



MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue Meridian, Idaho

Thursday, July 09, 2026 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

☒ Lizzie Taylor	☒ Patrick O'Leary
☒ Bridget King, Chair	☒ Bobby Gaytan
☒ Shaun Muscolo, Vice Chair	☒ Seoyoon Song
☒ Eryn Turner	☒ Jay Smith
☒ Crystal Paulson (Arrived at 3:34pm)	

*Also present Arts and Culture Coordinator Cassandra Schiffler, Arts Assistant Brecken Bird, City Deputy Attorney Emily Kane, and Meredith Mckinely from Via Partnership.

Chair B. King called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA [ACTION ITEM]

L. Taylor made a motion to adopt the agenda. P. O'Leary seconded.

All ayes; motion passes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES [ACTION ITEM]

1. **Approval:** Draft Minutes From the May 14, 2026 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting and the May 26 Special Meeting of the Meridian Arts Commission Meeting

P. O'Leary made a motion to adopt the draft minutes from the 5-14-26 Meridian Arts Commission Meeting and the minutes from the MAC Special meeting on 5-26-26.

S. Muscolo seconded.

All Ayes; motion passes

NEW BUSINESS [ACTION ITEMS]

2. **Recommend:** Community Center Public Art Projects [ACTION ITEM] ~ *Cassandra Schiffler, Arts and Culture Coordinator*

C. Schiffler gave a presentation to commissioners on the chosen artist's final project designs. (See attached presentation)

Discussion:

L. Taylor commented that she was impressed that Beth Trott attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the new community center and that she is pleased Beth was chosen to contribute to the history wall project.

P. O'Leary asked what the history wall will include?

C. Schiffler answered that the mural will probably depict some local and historical landmarks including the water tower, the speedway, and the creamery. All final history photos will be selected by TAG Historic Research and the Artist.

P. O'Leary asked if there would be some text or signage explaining the history wall?

C. Schiffler answered that yes, there will be.

B. King stated that she loved being on the Community Center Public Art Task Force, and that she was really impressed by the artists and how well they took the task force's feedback and incorporated it into their final designs.

C. Paulson agreed and stated that she too saw how the artwork "blossomed" during this process and is really looking forward to seeing these projects finished.

E. Turner asked if all the artists are local?

C. Schiffler answered yes. They are all local to the Treasure Valley.

B. Gaytan moved to approve all artists' designs for the Community Center Public Art Projects. L. Taylor seconded.

All ayes; motion passes

3. **Recommend:** Public Art Master Plan Draft [ACTION ITEM] ~ *Meridith McKinley, Via Partnership*

C. Schiffler stated that she has been working on this Public Art Master Plan for about 5 years and is excited to see it finally becoming a reality. She sincerely thanked Meredith McKinley and Via Partnership for all their hard work. She also thanked those who helped proof-read the Public Art Master Plan Draft including some of the current commissioners and even a former Arts Commission Chair, Jessica Peters.

M. McKinley from Via Partnership gave a presentation on the Public Art Master Plan Draft. (See attached).

Discussion:

M. McKinley added that they are currently working with a graphic designer on the design of the document, and that the Public Art Master Plan Draft will be presented to council for approval in August.

P. O'Leary asked what category Linder Road falls in?

M. McKinley answered that it would be considered a public space.

P. O'Leary asked if the plan could include a section of project types that are specifically geared toward resident participation?

C. Schiffler answered that something like that would fall under the "Socially Engaged Artworks" section of the plan.

M. McKinley agreed.

P. O'Leary asked about the possibility of increasing MAPS funds to account for inflation.

M. McKinley answered that the great thing about MAPS funds is that while it doesn't keep up with inflation, the funding is tied to population growth, and the City of Meridian is still growing.

P. O'Leary thanked M. McKinley for her work on the Public Art Master Plan Draft.

Lizzie Taylor moved to approve the Public Art Master Plan draft. J. Smith seconded.

All ayes; motion passes

3. Recommend: Initial Point Gallery 2027 Proposed Schedule [ACTION ITEM] ~ *Brecken Bird, Arts Assistant*

B. Bird gave a presentation to the commission on the Initial Point Gallery 2027 Proposed Schedule (See attached slides). She also took some time to thank the commission for their hard work and diligence in scoring applications for the gallery this year. Artists were scored out of 15 points. The scores were tallied and everyone who scored an average of about 11 points or higher were selected to show in the gallery in 2027. B. Bird also noted that they have decided to extend the gallery shows in 2027 to allow for additional public events and programming in the gallery.

Discussion:

S. Muscolo asked what kind of programming staff is thinking about for second events in the gallery?

B. Bird answered that most of the shows for 2027 will get a second event. There is nothing concrete at the moment but depending on the exhibition they will likely be artist talks, demos, lectures, panels, and things of that nature.

B. King complimented B. Bird on the draft schedule and said that she was excited to see these art shows in 2027.

L. Taylor moved to approve the Initial Point Gallery 2027 Proposed Schedule. C. Paulson seconded.

All ayes; motion passes

4. Recommend: Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts Recipients [ACTION ITEM]

B. King opened a discussion about the Tammy de Weerd Award Nominees.

B. Bird listed the nominees (see below).

Tammy de Weerd Award Nominations:

- Anne Watson Sorenson for "Excellence in the Arts"
- Kristofer Crozier for "Arts in Education"
- Jessica Peters for "Support of the Arts"
- James Ogle for "Support of the Arts"
- There were no nominations for "Student Excellence in the Arts"

L. Taylor made a suggestion to the commission that since we have two nominees for the same category and no nominees and one category that the commission should give both nominees in "Support of the Arts" and award. She made a case that both nominees have been significant figures in the arts community in Meridian and should both receive recognition.

C. Paulson agreed and stated that it was a great idea.

E. Kane asked that L. Taylor restate her suggestion as a motion.

There was some discussion about changing the name of James Ogles award from "Support of the Arts" to "Support of Performing Arts".

S. Muscolo made a motion to change the name of James Ogles award to "Support of Performing Arts" and to award Tammy de Weerd awards in the Arts to Jessica Peters for "Support of the Arts", to James Ogle for "Support of Performing Arts", to Anne Watson Sorenson for "Excellence in the Arts", and to Kristofer Crozier for "Arts in Education".

C. Paulson Seconded.

All ayes; motion passes

REPORTS [ACTION ITEM]

6. Initial Point Gallery ~ *Lizzie Taylor, Commissioner*

Current Exhibit: "The Pursuit of Happiness: America 250" featuring artwork by members of the Boise Open Studios Collective Organization (BOSCO) and the "Moments That Made Us" exhibition panels on Portable Walls, on view May 20 - July 31, Reception: Tuesday, June 2, 4:30 - 7:00, Host: Patrick O'Leary; Guest Speaker Event "How America Claimed Modern Art" with Professor Craig Peariso: Tuesday July 7, at 6:00 - 7:30 Host: Shaun Muscolo

Upcoming Exhibit: "With Water" featuring Betty Mallorca, Claire Remsberg, Jennifer Mangiantini, Jill Storey, Joyce Green, Mary Kancewick, and Tony Morse, on view August 4 - August 28; Reception: Tuesday, August 4, 4:30 - 7:00; Host: Eryn Turner

L. Taylor asked P. O'Leary how many people attended the opening reception for "The Pursuit of Happiness"?

P. O'Leary answered that there were 60 people at the opening reception.

L. Taylor asked S. Muscolo how many people attended Craig Peariso's lecture in the gallery?

S. Muscolo answered that there were 20 people in attendance at the lecture. She said it was a great presentation and a "gripping" conversation.

L. Taylor thanked commissioners for their support of the gallery and encouraged them to attend gallery events.

B. King was not able to attend the lecture event but thanked S. Muscolo and staff members for hosting a Facebook Live video so she was able to watch the lecture at home.

7. Event Updates ~ Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator

Meridian's Main Street Mix 2026 Series (Six Wednesday Concerts at Generations Plaza 5:30-7:30 PM: July 8, 15, 22, 29 & August 5, 12)

Morrison Center's Neighborhood Concert Series: Bear Creek Park in Meridian: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 5:00 - 8:00 PM + Tammy de Weerd Awards in the Arts Presentation at 6:25

Art Spark at Kleiner Park: Saturday, August 29, 2026 from 11:00 - 7:00 PM

C. Schiffler gave an update to the commission on current and future events:

- Yesterday was the very first Main Street Mix event! It was a great event and there were roughly 100 people in attendance.
- She encouraged commissioners to attend the Morrison Center's Neighborhood Concert Series at Bear Creek Park which is where we will host the Tammy de Weerd Award Ceremony. She gave a heads-up to commissioners that staff will likely ask them to present an award if they nominated someone for a Tammy Award.
- For Art Spark in Kleiner Park, they are working on finalizing performance schedule and vendor booths.
 - S. Muscolo suggested that if they need a back up performer that C. Schiffler could reach out to the "Cordesmen".
- We have a few ideas for themes for the Chalk Art Competition (see below). We are looking for input from commissioners on these. We want to choose 3 or 4 and put a poll out on social media and ask the public to vote on their favorite.
 - 2026 Chalk Art Theme Ideas:
 - Circus of Color
 - Once Upon a Sidewalk
 - A Midsummer Night's Dream
 - All The World's A Stage

- B. King asked if we should we have a theme that references “Art Spark”?
- C. Schiffler answered that that would be good and if anyone can think of any theme ideas please email them to us.
- B. King suggested “Every masterpiece begins with a spark”
- C. Paulson and P. O’Leary said that they liked the last three themes best.

8. Public Art Project Updates: Portable Works Collection Purchase Awards, WASD 2026 Traffic Box Projects, Linder Road Median Sculptures ~ *Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator*

C. Schiffler thanked commissioners for coming to the special meeting on May 26th to jury work for the Portable Works Purchase Awards.

She noted that there is interest in “Meridian of Time” by Anne Watson Sorensen and that she may suggest that piece for purchase for the Portable Works Collection at a future MAC meeting.

C. Schiffler said that the youth traffic box art was approved by council and that we have received the cleaning and maintenance report for traffic boxes. Boxes for rewinding have been identified and we are sending them off to the sign company. Those should be installed in a few months.

C. Schiffler stated that the Linder Road work is out to bid from ACHD. The project is on track.

NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 13, 2026

9. Future Agenda Topic: Youth Performing Arts Funds for Shakespeare Theater Workshops in Meridian Schools

C. Schiffler said that she wanted to give the commission a heads-up about this before the August MAC meeting. She stated that they would like to potentially use youth performing arts funds for Shakespeare theater workshops in Meridian schools. The Boise Bard Players will give a presentation to MAC at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT [ACTION ITEM]

L. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. C. Paulson seconded.

All ayes; motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 4:46pm

Meridian Arts Commission 2026 All Commission Goals and Priorities

Program monthly Initial Point Gallery exhibits, host opening receptions, market the gallery to the city and the community, market yearly Call-to-Artists, and serve as a selection panel for new exhibits.

Engage the community through Art Week in 2026 and participate in programming and marketing events.

Participate in the partnership with the Parks and Recreation Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and pathways. Focus this year on Community Center public art.

Participate in planning for new MAPS projects and future updates to the MAPS Public Art Workplan. Focus on the completion of a new Public Art Master Plan.

Support Meridian's Main Street Mix concert series in 2026.

Maintain existing Traffic Box Series program; select WASD artworks, recommend locations, and use Call to Artists to commission installation of new traffic box wraps.

Increase inclusive programming through representation of diverse populations and marketing to underserved and underrepresented populations.

Support youth performing arts programs through partnership and fiscal support of performing arts projects.

Present the 2026 biennial Tammy de Weerd's Awards in the Arts.

COMMUNITY CENTER PUBLIC ART

Task Force
Recommended Projects

ELEVATION





East Mural

- Chalk and Cloud (Odessa)

- (This is not the proposal artwork pictured here, it is an early mockup to show scale)



“This mural presents the Meridian Community Center as a place of shared learning, wellness, and creative connection, framed within the natural character of Settlers Park. Each section highlights a different program—visual arts, culinary classes, and yoga—while continuous landscape bands unify the scenes and reference the surrounding park environment. The flowing color fields evoke open space, pathways, and the movement of people through both indoor and outdoor community life.

This design is a gentle nod to the triptych layout of the irrigation mural, creating a subtle continuity.

Reading left to right, the mural begins with an arts class, where the artist is painting syringa, Idaho’s state flower. A chickadee (a non-migratory bird) in flight moves through this area, referencing local birdlife and everyday neighborhood experience while reinforcing a connection to place.

The central section focuses on a cooking class gathered around a communal table, emphasizing participation and collaboration. Bowls, fresh ingredients, and shared gestures convey the hands-on, social nature of the kitchen. A trout on the table connects food preparation to local waterways, reinforcing the relationship between nourishment, water, and community gathering.

The final section opens into an outdoor yoga and pickleball practice beneath an expansive sky, visually extending the building’s programs into the park and emphasizing wellness, accessibility, and connection to open space. A vertical lupine anchors the composition, referencing native plants found in and around Settlers Park and introducing a sense of growth and seasonal change.

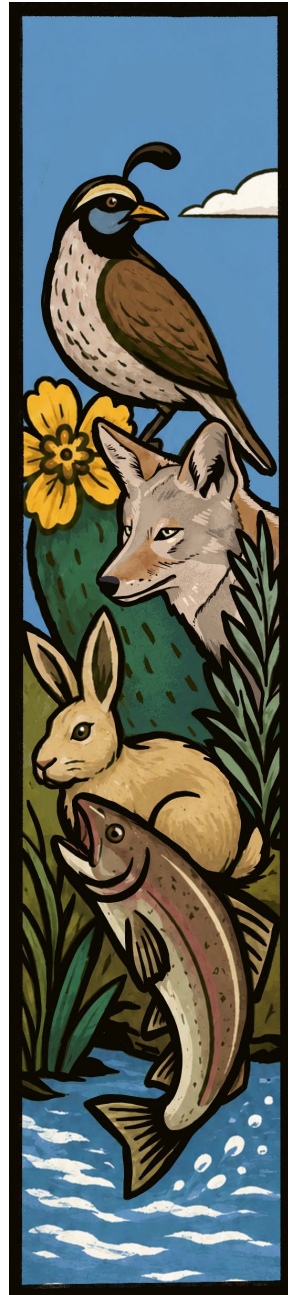
Together, the native flowers, trout, and birdlife situate the Community Center within its ecological and cultural context. The mural fosters a welcoming sense of belonging, illustrates the range of classes offered, and visually links indoor programs with the outdoor landscape of Settlers Park through color, motion, and shared space.

- Chalk and Cloud (Odessa)



West Triptych Murals

- Jordynnn Eld



“This mural explores the vital role that water and water management have played in shaping the history and landscape of Meridian, Idaho. The imagery tells the story of how engineering, stewardship, and community effort helped transform an arid landscape into the thriving agricultural oasis that exists today.

The mural is composed of three panels, each highlighting a different aspect of this story. The first panel depicts early settlers irrigating their crops and transporting a hay harvest to market, representing the foundational role irrigation played in developing the region’s agricultural economy. The second panel focuses on local wildlife and native plant life, illustrating the importance of maintaining healthy water systems that support the broader ecosystem and the wildlife that depend on it. The third panel celebrates modern recreation and agriculture, native balsamroot flowers, and the region’s thriving agricultural industries including potatoes, onions, sugar beets, dairy/cheese production, and beef.”

• Jordynnn Eld



Lobby Wall

- Sue Latta



Design Vision & Themes

Adaptation & Perseverance

The visual throughline of the canal functions as both a literal and a symbolic icon, honoring the grit required to bring water to this land. The innovation, engineering, labor, and sheer determination it took to “control the water” becomes a visual metaphor for perseverance, collaboration, and the long work of making a community.

Flourishing Life

As water moves across the panels, the imagery shifts from native landscape to the cultivated abundance of modern agriculture.

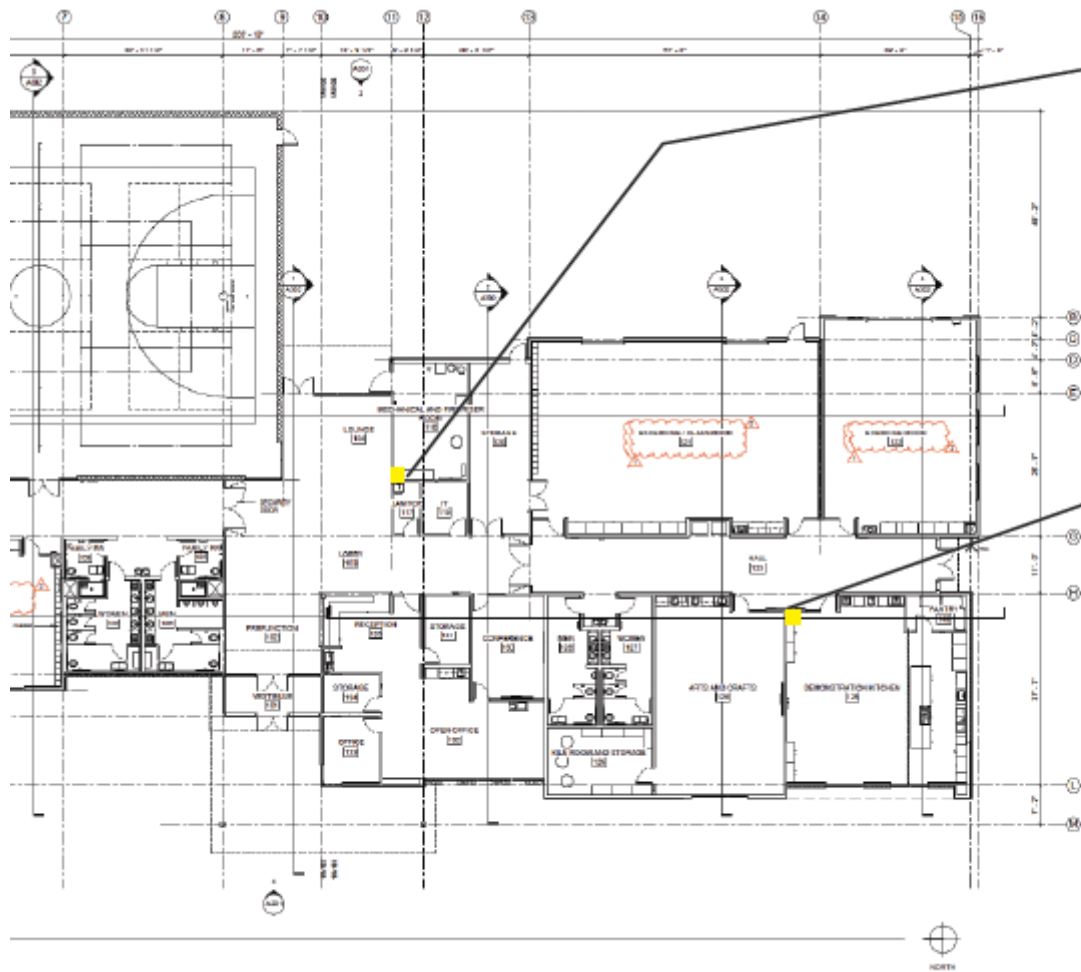
Irrigation & Water

Water is the connective tissue throughout. Settler’s Canal has been the path from historical to modern and illustrates that the distribution of water makes daily life and growth possible in Meridian.

Sense of Place

The piece is intentionally specific: the canal path and local agricultural imagery make the final work feel uniquely **“Meridian”** while creating a friendly, inviting environment in the Community Center lobby. This artwork welcomes residents by honoring the hard work and dedication of those that came before.

- Sue Latta “Blue to Green: Following the Settler’s Canal”

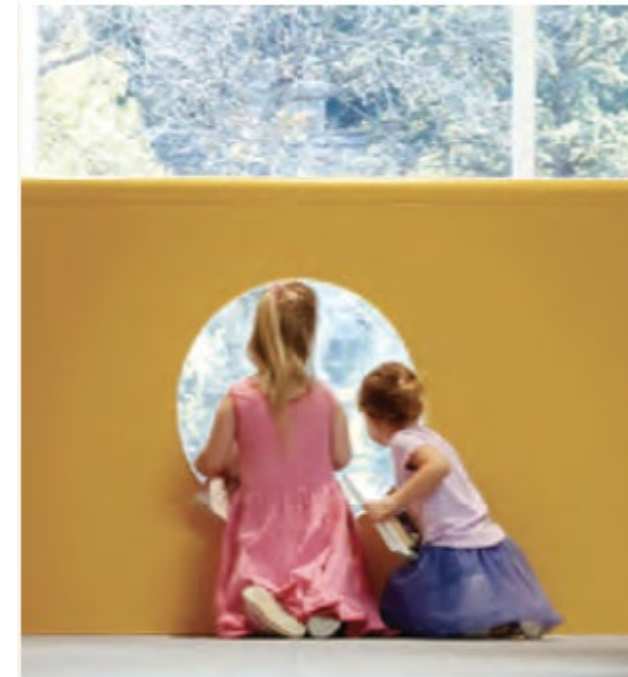


**DIORAMA 1
LOCATION**

**DIORAMA 2
LOCATION**

Interior Dioramas

- Stephanie Inman





Nearby plaque text reads:

THE OLD MERIDIAN CREAMERY

What downtown looked like in 1910 (actual date TBD) before a fire destroyed the Old Creamery building, where Meridian City Hall currently stands.



CONCEPT

Agriculture and dairy were important placemakers in Meridian. The Old Creamery was a local institution. The Meridian Creamery burned down on January 27, 1945. The site of the former creamery on Broadway Avenue is now home to the Meridian City Hall, which was dedicated in 2008.

This diorama would be a realistic, miniature replica of the area in the year to be chosen by historian Barbara Perry Bauer.

Reference photos will help reconstruct this scene. Some are included at the end of this proposal, and more have been requested.

SKETCH OF WALL DIORAMA 1



Nearby plaque text reads:

COMMUNITY CENTER GRASSHOPPERS

They arrived in 1933. They never really left.

COMMUNITY CENTER GRASSHOPPERS
They arrived in 1933. They never really left.
Photo © Johnnie Brown

CONCEPT

Water came to Meridian, crops flourished, and grasshoppers flourished right along with them. For early settlers, grasshopper plagues were a defining hardship of life in the high desert.

This diorama reimagines those grasshoppers as permanent residents, posable figures cheerfully enjoying community center activities like yoga, pottery, playing basketball, cooking, and painting.

The piece is playful by design, but carries a quiet acknowledgment of the resilience it took to stay, rebuild, and eventually thrive.

SKETCH OF WALL DIORAMA 2



Interior History Wall

- Stephanie Inman in collaboration with Beth Trott

- (This is not the proposal artwork pictured here, it is an early mockup to show scale)



WATERCOLOR ILLUSTRATIONS

5 beautiful, custom watercolor illustrations will be commissioned from local artist Beth Trott, digitized and part of the vinyl wrap. *Note: these are general placeholders in the sketch.*

Select illustrations will be emphasized, as the budget allows, by treating them as a layered element (specifically with stand-offs on acrylic to showcase the detail work of her watercolors).

HISTORICAL PHOTOS FROM TAG

TAG's historic photos will be eye-level with a variety of scales and imagery showcased. *Note: these are general placeholders in the sketch.*

DIORAMA

This area will be an engaging diorama designed to delight viewers at any age. *See separate sketch for design.*

NARRATIVE TEXT

Barbara Perry-Bauer at TAG supplied the history of Meridian that was condensed to 6 sign panels.

LINE DRAWING

Steph will illustrate a one-color 'vine of line drawings' along the bottom with the goal of tying together elements in the whole space.

SKETCH OF HISTORY WALL

5/1/26

CITY OF MERIDIAN PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN



WHY PLAN?

- To create an intentional, cohesive blueprint that builds upon existing momentum and aligns future public art with Meridian's long-term growth.
- To engage the community in the vision for public art in Meridian and identify priority locations for art.
- To map future opportunities and create an inventory of proactive, multi-year pipeline of potential public art sites for the coming decade.
- To clarify the process and roles in decision-making for the planning, commissioning, and ongoing care of Meridian's public art.



ENGAGEMENT

- 201 PUBLIC QUESTIONNAIRES
- 4 POP-UP ENGAGEMENTS
- 27 IMAGINE ART HERE! PARTICIPANTS
- 15 INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS
- 5 MAC WORKSHOP & FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS



WHAT WE HEARD

- High awareness and appreciation for Meridian's public art
- Desire for interactive, functional, and family-friendly art
- Strong support for art in parks and everyday spaces
- Preference for locally relevant and inclusive art
- Art as a contributor to quality of life and community vibrancy
- Public art as a tool for placemaking and identity



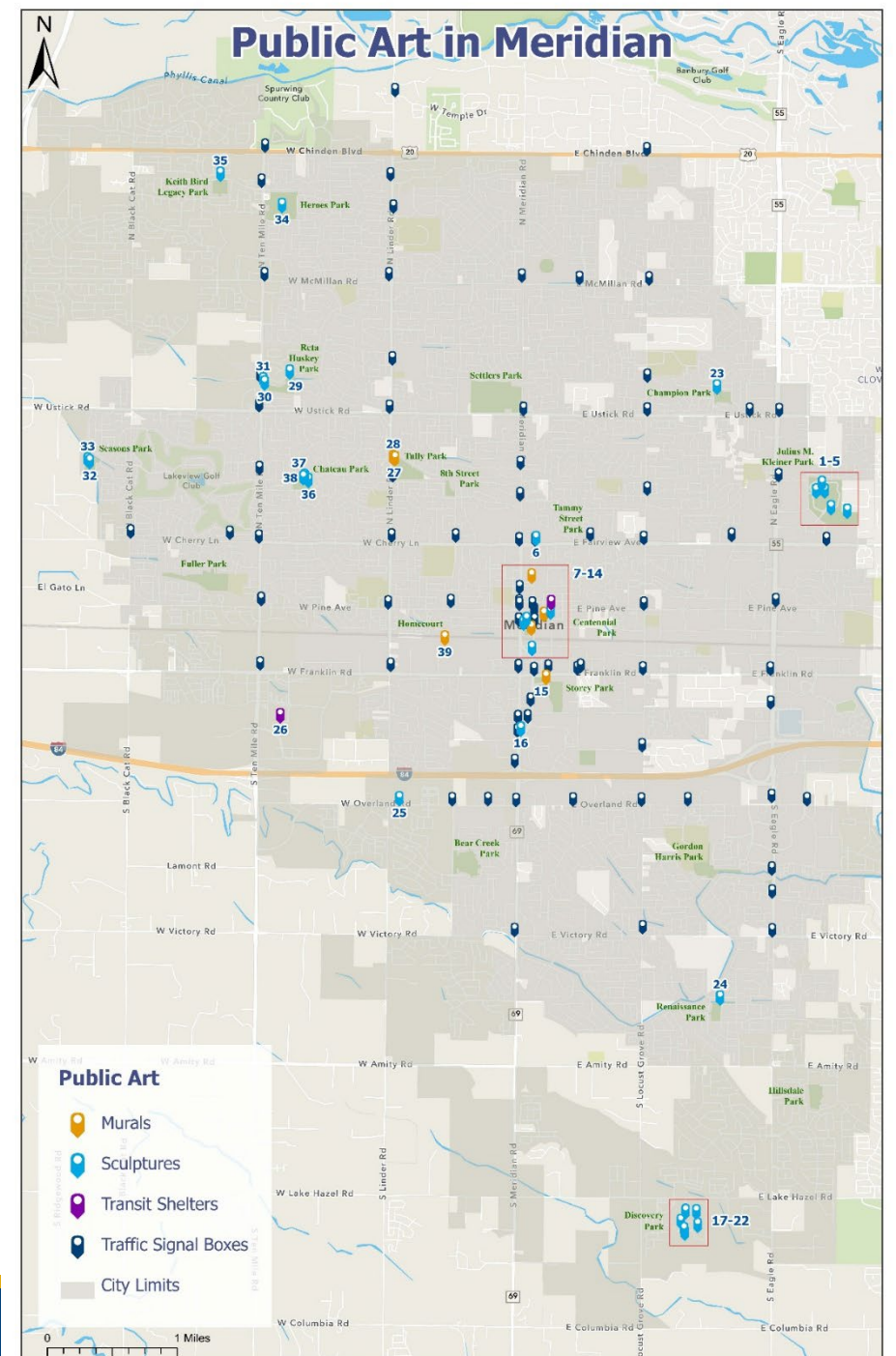
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Introduction
- III. Mission, Vision, Goals, Strategies
- IV. Opportunities
 - A. Project Types
 - B. Priority Opportunities
 - Parks
 - Downtown Meridian
 - Community Facilities
 - Transportation

- V. Implementation Guidelines
 - A. Planning for Public Art
 - B. Acquiring Public Art
 - C. Portable Works Collection
 - D. Guidelines for Contracting with Artists
 - E. Public Art in Private Development
 - F. Roles and Responsibilities
 - G. Funding and Staffing
 - H. Collection Management
 - I. Communications and Awareness

MISSION

- **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.



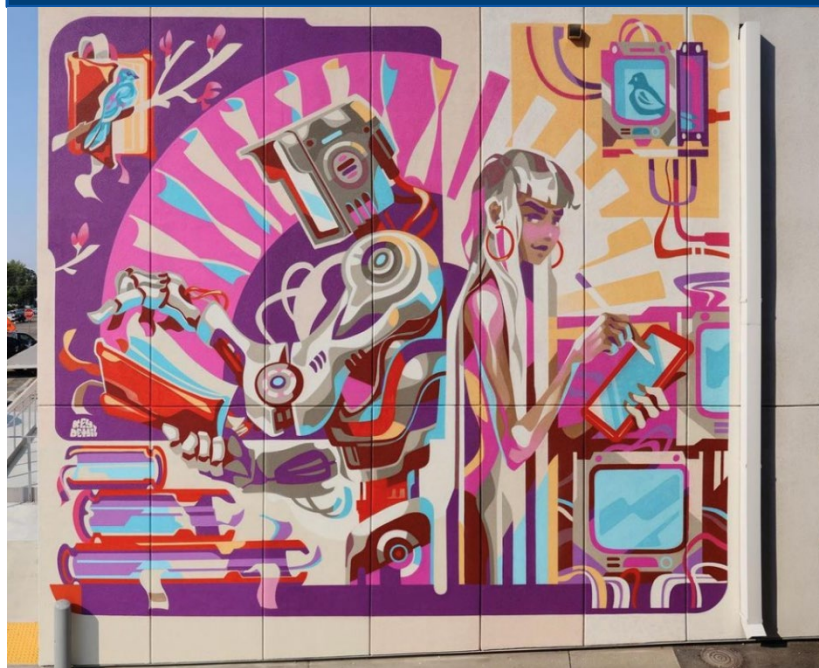
VISION & GOALS

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.

Unique Identity & Sense of Place



Creative & Engaging City



Distinctive & Engaging Destinations



PROJECT TYPES

Permanent Public Art



Temporary Public Art



Rotating Exhibitions



Functional Public Art



Murals



Socially Engaged



Meridian Priority Art Opportunities

PARKS

JULIUS M. KLEINER PARK
SETTLERS PARK
FULLER PARK
8TH STREET PARK
FIELDS DISTRICT PARK
BEAR CREEK PARK
ALDAPE PARK
GORDON HARRIS PARK
TULLY PARK

DOWNTOWN

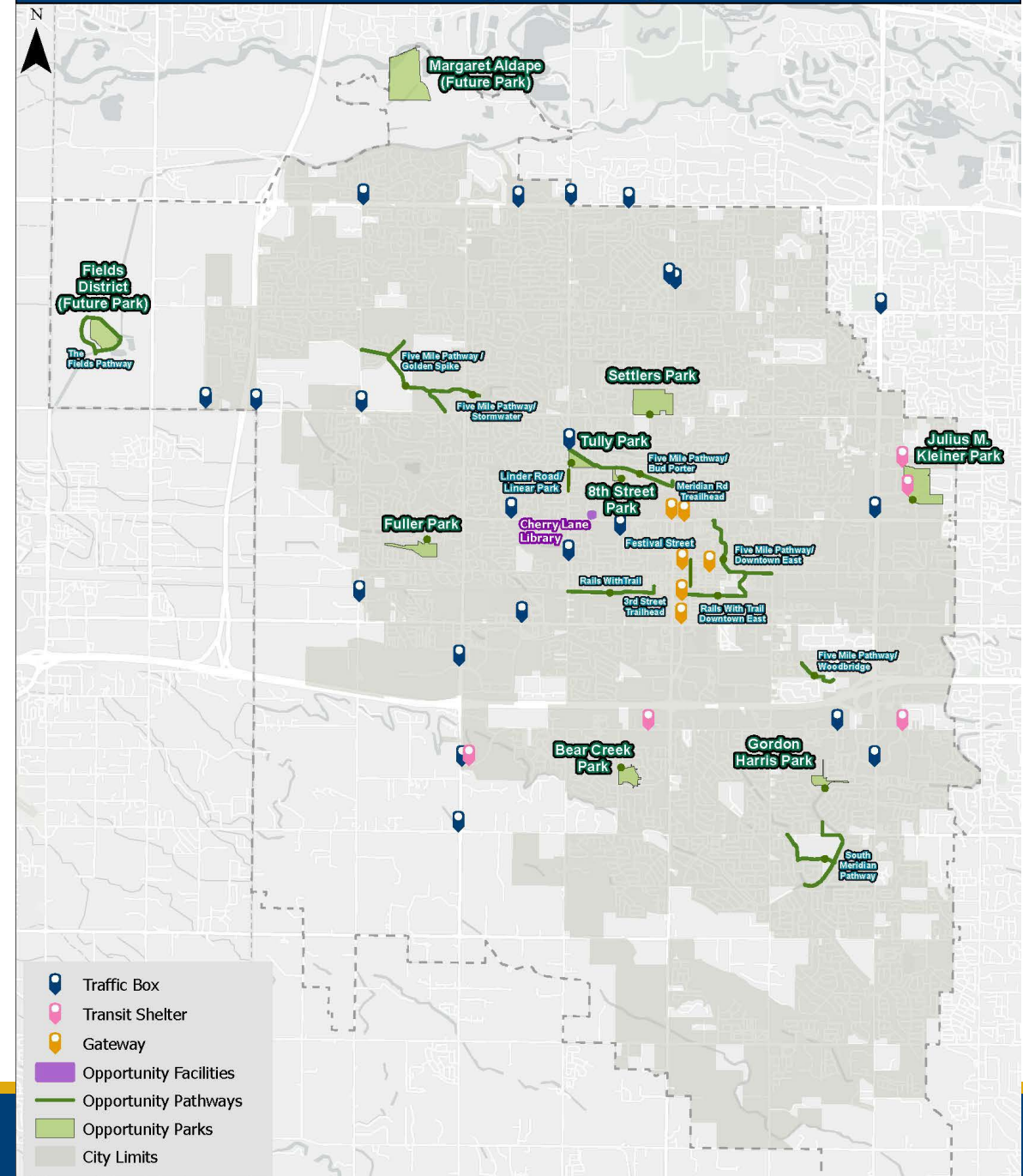
ARCHWAYS - DOWNTOWN GATEWAYS
DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL STREET
ROTATING DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

CHERRY LAND LIBRARY

TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC BOXES
VALLEY REGIONAL TRANSIT
LINDER ROAD FROM PINE AVENUE TO USTICK ROAD
PATHWAYS & TRAILS



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

A THOUGHTFUL WORK PLAN PROCESS

The Arts & Culture Coordinator collects information regarding potential public art opportunities, program opportunities and conservation needs in consultation with City staff, project partners, and stakeholders.



The Coordinator presents information gathered to the Work Plan Task Force for discussion. The Task Force uses criteria for evaluating opportunities as a guide for discussing which projects to pursue.



The Coordinator develops a draft Work Plan and Budget based on the recommendations of the Task Force and presents it back for feedback and endorsement.



The Coordinator presents the Work Plan and Budget to Parks and Recreation Department senior leadership and the MAC for review and approval.



Once approved, the Work Plan is presented to Council and the Budget is incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Department budget for approval.

AN INCLUSIVE PUBLIC ART PROCESS

Project Plan

Stakeholders are engaged from the very beginning in setting the goals and parameters for the project, as well as the selection process.

Public Art Project Task Force

A Task Force comprised of community members and arts professionals review and recommend artists and concept proposals.

Concept Development

Artists developing concepts meet community members and get to know the site before developing a concept.



GROWING PORTABLE WORKS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Invest

Provide support to Idaho artists through fair-market purchases and recognition through the collection.

Strengthen

Strengthen Meridian's distinct identity by building a visual record of its heritage, landscape, community character, and the diverse cultures that shape the region.

Enhance

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.



SUPPORTING PUBLIC ART IN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

Clarify Unified Development Code

Update the Unified Development Code (UDC) to result in stronger public art outcomes, including a definition of public art that aligns with the Public Art Master Plan; an increased point value awarded for incorporating public art, and a process and criteria for City staff review.

Share Best Practices

Create a guide for developers with tips on how to identify a site and set a budget, how to find and hire an artist, how to manage the execution of a project, and how to care for artwork over time.

Recognize Success

Pursue opportunities to recognize and promote public art installed on private property.

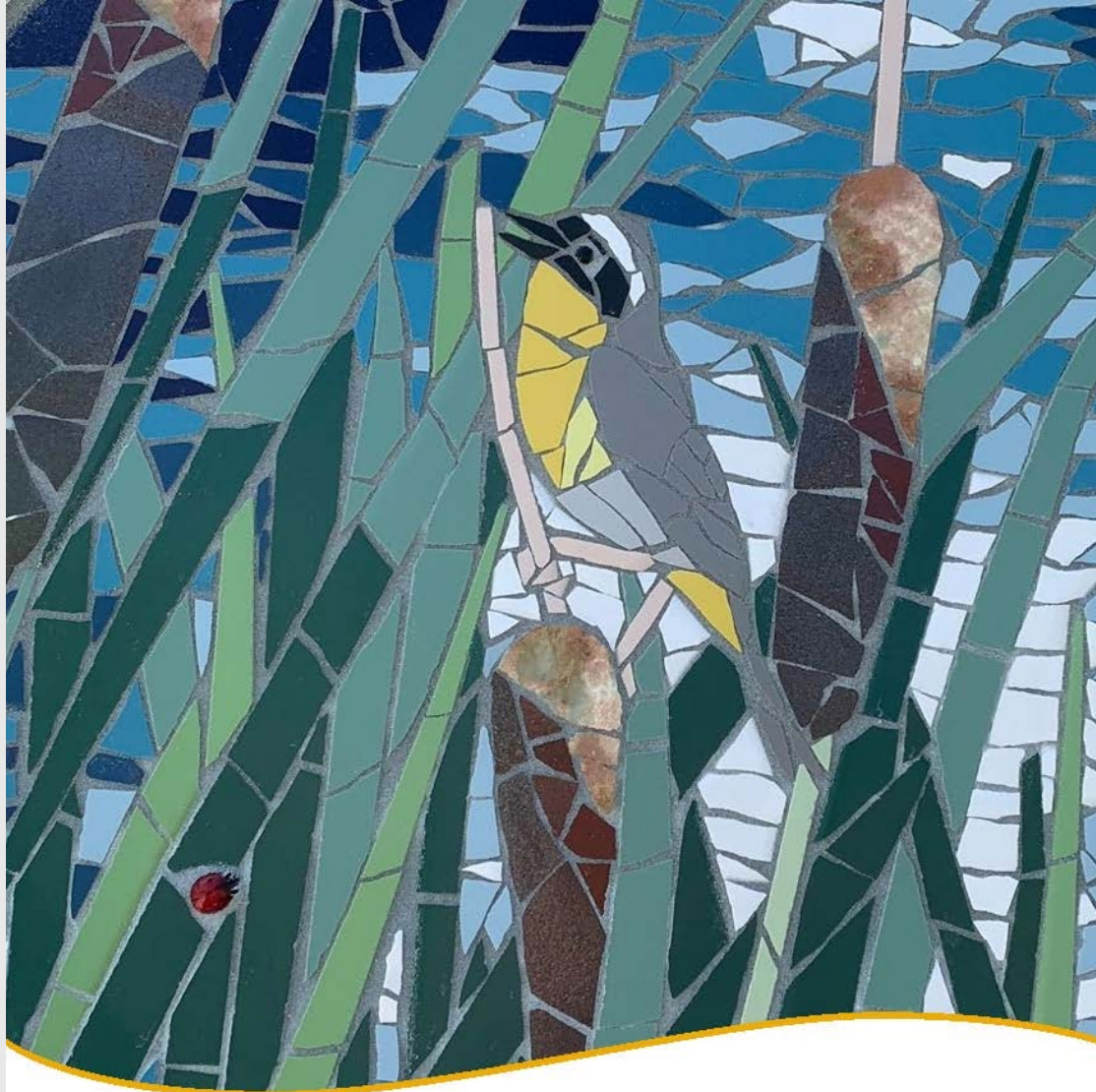
ELEVATING AWARENESS

Encourage Exploration

Continue to add information about the MAPS Collection on the City website. Utilize social media channels to communicate with audiences.

Raise the Profile of the MAPS Collection

Develop project specific communications strategies. Label all public art in the MAPS Collection and consistently use the MAPS logo on labels.



Eileen Gay
Water Metrics, 2025
Five Mile Creek Trailhub

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 and oversee 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 boxes, 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 and provide 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 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. The plan 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.

Methodology

As part of the process to create a Public Art Master Plan for the City of Meridian, community engagement efforts were conducted to better understand the perspectives of those who live, work, and visit the city.

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.

An interactive Imagine Art Here! workshop was attended by staff from City departments; MAC members; local artists and arts professionals, and civic stakeholders. Workshop participants brainstormed ideas for public art projects throughout the community.



The tabling event at the Meridian Art Fair engaged hundreds of visitors in sharing a vision for public art (top and center). Attendees *Imagine Art Here!* workshop participated in in-depth conversations about locations and focus areas for public art.



Mission, Vision, Goals, Strategies

Ken McCall
Illuminations, 2020
Renaissance Park

As a part of this planning process, the mission, vision, goals, and strategies for MAPS 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

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, to create creating 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.



Opportunities

Key Detail
Perfect Union, 2022
unbound

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 MAPS 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.

Oscar Alvarado
The Rim, 2020
San Antonio, Texas

Alvarado’s sculptural mosaic benches bring color, activity and life into a new park space.

Image courtesy of the artist.



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 two 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.

The Myth Makers
Flannery’s Peacock
2021
Atlanta, Georgia

Flannery’s Peacock was one of several temporary public artworks featured in the Atlanta Botanic Garden exhibition, *Wings of Wonder: Towering Works of Nature*.

Image courtesy of the artist.



NEXT STEPS

- MAC approved plan content.
- Document design.
- Public Art Master Plan presented to City Council for approval on August XX.

QUESTIONS?

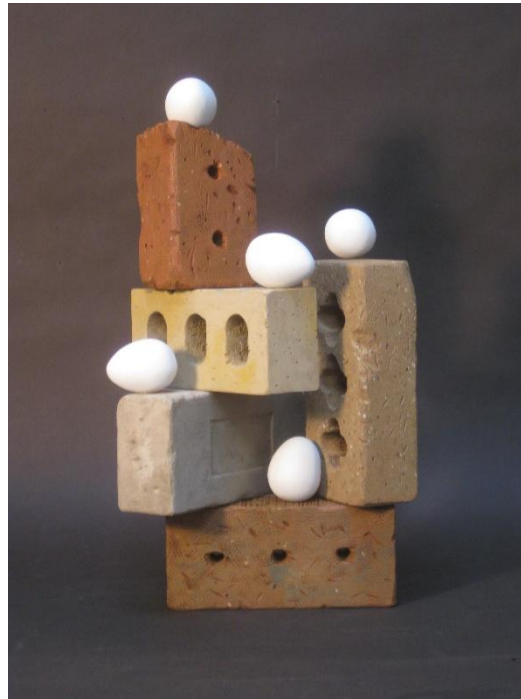
Initial Point Gallery

2027 Proposed Draft Schedule 7/9/26

February 2, 2027 -
March 12, 2027

John Taye:

Solo Exhibition



March 16, 2027 -
April 23, 2027

Dreamscapes:

*Joyce Green, Michelle Grace, Tatiana Stroganova,
and Leslie Jay Bosch*



Joyce Green



Leslie Jay Bosch



Michelle Grace



Tatiana Stroganova

April 27, 2027 –
May 17, 2027

***“Framed”:
West Ada School District Show***



Images shown are from WASD's exhibit
at Initial Point Gallery in 2026

May 19, 2027– July 30, 2027

BOSCO Exhibition

Interpreting the Work of the Masters

From the 15th to the 20th Centuries



Jessie Swimeley



Gia Strang



Lisa Flowers Ross

Artwork is representative of work by artists from BOSCO
(Boise Open Studios Collective Organization)

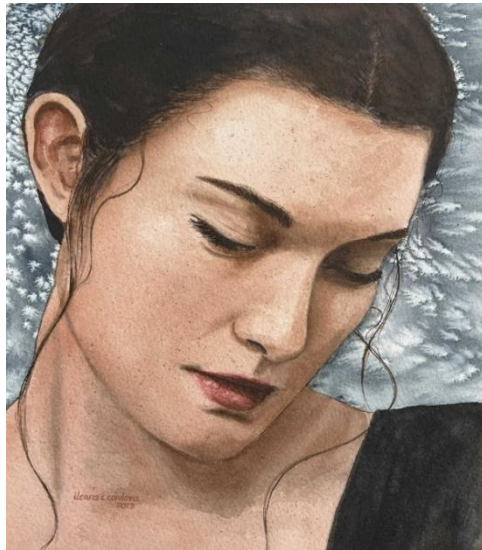
August 3, 2027–
October 1, 2027

Signs of Life:

*Ileana Cordova, Shelly Johnson, Lois Chattin,
and *Genie Sue Weppner*



Ileana Cordova



Genie Sue Weppner



Shelly Johnson



Lois J. Chattin

August 3, 2027–
October 1, 2027

****Genie Sue Weppner:***

Ceramic Artist



October 5, 2027 -
December 3, 2027

In Awe of Nature:

*Easton Soule, Rosellen Hong, Lisa Maakestad,
and Mary Ann Fraser*



Easton Soule



Rosellen Hong



Lisa Maakestad



Mary Ann Fraser

December 7, 2027 - January 28, 2028

Red Letter Day:

Treasure Valley Artist Alliance (TVAA)



Jill Storey



Theresa Burkes



Zorah Xaunah



Mary Gardiner

Artwork is representative of work by artists from TVAA
(Treasure Valley Artists Alliance)