



To: Meridian Arts Commission
From: Meridith McKinley, Via Partnership
Re: Draft Public Art Materials for Review
Date: February 6, 2026

I am looking forward to joining you at the MAC Meeting on February 12 to discuss and get your input on the draft vision, mission and goals for public art in Meridian, the draft Public Art Opportunities, and a proposed processes for planning for public art. We will walk through each topic at the meeting on February 12.

MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

Draft MAPS Mission

MAPS 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, creating public art in Meridian.

Draft 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.

Draft 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 that people actively want to use and return to.



PRIORITY PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

Parks

Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park

This project proposes a new permanent public art installation in an existing 8' × 8' space near the Memorial Plaza, an area dedicated to remembrance through engraved pavers. Given the site's context, the artwork would thoughtfully reflect themes of legacy and remembrance while complementing the park's existing collection of public art.

Settlers Park

With upcoming investments in the park, including new signage and Community Center enhancements like a dog park, there's an opportunity to commission a highly visible, iconic public art piece. The artwork could align with the "Settlers" theme featured in the Community Center East and West Murals and the lobby piece, complementing the park's improvements while reinforcing Meridian's sense of place.

Fuller Park

Building on Fuller Park's mature trees, scenic forested areas, and a large pond. This proposes public art that emphasizes natural systems, environmental stewardship, and the park's role as a neighborhood green space. With its mature landscape and tranquil setting, Fuller Park offers an ideal location for art that integrates with the environment, encourages visitors to slow down, and highlights connections to nature.

Fields District Park

Fields District Park, part of Meridian's planned mixed-use development, offers an ideal opportunity to integrate public art while the park is still being developed. Opportunities include gateway features, sculptural landmarks, functional art, and works integrated into pathways, bridges, or gathering areas. Temporary or interactive installations could further activate the park over time, helping establish a strong sense of place, community engagement, and improved wayfinding.

Bear Creek Park

With the nearby Stoddard Road Project completing in 2026, there's an opportunity to integrate public art that enhances the park's identity, creates a welcoming gateway, and strengthens the connection between park space and the roadway. Artwork could be incorporated into play areas, pathways, gathering spaces, or along park edges, reflecting themes of neighborhood identity, play, and movement.

Gordon Harris Park

Public art opportunities should be strategically focused at the pathway entrance along the Ridenbaugh Canal, helping position the park as a welcoming connection to future paved pathways. Integrating art alongside planned branding and signage improvements can enhance high-traffic areas, playground edges, and gathering spaces, offering approachable, family-friendly works that strengthen the park's identity and sense of place.



8th Street Park

Artwork should be placed in visible, high-traffic areas such as entrances, pathways, seating, or street edges, offering durable, approachable pieces that reflect neighborhood identity and strengthen the park's sense of place.

Tully Park

The park features a skatepark with a mural and open spaces for recreation providing opportunities for additional public art to enhance identity, encourage engagement, and create a welcoming environment. Integrating artwork to activate entrances, pathways, seating, and gathering areas with durable, accessible pieces that reflect neighborhood character.

Downtown

Downtown Gateways – Archways

Gateway archways and large-scale markers offer a way to define entry points into Downtown Meridian. The 2025 *Destination: Downtown* plan prioritizes gateways as opportunities to go beyond signage and infrastructure, transforming them into public art that announces arrival to the district. Depending on the site, these could take the form of full archways, artist-designed signage, median installations, or pathway-scale works, all contributing to a cohesive artistic identity.

Festival Street

A festival street is a planned event-focused corridor along Second Street, designed to support community gatherings while accommodating pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. As part of the street's design, public art can be integrated into key areas such as plazas, performance zones, seating, and streetscape elements, enhancing the street's vibrancy and identity.

Rotating Downtown Public Art Program

The Rotating Downtown Public Art Program would create dedicated platforms in Downtown Meridian for temporary, site-responsive installations. By showcasing a changing array of artwork, the program encourages repeat visitation, engages the community, and supports the local creative economy.

Community Facilities

Cherry Lane Library

The Cherry Lane Library Project explores opportunities for public art at Meridian's oldest and most centrally located library. While the current renovation is too far along to fully integrate art into the construction, the library remains a strong potential partner for installations. Opportunities include prominent interior walls and entry areas for mixed-media works or 3D sculpture, allowing art to celebrate the library's historic significance, central location, and role as a civic and cultural gathering space.



Transportation

Linder Road from Pine Avenue to Ustick Road

The Linder Road corridor from Pine Avenue to Ustick Road offers opportunities to integrate public art along a key north–south route in Meridian. Planned roadway improvements, enhanced pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and property acquisitions create multiple points for artistic intervention, particularly between Sandalwood and Chateau.

Traffic Boxes

Building on the success of the existing program, the Traffic Boxes project will produce five to ten new mural-wrapped traffic boxes each year. Artwork will be developed in partnership with the school district and professional artists, enhancing public infrastructure, engaging students, supporting local creatives, and fostering community pride.

Valley Regional Transit

This initiative integrates public art into Valley Regional Transit infrastructure through artist-designed transit shelters. Public art can reinforce neighborhood identity, support placemaking and wayfinding, and create welcoming, durable elements that connect transit infrastructure to surrounding parks, neighborhoods, and civic spaces.

Pathways & Trails

Public art along Meridian’s trails and pathways can enhance recreation while strengthening identity, wayfinding, and connection to place. Opportunities include sculptural features, functional elements like seating or bike racks, artist-designed signage, interpretive installations, and nature-based artworks. Trailheads and gathering areas can host gateway and placemaking elements, while longer segments can feature repeated or themed artworks to create continuity, encourage exploration, and unify the trail system as a distinctive community asset.



PLANNING FOR PUBLIC ART

Annual Public Art Work Plan and Budget

Each year, the Public Art 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 Meridian Arts Commission; 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 and 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 ACHD, MDC, Meridian Library District, or the Chamber.
- B. The Arts and Culture Coordinator will present information gathered 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 conduct site visits to potential sites to aid in the evaluation process.
- D. The Arts and 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 and Culture Coordinator will present the Work Plan and Budget to Parks and Recreation Department senior leadership and the MAC 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 provides some key questions that the Task Force should ask when evaluating opportunities. While these questions can be applied to each specific opportunity, they do not all necessarily carry the same weight or pertain to every project. These questions also establish a way to look at 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?
- Does the site create an opportunity to forge a partnership that will strengthen the outcomes of the project?

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, 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 and Culture Coordinator should draft, and the Parks and Rec and 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, if temporary.
- 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 Comprehensive Plan

Reference the specific goals.



For future Comp Plans consider adding goals to implement the Public Art Master Plan and encourage public art throughout the City of Meridian.

MAC Strategic Plan

The MAC Strategic Plan 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 five 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 and 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 and 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.