPS Program funding is not dependent on capital spending and new public art opportunities are not automatically tied to where capital investment is happening in the City.

Parks and Recreation Department

The MAPS Program resides within the Parks and Recreation Department. The Arts & Culture Coordinator is a member of the Parks and Recreation Department staff. Expenses related to maintenance and conservation of public art come from the Parks Department maintenance fees.

For the past decade, the Parks and Recreation Department has allocated funding for Park Identity Projects, which could include elements such as signage, public art, or other theming elements. When these funds are allocated for public art, the Arts & Culture Coordinator has helped manage the commissioning of new work, in collaboration with Parks and Recreation Department colleagues, and these works have become part of the MAPS public art collection.

Capital Projects

For significant, community-facing capital projects, the City of Meridian should consider allocating a line-item for public art in the overall capital project budget. Including dedicated funding for art in capital projects will ensure that artwork is thoughtfully integrated into the design and construction of these projects, and at a scale that is appropriate to the project.

Partnerships

In some cases, public art has been supported through partnerships, such as the partnership with the Meridian Development Corporation that funded some of the electrical box murals, and with Valley Regional Transit for bus shelter wraps.

¹ City of Meridian Ordinance No. 15-1642

² City of Meridian Ordinance No. 15-1642

³ City of Meridian Ordinance no. 22-1994

MAPS should continue to pursue partnerships with public agencies as well as City departments to commission new public art.

Grants

Grants could be a potential source of funding for specific public art projects or related programming. There are several regional and national grant programs that are interested in supporting public art, civic design, cultural tourism, and creative placemaking. Major grant-makers to consider include the National Endowment for the Arts, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Arts Idaho, and Together Treasure Valley. Smaller local foundations may be interested in supporting the work of the MAPS Program, as well. For grants that are only eligible for nonprofit organizations, the MAPS Program may need to apply with a partner.

Staffing

There are a variety of skill sets needed for the successful management of the MAPS Program. These include, but are not limited, to planning and budgeting, curating, project management, collections management, conservation, program development and administration, and community partnership development.

The Arts & Culture Coordinator is the point person for the MAPS Program and has the primary responsibilities for public art as outlined in the Roles and Responsibilities section above. In addition to responsibilities related to the MAPS Program, the Arts & Culture Coordinator is responsible for administering all programs and projects related to the MAC and the Meridian Historic Preservation Commission including event management, commission administration, and historic preservation tasks.

Managing public art projects can be staff intensive. In addition to full-time staff, the City may engage consultants to support:

- Planning, including development of Annual Public Art Work Plans, Project Plans, or developing public art-specific recommendations in other City plans.
- Facilitating artist selection, including developing RFQs, managing Public Art Project Task Force Meetings, and coordinating design development and review.
- Managing public art projects, working with selected artists and the MAPS Program from final design through project implementation.
- Communications and community engagement, such as developing written materials, facilitating community and stakeholder meetings, and developing art dedication events.

Online submission management programs can be used to support staff efforts. Other City staff may be called on from time to time to support communications, marketing, and other activities.

Collection Management

The stewardship of public art extends beyond commissioning and installation. Effective collection management ensures that artworks in the MAPS Collection are properly documented, maintained, conserved, and evaluated throughout their lifespan. As a civic asset and cultural resource, the collection requires ongoing care. While many pieces of public art are intended for long-term display, no artwork is truly permanent due to environmental conditions, evolving community priorities, and the natural aging of materials that may necessitate conservation, relocation, or deaccession. The following policies establish procedures for the management of the MAPS Collection and clarify the City's role in preserving and maintaining public art for current and future generations.

The MAPS Collection

The MAPS Collection includes public art owned by the City and acquired through the MAPS Program, as well as public art acquired using other funding sources, public art acquired in partnership with other public agencies or civic partners, and public art donated to the City.

Portable works are smaller, non-site-specific works that are generally meant for indoor display and are sited in City buildings. Meridian's Portable Works Collection is a subset of the MAPS Collection.

Documentation

An important part of collection management and, ultimately, long-term maintenance of public art is keeping accurate, up-to-date information about each work. The Arts & Culture Coordinator is responsible for keeping records of the MAPS Collection, including updating, or in some cases, developing records for existing work, and documenting new works entering the collection. This information may include information such as:

- Artist information, including current contact information, resume or biography
- Basic artwork information (title, media, dimensions, date completed)
- Statement describing the work
- The artist agreement
- Maintenance and conservation instructions as defined by the artist and/or their contractors and outlined in the Maintenance Plan Worksheet
- Schedule of maintenance and/or conservation needs
- Conservation history
- Expected lifespan of the artwork
- Artist drawings, construction drawings or other technical information
- Fabrication information, including name and contact information for the fabricator(s)
- Source of artwork (if gift)
- Documentation of the artist selection process and other community outreach or involvement
- Digital photographs of the work

Related documentation, including artwork valuation, should be provided to the Finance Department for inclusion of the artwork in the list of City fixed assets.

Maintenance and Conservation

To ensure the MAPS Collection continues to instill community pride, the Arts & Culture Coordinator should coordinate regular maintenance and periodic condition assessments. Regular inspection of the Collection will ensure that issues are addressed before they become a problem.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance is the care of public art that does not require specialized expertise (i.e. dusting, washing, lubrication of moving parts). Routine maintenance can generally be managed by the City department that maintains the facility and/or site where the art is located. The City department should not conduct any non-routine maintenance or conservation unless requested by the Arts & Culture Coordinator. The department responsible for maintaining the facility where the art is located should notify the Arts & Culture Coordinator immediately if an artwork is damaged or stolen, or if the City department plans to move the artwork or alter its site in any way. Any work that is recommended for relocation or de-installation would be subject to the City's Resolution No. 20-2186, the "Policies and Procedures for Acquisition and Deacquisition of Artwork" policy. Works of art should be maintained in a manner appropriate to the medium and characteristics of the artwork, and in accordance with the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990.

Conservation

Conservation is the regularly scheduled examination, documentation, treatment and preventative care of public art conducted by a professional art conservator. The Arts & Culture Coordinator should periodically conduct, or hire a professional conservator to conduct, a survey of the condition of each work in the MAPS Collection and make recommendations for conservation, cost estimates, and a recommended schedule for implementation.

The City has the right to determine, after consultation with a professional conservator, when and if repairs and restorations to works of art in the MAPS Collection shall be made. The City should make a good faith effort to consult the Artist about repairs. MAPS is not obligated to work with Artists to make repairs but should use best conservation practices. If conservation is not conducted to the artist's satisfaction, the artist has the right to request that their name be removed from the work.

All repairs and restorations should be made in accordance with recognized principles of conservation.

In addition, the City will take steps to identify conservation needs prior to the fabrication and installation of new works. The City should require, when necessary, that artists consult with a conservator during the design development phase of the project to identify the conservation needs of the project. Alternatively, the City could have design documents reviewed by a conservator hired by the City prior to executing the fabrication and installation portion of a contract. For commissioned works, the artist should provide the City with instructions for the conservation and maintenance needs of the work, including the frequency, methods and materials recommended.

For newly commissioned works of art, artists should warrant the work for at least two years (unless otherwise stipulated in the contract). If an artist is using components that include a warranty, the artist should pass along those warranties provided by the manufacturer.

Deacquisition and Decommissioning of Artwork

The City of Meridian defines deacquisition as the removal of a piece of artwork from the City's asset inventory and transfer of ownership of such artwork to another individual or entity. Decommission is defined as removing an artwork from the City's asset inventory and destroying, dismantling, or discarding such artwork.

The policies and procedures for deacquisition and decommissioning works from the MAC Collection are outlined in "Policy and Procedures for Acquisition and Deacquisition of Artwork" developed by the Meridian Arts Commission and adopted by the Meridian City Council through resolution 20-2186. The resolution authorizes the Meridian Arts Commission and the Arts & Culture Coordinator to oversee processes related to purchasing, commissioning, accepting donated art, maintaining the City's art inventory, and removing or disposing of artwork when necessary. It took effect upon approval on January 21, 2020. The full policy can be found in Appendix Z.

Communications and Awareness

The MAPS Collection should be a well-known asset that fosters community pride. Effective communications will be important to the success of the program.

Communications Goals

The Arts & Culture Coordinator should work with the Department Marketing Coordinator and the Communications team to develop an effective communications strategy that serves to:

- Raise the profile of the MAPS Program and the MAPS Collection.
- Draw attention to Meridian as an innovator and an arts destination.
- Relate projects back to the vision and goals of the MAPS Program.
- Celebrate the talents of commissioned artists.
- Encourage people to visit the art and experience it for themselves.

MAPS Program Identity

The MAPS logo is the official identifier for the MAPS Program and the MAPS Collection and should be used consistently in all program materials. It should also be used on labels for any art piece that has been voted into and officially approved as a permanent part of the MAPS Collection by the Meridian Arts Commission (MAC), regardless of the original source of funding.

Project Identification

Artwork labels should be placed in an appropriate location near the artwork that can be easily viewed by pedestrians. The standard label should include:

- The artwork title (bold)
- The artist name
- The year the artwork was created
- Collection Denotation: "Part of the Meridian Art in Public Spaces Collection"
- QR Code and Website (Links to meridiancity.org/publicart)
- The MAPS logo

Additional information could include:

- Medium
- Description of the artwork
- Artist statement
- Artist biography
- Educational text related to the artwork themes
- City of Meridian logo
- Other agency logos or project donor logos or names
- Detail image of the artwork

Labels should not include the artist's contact information or website.

<<Insert graphic>>

Over time, labels for existing works that do not follow this format should be updated to ensure that the works are recognized as part of the MAPS Collection.

Catalog of the Collection

The public art section of the City of Meridian website provides an interactive map of the MAPS Collection with images and details about each work. All artworks added to the MAPS Collection should be added to the website catalog by working with the City's GIS team. Print brochures about the collection and specific works in the collection can also be a resource that is distributed at community facilities and shared with people interested in the program.

Social Media

Social media is an important way to communicate with audiences. The City of Meridian should utilize its social media channels, with a focus on the Meridian Arts Commission social media, to highlight individual public art projects in the MAPS Collection and events related to public art projects. When using images of pieces from the MAPS Collection on social media, the work should be acknowledged as being a part of the MAPS Program.

APPENDICES

- A. Acquisition and Deacquisition policy
- B. AI Use in Artwork Statement
- C. MAC strategic plan
- D. Comp plan page
- E. Engagement results