



CITY of MERIDIAN PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

AUGUST 2026



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Meridian Arts Commissioners and Staff wave hello in front of Meridian City Hall.

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)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Steve Parker
Fanfare, 2024
Discovery Park

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

Eileen Gay
Water Metrics, 2023
Fivemile Creek Trailhub
Meridian, Idaho

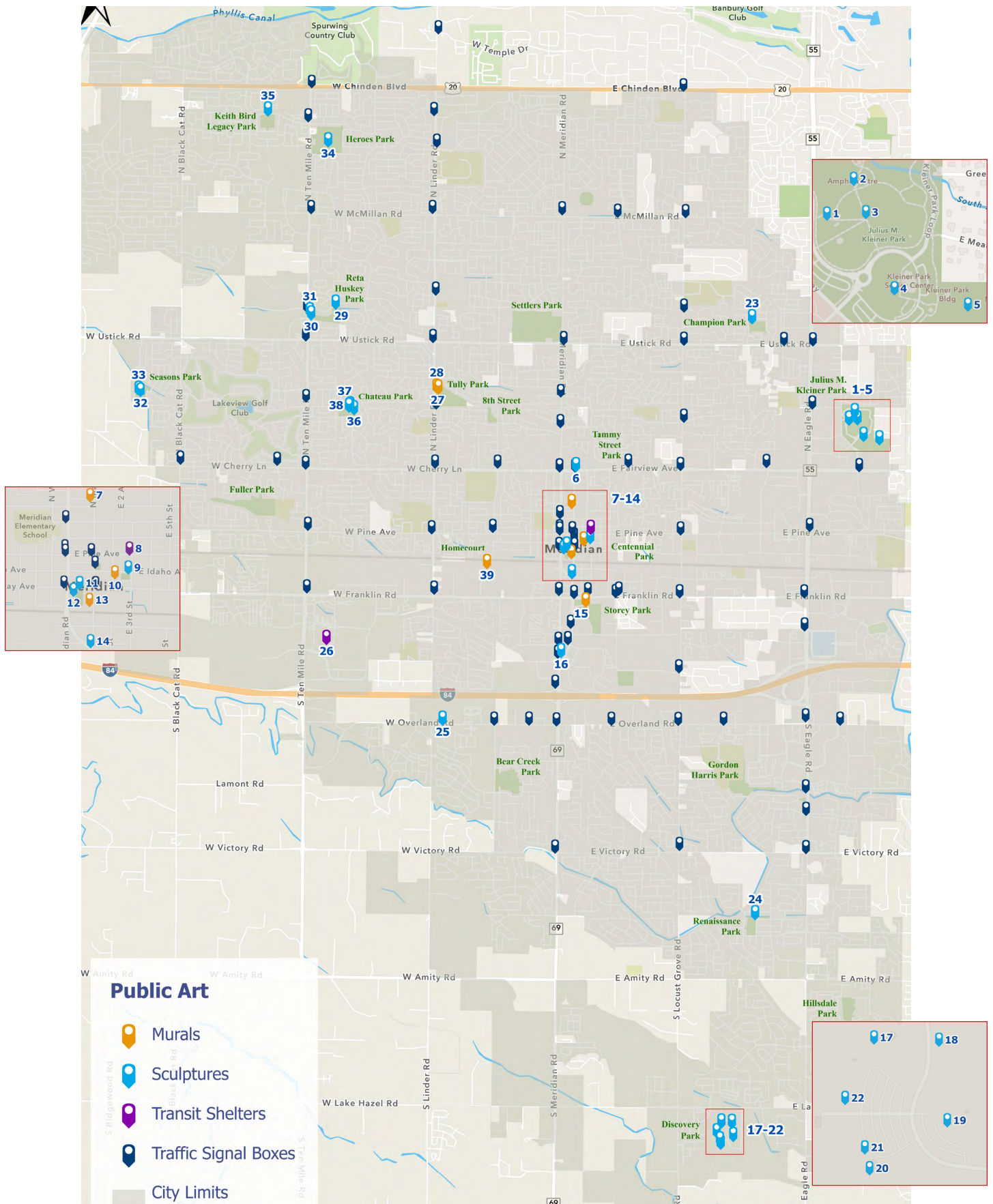
Meridian, one of the fastest growing cities in Idaho, is known for its family-friendly atmosphere and robust recreational opportunities. Public art in Meridian has become an increasingly visible part of the community's cultural identity, adding creativity and character to everyday spaces. Guided by the 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.

Public Art in Meridian



Public Art in Meridian

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

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

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

Ken McCall
Illuminations, 2020
Renaissance Park
Meridian, Idaho

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

Artist Miguel Almeida paints
Tully Skatepark Halfpipe Mural, 2022
Tully Park, Meridian, Idaho
Photo credit: Gregg Mizuta, 2022

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.



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 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.



The Myth Makers,
Donna Dodson & Andy Moerlein
Bessie's Peahen, 2025
Bristol, Rhode Island

Bessie's Peahen was one of several temporary public artworks featured in the exhibit:
Big Beautiful Bamboo Birds at Blithewold Estate in Bristol, Rhode Island.
Image courtesy of The Myth Makers

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.



Matthew Duffy
Low-Poly Heart No. 4 (Red), 2018
Creve Coeur, Missouri

The sculpture is on loan to the City of Creve Coeur for two years as part of the region-wide *Sculpture on the Move* program. Photo courtesy of the City of Creve Coeur.

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.



Ken McCall
Sunflower and Butterfly Bench, 2025
Chateau Park, Meridian, Idaho

Inspired by gardens and the pollinators within them, this three-part artwork installation features an entrance sign and two sculptural benches. The artwork depicts pollinators and flowers that are native and adapted to Idaho.

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.



Sector Seventeen
A Place to Shine, 2023
Meridian Community Pool
Meridian, Idaho

This vibrant mural at the Meridian Pool was a collaboration between Sector Seventeen, West Ada Recreation District, and the Meridian Arts Commission. The imagery and color palette aim to capture the energy of a fun day at the pool and an emphasis on learning to swim.

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.



Amanda Lovelee
Love Letters Shanty, 2020
Minneapolis, MN

Visitors to *Love Letters Shanty* on Lake Harriet in Minneapolis in were invited to write a love letter describing the reasons they love their Regional Parks. For every five love letters written a tree was planted in partnership with Mississippi Park Connection. The 4600 love letters were used by the Metropolitan Council as a data set to inform policy for regional parks. Photo courtesy of the artist.

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.

Meridian Priority Art Opportunities

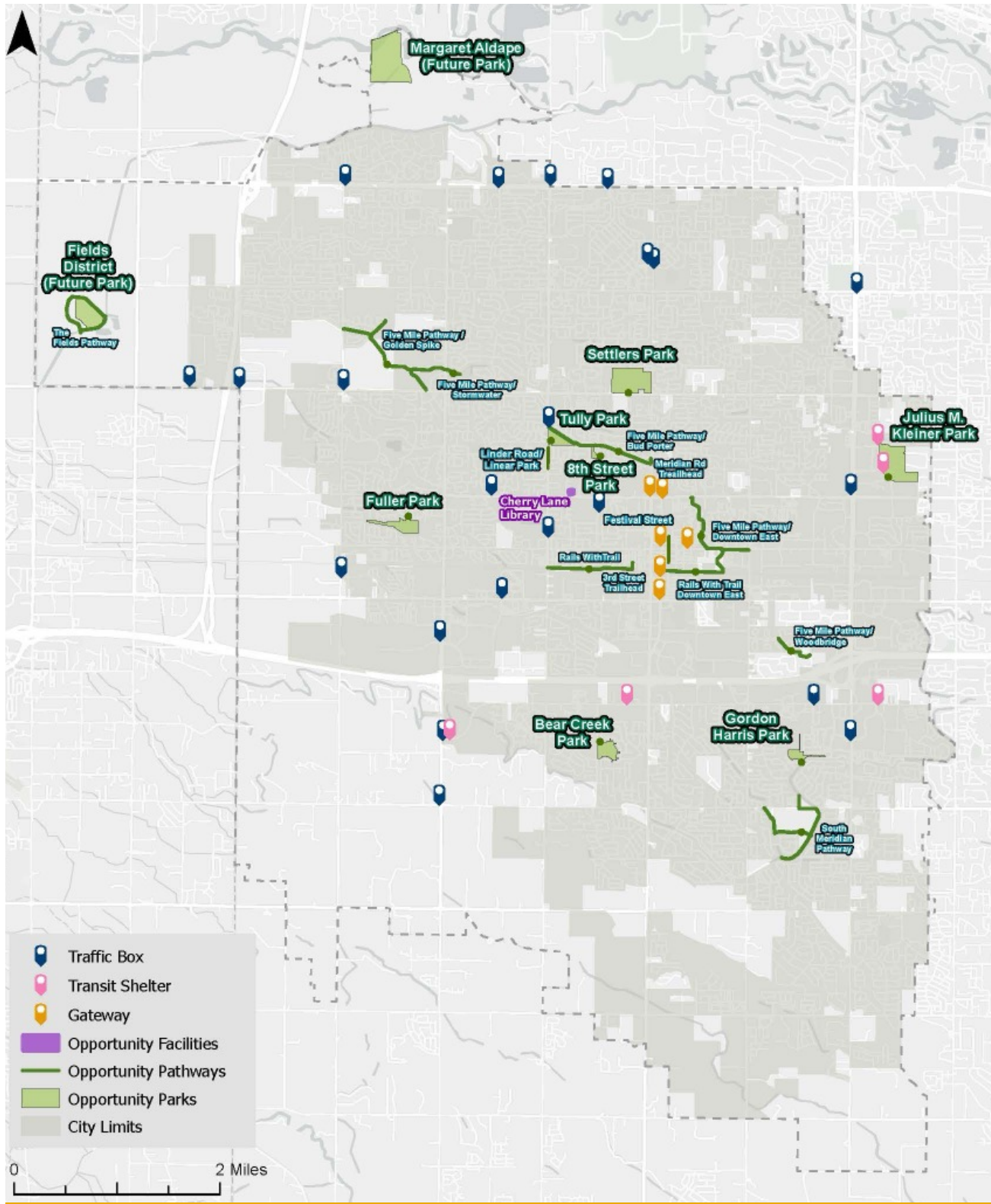


Figure 2: Priority Public Art Locations

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



Thomas Jay Warren, *Julius M. Kleiner Statue*, 2013

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.

JULIUS M. KLEINER PARK continued

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 2027. 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.

SETTLERS PARK continued

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.

8TH STREET PARK continued

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

Overview

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.

FIELDS DISTRICT PARK continued

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.

BEAR CREEK PARK continued

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

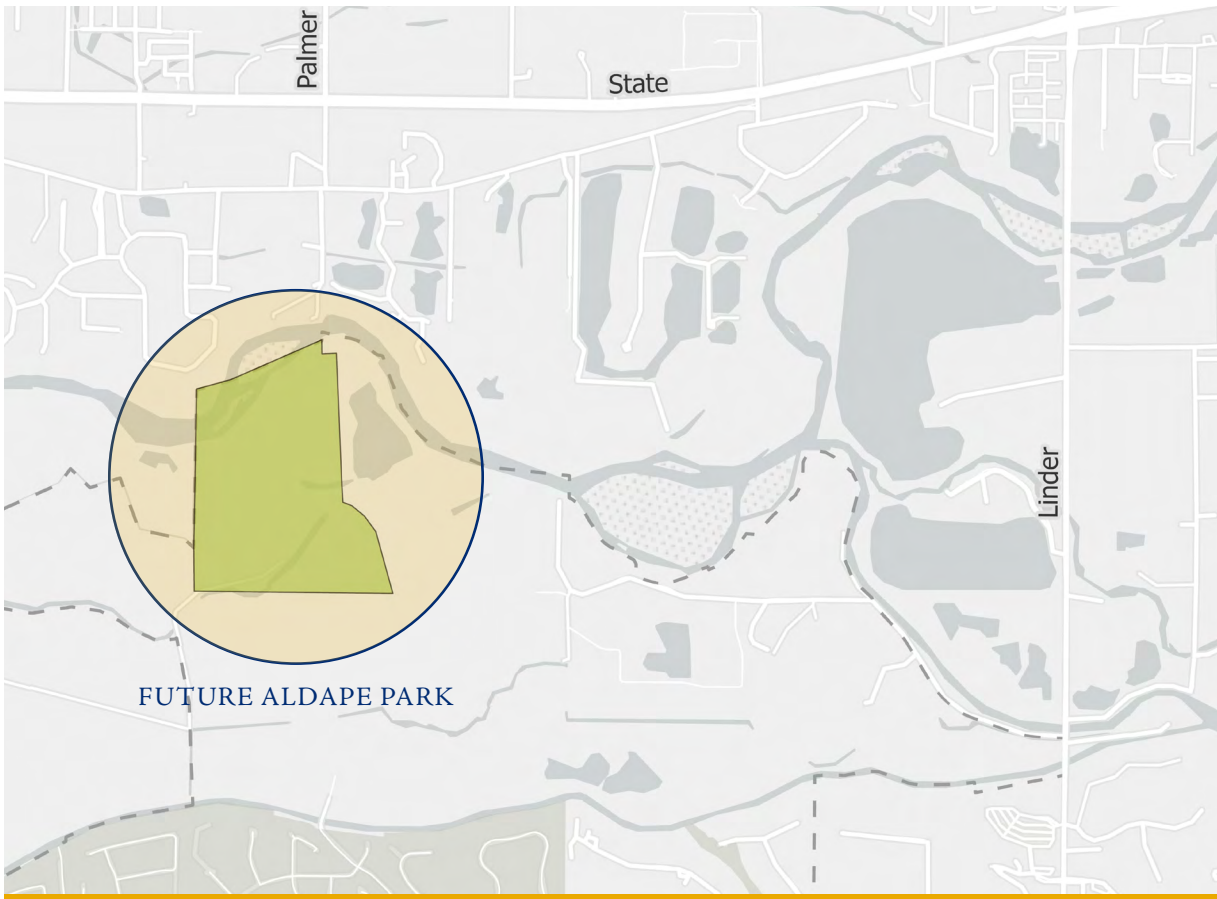
Technical considerations include durability, safety, ADA accessibility, sightline requirements near the roadway, and materials suitable for a high-use park environment adjacent to an active transportation corridor.

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.

GORDON HARRIS PARK continued

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.

TULLY PARK continued

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.

ARCHWAYS — DOWNTOWN GATEWAYS continued

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.

FESTIVAL STREET continued

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.

ROTATING DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART PROGRAM continued

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.

CHERRY LANE LIBRARY continued

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



Claire Remsberg, *Imagining Egger's Farmstead*, 2024
Chinden Road and Ten Mile Road

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.

TRAFFIC BOXES continued

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



Blake Coker, *Bloom Meridian*, 2024
 Ten Mile Crossing transit shelter
 Meridian, Idaho

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.



Design for *Safe Passage*, Stephanie Inman, anticipated 2027
 Linder Road Overpass medians
 Meridian, Idaho

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.

LINDER ROAD FROM PINE AVENUE TO USTICK ROAD *continued*

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 consid-

erations 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.

PATHWAYS & TRAILS continued

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)

PATHWAYS & TRAILS continued

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)

PATHWAYS & TRAILS continued

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 sight-lines 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

UrbanRock Design
The Hole Ball Game, 2023
Discovery Park
Photo credit: Visionkit

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?

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?

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?

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 B.

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 with input from City staff and project stakeholders. 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, based on the Project Plan. 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. The Arts & Culture Coordinator notifies finalists and non-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.

4.A Concept Proposal-Based Selection

In a Concept Proposal-based selection, finalists are paid a stipend to develop a Concept Proposal, including 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, the Arts & Culture Coordinator and other relevant City staff conduct a Technical Review of a draft 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.

4.B 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.

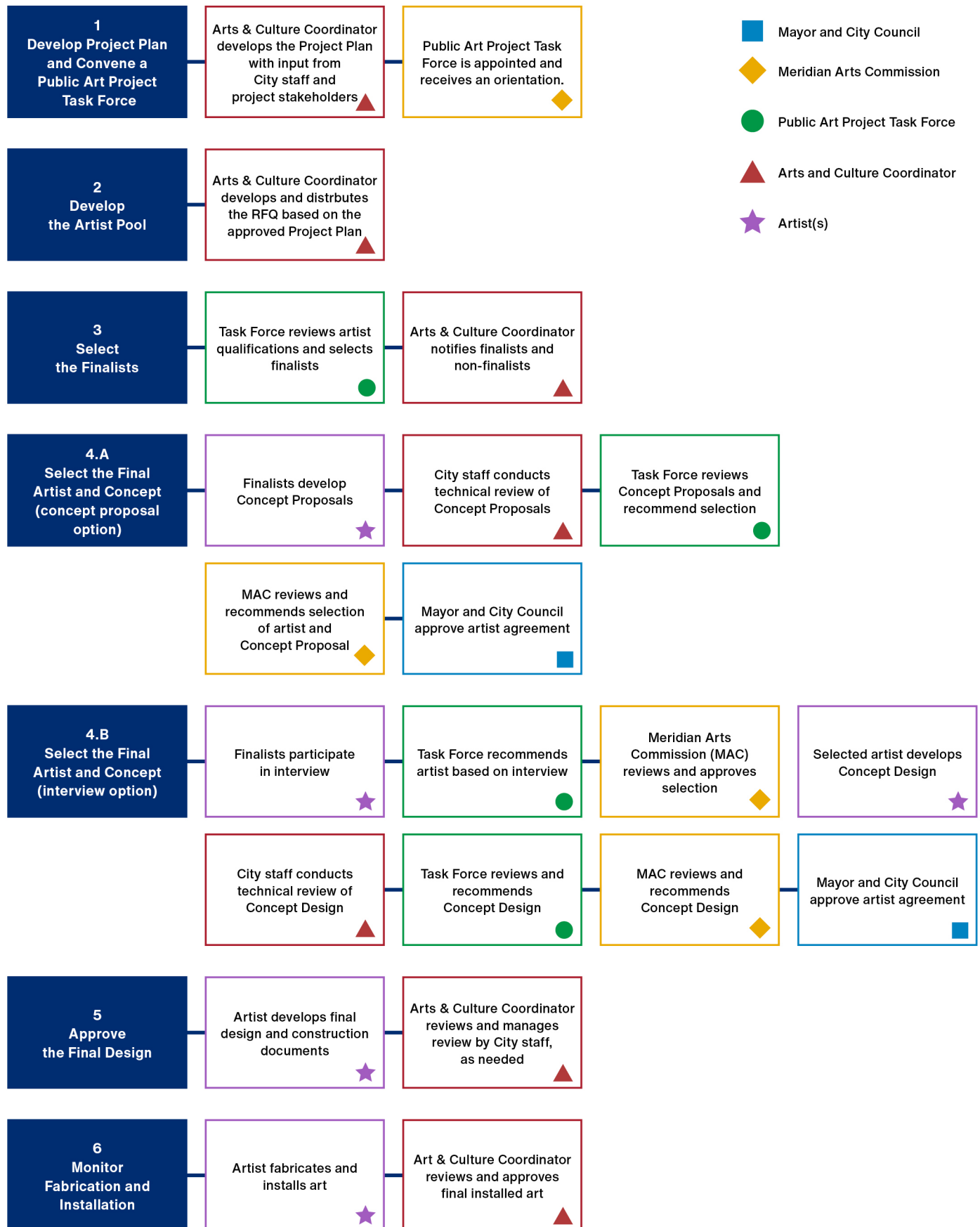
To develop the concept, the selected artist should conduct a site visit and meet stakeholders. Depending on the artist's practice and the nature of the project, the artist may conduct additional research, outreach, and community engagement at this time.

Prior to the artist presenting their proposal to the Panel, the Arts & Culture Coordinator and other City staff conduct a Technical Review of a draft, 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 Design 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



PROS AND CONS OF CONCEPT PROPOSAL VS. INTERVIEW BASED SELECTION

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.

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.

CONS

Favors artists that have a stronger portfolio of past projects.

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 Arts & Culture Coordinator manages review by other City staff, as needed. 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 and installation. 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.

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

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 C 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.



Claire Remsberg
Imagining Egger's Farmstead, Flying Farmer & the Cloud Wife, The Indigenous Clearing, 2024
Meridian City Hall

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.



C.J. Rench, *Under the Sun and Dreaming*, 2014
Meridian Road and Main Street

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.

Public Art Project Task Force

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.

MAPS Program Responsibilities continued

- 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.



J. Amber Conger, *Origin*, 2009
Meridian City Hall

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.

¹ City of Meridian Ordinance No. 15-1642

² City of Meridian Ordinance No. 15-1642

³ City of Meridian Ordinance no. 22-1994

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.

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.

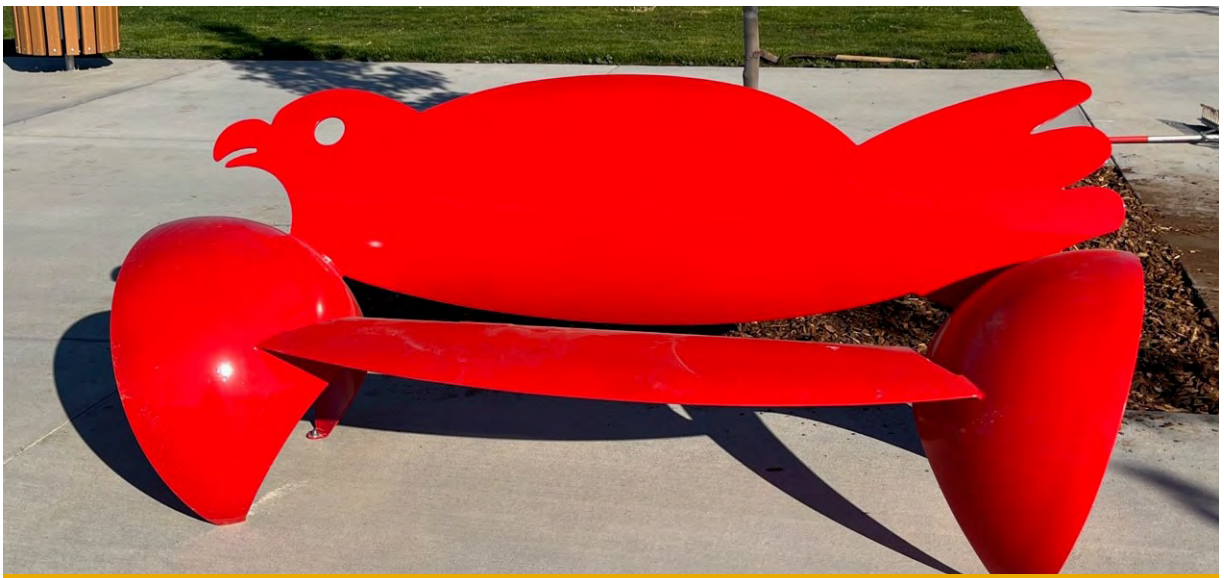
Collection Management

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.



Colin Selig, *Hawk Benches*, 2023
Discovery Park

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 B.

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.



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.



Sector Seventeen, *Far & Wide*, 2018
Zamzow's Feed Mill
Meridian, Idaho



APPENDICES

Daniel Borup
Out on the Town, 2016
Meridian City Hall Plaza

Appendix A

1-9-4. MERIDIAN ART IN PUBLIC SPACES PROGRAM.

A MAPS program established. There is hereby established the Meridian Art in Public Spaces (“MAPS”) program, under which the City Council shall annually dedicate funding to the establishment of art in public places within Meridian.

B Purpose of funds. The Meridian Arts Commission shall adopt, with City Council approval, a strategic plan for installation of art projects funded by MAPS program funds. MAPS funds shall be used to purchase visual, tangible artworks, for installation on public property within the Meridian City Limits, in accordance with the strategic plan.

C Funds appropriation. City Council shall, on an annual basis, appropriate for the MAPS program an amount 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. Nothing contained in this section shall preclude funding of art by grants, matching monies, donations, or other means.

D Carry forward. Any MAPS funds not spent during the current fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

E Expenditure of MAPS funds. The Meridian Arts Commission shall recommend, and City Council shall approve, expenditures of MAPS program funds by budget enhancement, in accordance with the strategic plan duly adopted by the Meridian Arts Commission as set forth in this section.

(Ord. 15-1642, 4-21-2015; Ord. No. 22-1994, § 1, 9-13-2022)

Appendix B

CITY OF MERIDIAN RESOLUTION NO. 20- 2186

BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

BERNT, BORTON, CAVENER,
HOAGLUN, PERRAULT, STRADER

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, ADOPTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION AND DEACQUISITION OF ARTWORK AS RECOMMENDED BY THE MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Meridian City Code section 2-2-2(A)(10) charges the Arts Commission with providing information advancement of publicly accessible arts in the City of Meridian; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2019, the Arts Commission unanimously voted to recommend that the Mayor and City Council adopt, for the benefit of arts programming in the City of Meridian, the Policies and Procedures for Acquisition and Deacquisition of Artwork, attached hereto as *Exhibit A*; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council find that it is in the best interest of the City of Meridian to adopt such recommended policies and procedures;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN CITY, IDAHO:

Section 1. That the Policies and Procedures for Acquisition and Deacquisition of Artwork attached hereto as *Exhibit A* are hereby accepted and adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Meridian.

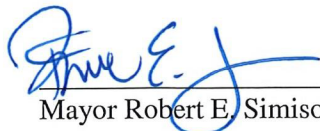
Section 2. That the Arts & Culture Coordinator is authorized to implement and carry out the policies and procedures set forth therein.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption and approval.

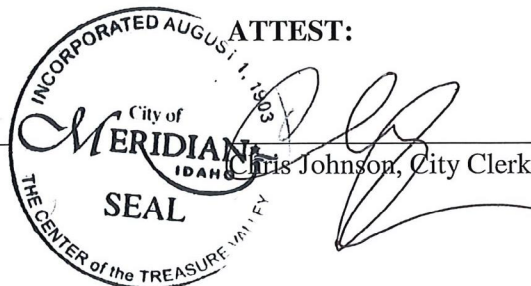
ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this 21st day of January, 2020.

APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this 21st day of January, 2020.

APPROVED:


Mayor Robert E. Simison

ATTEST:





SUBJECT: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION AND DEACQUISITION OF ARTWORK

PURPOSE: To establish policies and procedures related to acquisition (inclusion of new artwork on City asset inventory) and deacquisition (retirement of artwork from City asset inventory) of visual artwork by the City of Meridian.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

I. Definitions

As used in this document, these terms shall be defined as follows:

- A. **Acquisition:** Acceptance of a piece of artwork for inclusion in the City's asset inventory by any means, including by purchase, commission, gift, or delivery pursuant to written instrument.
- B. **Deacquisition:** To remove a piece of artwork from the City's asset inventory and transfer ownership of such artwork to another individual or entity.
- C. **Decommission:** To remove a piece of artwork from the City's asset inventory and destroy, dismantle, or discard such artwork.
- D. **Artwork:** A two- or three-dimensional, original or derivative artifact that an individual (or individuals) originates and creates (or causes or allows to be created) with the intent to: convey a message; inspire thought, emotion, or dialogue; highlight an aspect of nature, society, or humanity; and/or memorialize or honor a particular person, act, or event. Generally, the following items do not constitute artwork for purposes of this policy, though such items may be deemed artworks where otherwise appropriate: mass-produced items, seasonal decorations, furniture, flags, infrastructure, or design elements.

II. Statement of Policy and Purpose

These Policies and Procedures for Artwork Acquisition and Deacquisition shall apply to a decision by the City of Meridian to acquire, deacquisition, or decommission visual artwork. In addition to these Policies and Procedures for Artwork Acquisition and Deacquisition, all provisions of the City of Meridian Purchasing Policy shall apply. In the event that the terms of the Purchasing Policy conflict with the terms of these Policies and Procedures for Artwork Acquisition and Deacquisition, the terms of the Policies and Procedures for Artwork Acquisition and Deacquisition shall govern. In the event that the terms of the Purchasing Policy or the terms of the Policies and Procedures for Artwork Acquisition and Deacquisition

conflict with a written agreement between the City of Meridian and another party, the terms of the written agreement shall govern.

III. Policies and Procedures for Acquisition of Artwork

A. Collections Management

The Finance Department's asset inventory includes a continuously maintained inventory of all artworks owned by the City of Meridian, with estimated valuations of same, principally for insurance purposes. The Meridian Arts Commission ("MAC") is charged with identifying and recommending to the Finance Department which City assets are artworks. As requested by the Finance Department, MAC shall assist with proper documentation and cataloguing of artwork.

The City's Facilities Manager shall oversee the assessment, treatment, maintenance and relocation of artwork. Prior to treating, maintaining, relocating, cleaning, or repairing artwork, the Facilities Manager shall first consult the Meridian Arts Commission and, as may be necessary, any other art conservators or independent contractors who can assist in compliance with currently accepted standards of care and conservation. Efforts to notify artists are to be guided by the professional services agreement with the artist, or reasonable efforts may be made to contact the artist regarding repairs to their works.

B. Purchase of existing artwork

The purchase of existing artwork is governed by the City's Purchasing Policy. Best practices for the purchase of existing artwork, particularly existing original artwork, includes execution of a purchase agreement that establishes terms and conditions of the purchase including: purchase price; method of payment; whether framing, installation hardware, and/or installation is included in the purchase price; delivery date and what signifies delivery; allocation of risk of loss prior to and after delivery; owner of copyright; any reservation of right to reproduce the work; any obligation to identify artist as the creator of the work, either in the vicinity of the work or in subsequent reproduction or portrayal of the work; waiver and relinquishment of rights under the Copyright Act of 1976, the Visual Artists' Rights Act of 1990, and/or the rights of attribution and integrity per 17 USC § 106A; moral right and City's obligation to avoid misuse, discredit, violation of the spirit of the work, or other damage to the work or the artist's reputation; obligation to display and right to remove; and rights and obligations regarding alteration, restoration, and retransfer of the work.

C. Purchase of new artwork

One of the following selection methods, or any combination or iteration thereof, may be used to select artists or artist teams for eligible public art projects.

1. Request for Qualifications

This method generally applies when a certain type of artwork or certain qualifications and experience are required. A request for qualifications (“RFQ”) is issued, and the invitation to respond is open to all eligible artists. The RFQ should describe the purpose of the solicitation, selection criteria, selection process, timeline, whether the selection is limited to a single artist or team of artists, how many artists/teams may be selected, and other parameters and expectations. Required proposal materials may include written materials, portfolio samples, prior experiences, and references.

A selection panel is convened to review the submitted proposals and materials, and selects the specified number of artists/teams.

2. Call to Artists/Request for Proposals

A call to artists or request for proposals (“RFP”) is issued. Issuance of the call to artists or RFP may, but does not have to, be preceded by an RFQ. The invitation to respond is open either to all eligible artists, or, if preceded by an RFQ, the invitation to respond shall be open only to the artists selected as the result of that process. Generally, eligibility is specifically outlined in the call to artists, and may include defined limitations based on geographical criteria, prior experience, professional licensure, medium, etc. The call to artists should describe the purpose of the project, location, selection criteria, selection process, timeline, whether the selection is limited to a single artist or team of artists, and other processes, parameters, and expectations. Required proposal materials may include maquettes or other displays, digital renderings, drawings, written materials, budgetary information, contractor information, detailed plans, timelines, etc.

Public art, by definition, includes the solicitation of input from the public regarding its selection. To that end, public input on proposals received may be solicited from the public at large, one or more City-appointed citizen commissions, or a focus group convened by the selection panel, MAC, or the City. Any and all public input collected should be considered by the recommending and deciding bodies, but it is not necessary that the public input dictate the final decision.

A selection panel is convened to review the submitted proposals, materials, and public input. (The selection panel may select finalists prior to soliciting public input, as outlined in the call to artists; this may, but need not, occur via RFQ.) The selection panel may receive in-person presentations by the submitting artists.

Following its review, the panel prepares a recommendation to be presented to MAC. MAC is charged with considering the selection panel’s recommendation and forwarding a recommendation to City Council. City Council reviews the recommendation and determines whether to approve MAC’s recommendation, giving due consideration to the recommended proposal, public input received, and the recommendations of the selection panel, MAC, and, where applicable, individuals representing any other involved City department or commission.

The City Attorney's Office shall prepare a professional services agreement establishing the terms and conditions of fabrication and installation of the artwork. Following installation of the artwork, the City Attorney's Office shall prepare for City Council's approval and the Mayor's signature a resolution signifying final acceptance of the artwork. The Arts & Culture Coordinator shall notify the Finance Department of the acquisition and request that the artwork be added to the City inventory, and shall notify the Office of Risk Management and request that the artwork be added to the City's insurance policy.

3. Commissioning artwork

Design, fabrication, and installation of artwork is a professional service. As such, it is lawful to approach a particular artist directly to request that he or she provide these services for the City. MAC should provide input on any decision by the City to commission artwork.

Following installation of the artwork, the City Attorney's Office shall prepare for City Council's approval and the Mayor's signature a resolution signifying final acceptance of the artwork. The Arts & Culture Coordinator shall notify the Finance Department of the acquisition and request that the artwork be added to the City inventory, and shall notify the Office of Risk Management and request that the artwork be added to the City's insurance policy.

D. Gifts of artwork

A potential donor who wishes to donate artwork to the City of Meridian shall contact the Arts & Culture Coordinator to provide the following information: photographs and description of the proposed gift, including the artist's name, name of the artwork, provenance, size, medium/media, and proposed location of display, if any. The Arts & Culture Coordinator shall make a preliminary determination regarding whether the proposed gift is of appropriate theme, character, design, and condition for public display; whether it is comprised 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.

If, as a preliminary matter, the artwork does generally appear to meet this criteria, the City of Meridian Arts & Culture Coordinator shall work with the MAC president to schedule the matter for consideration by MAC. MAC shall review the information provided by the Arts & Culture Coordinator and prepare a recommendation regarding whether to approve the acquisition. MAC shall forward its recommendation to the Mayor, and may include a recommendation regarding a suitable location for the artwork.

Following a decision to accept the artwork, the City Attorney's Office shall prepare for City Council's approval and the Mayor's signature an acceptance agreement establishing

terms and conditions of the gift. Upon receipt of the gift, the Arts & Culture Coordinator shall notify the Finance Department of the acquisition and request that the artwork be added to the City inventory, and shall notify the Office of Risk Management and request that the artwork be added to the City's insurance policy.

IV. Deacquisitioning Artwork

The City may deacquisition artwork when conditions require or when such action would improve or refine the City's artwork or asset inventory. The City shall donate or sell any deacquisitioned artwork to another public or non-profit entity. Reasons for deacquisitioning may include, but are not limited to, situations where: the use of the site has changed; the artwork is no longer appropriate; the artwork cannot be reasonably protected or maintained; cost to maintain, preserve, or restore the artwork is excessive; the artwork was commissioned or accepted with the provision or understanding that it was to have a limited lifecycle or installation period; or MAC or the City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Meridian to deacquisition the artwork.

MAC shall hear and consider all proposals to deacquisition artwork. MAC shall forward its recommendation and reasoning regarding deacquisition, and a recommendation regarding the entity to which the artwork should be donated or sold, to City Council. City Council shall consider the recommendation and make the final decision regarding deacquisition. Following City Council's decision to deacquisition artwork, the City Attorney's Office shall prepare for City Council's approval and the Mayor's signature a resolution signifying same. Following execution of the resolution, the Arts & Culture Coordinator shall effectuate the donation or sale of the artwork; notify the Finance Department of the deacquisition and request that the artwork be deleted from the City asset inventory; and notify the Office of Risk Management to request that the artwork be removed from the City's insurance policy.

V. Decommissioning Artwork

The City may decommission artwork where appropriate, including where the artwork has been damaged beyond reasonable repair; the artwork has fulfilled its purpose or reached the end of its anticipated lifespan; or, in response to an application to decommission artwork, City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Meridian to decommission the artwork.

Where time and conditions permit, MAC shall hear and consider all proposals to decommission artwork. MAC shall forward its recommendation and reasoning regarding decommission to City Council. City Council shall consider the recommendation and make the final decision regarding decommission. Following City Council's decision to decommission artwork, the City Attorney's Office shall prepare for City Council's approval and the Mayor's signature a resolution signifying same. Following execution of the resolution, the Arts & Culture Coordinator shall effectuate the disposal of the artwork; notify the Finance Department of the decommission and request that the artwork be deleted from the City asset inventory; and notify the Office of Risk Management to request that the artwork be removed from the City's insurance policy.

Any person may request to decommission a piece of artwork by submitting a written request to the Meridian City Clerk within one hundred eighty (180) days of City's acceptance of the artwork. Such request must describe the reason(s) for the request. Anonymous requests will not be considered. Requests received more than one hundred eighty (180) days after City's acceptance of the artwork shall not be considered. Upon receipt of a timely written request, the City Clerk shall forward the request to the chair of MAC for consideration at the next regularly scheduled MAC meeting. MAC shall accept written and verbal public testimony, and may consult the artist or other experts regarding the request. Following deliberations, MAC shall recommend that the request be granted or denied. MAC's decision may be appealed to City Council by any person. Such appeal shall be in writing and must be submitted to the Meridian City Clerk within fourteen (14) days of MAC's decision. Upon receipt of a timely written appeal, the City Clerk shall schedule the appeal for consideration at the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting. City Council shall accept written and verbal public testimony, and shall consider MAC's recommendation and reasoning. City Council's decision on the request shall be a final decision.

VI. Moving Artwork to a Different Location

The City may move artwork to different location or City facility at the discretion of the Mayor, with MAC's input and City Council's consent, pursuant to the Mayor's authority under Idaho Code section 50-603. It may be appropriate to relocate site-specific artwork where: the condition or security of the artwork can no longer be reasonably assured at its current site; the artwork has become a danger to public safety in its current site; or the site has changed so that the artwork is no longer compatible as placed.

Appendix C

CITY OF MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION (MAC): AI USE STATEMENT

The Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) recognizes that technology is an evolving part of the creative process. However, per our mission to “nurture all facets of the arts,” we will prioritize the development of human talent. The following guidelines ensure that the City of Meridian’s art programs and public art collection remain a reflection of human experience and craftsmanship.

Human Authorship Prioritized

While artists may incorporate aspects of AI tools, works that are 100% AI-generated (text-to-image) are generally ineligible for permanent commission or gallery display, unless the project is specifically interrogative of AI — meaning the art is about the technology itself, rather than just using it for creative efficiency.

Full and honest disclosure is mandatory for all submitted works.

Failure to disclose the use of AI tools, or providing inaccurate disclosure, will result in immediate disqualification and potential refusal of future submissions.

Mandatory Disclosure Statement

Artists must disclose if generative AI was used at any stage of the design process regardless of the percentage of the final output the AI represents (e.g., creating 3D mockups or composite designs for a project). The artist must provide a formal AI Disclosure Statement during the submission process, including:

- **Tool(s) Used:** The specific name and version of the generative AI model(s) (e.g., Midjourney v6, DALL-E 3, Stable Diffusion XL, custom model).
- **Prompt(s) (if applicable):** A copy of the primary text prompt(s) used to generate the core output.
- **Human Contribution:** A clear description of the creative input provided by the artist beyond the prompt (e.g., post-processing, hand-painting, physical printing process, specific arrangement of elements).

Intellectual Property and Copyright

Current U.S. Copyright Office rulings suggest that works created largely by AI without “significant human authorship” cannot be copyrighted. With that in mind, artists shall:

- Ensure that content generated does not infringe on copyright or plagiarize from other sources.
- Attribute and properly cite sources where necessary.
- Perform due diligence to ensure that no copyrighted material is incorporated into artwork displayed at Initial Point Gallery without first obtaining proper usage rights.
- **Indemnification:** The Artist agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Meridian and its employees, and agents against any and all liability, damages, losses, and claims (including legal fees) arising from any actual or alleged infringement of copyright or other intellectual property rights related to the submitted work.

Labeling

Works containing generative AI elements must be labeled as “AI-Assisted” or “Hybrid Media” on the gallery tag, public art signage, or any other signage that lists the artwork medium.

Verification

The MAC reserves the right to request project files or process documentation if the origin of a work is in question

The City of Meridian and the Meridian Arts Commission reserves the right to amend this AI Use Statement at any time as copyright law, technology, and industry standards evolve. Artists are responsible for reviewing the most current version of the policy prior to submission.



Strategic Plan for the Arts

City of Meridian, Idaho

FY 2020-2025

The development of this plan was supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, as administered by the Idaho Commission on the Arts. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of the National Endowment of the Arts or the Idaho Commission on the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.



Adopted: 12 September 2019

The Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) was established by the City of Meridian in 2006 with a mission to develop, advance and nurture all facets of the arts to enhance the quality of life for Meridian residents and visitors. Core to this mission is the belief that opportunities to experience and participate in the visual, performing and public arts can strengthen cities, increase livability, and contribute to a sense of community. The volunteers appointed by the Mayor to serve on MAC work to further this mission and realize these eight goals:

Goal I: Create opportunities for all Meridian residents and visitors to experience public art.

Goal II: The youth of Meridian will have opportunities to perform, create, and experience the arts.

Goal III: Meridian's residents and visitors will have an opportunity to experience performing arts.

Goal IV: Meridian residents will grow their appreciation for and participation in the arts.

Goal V: Meridian residents and visitors will have the opportunity to experience the visual arts.

Goal VI: Local artists will have opportunities to grow their skills and showcase their work.

Goal VII: Support experiences in the arts for everyone, regardless of age, race, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other protected class.

Goal VIII: Build the human and financial resources needed to fulfill the vision of the City of Meridian and Meridian Arts Commission with regard to the arts.

This document is intended to guide the Meridian Arts Commission in its efforts to pursue these goals over the next five years (2020-2025) by providing prioritized and implementable objectives, strategies, and actions.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As the Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) begins this five-year period, it recognizes that there are challenges that must be addressed, but that within each challenge is the opportunity to cultivate the arts as a vital part of the community:

- **Community engagement and participation:** Meridian is experiencing rapid population growth, and our expanding metropolitan area is attracting new activities that compete for the attention of individuals and families. MAC must work to make meaningful connections with Meridian’s residents, new and established, and to educate the public on the importance of art and the opportunities available to experience visual, performing, and public art in Meridian. Establishing partnerships with schools and universities creates opportunities to reach the next generation of audience members, provide programs for youth during non-school times, and use alternative venues for performances and traveling exhibitions. Public artworks integrated into parks, gateways, and special districts can help define unique places that attract a broader community.
- **Artist involvement:** Meaningful arts experiences cannot be offered without the creativity and involvement of quality artists. Unless a community of educated and talented local artists can be nurtured and grown, MAC will continue to struggle to attract quality artists to exhibit, educate and perform. Professional artists also can help MAC improve and promote its programs by assisting with marketing, outreach, and access.
- **Funding:** As the ambitions and programs of MAC grow, funding must be secured to provide arts experiences to larger and more diverse audiences. Partnerships with other arts organizations, state and federal arts agencies, businesses, the Meridian Arts Foundation, and City leaders offer an opportunity to jointly identify resources and use available funding to efficiently to reach more community members.
- **Venues for the arts:** Arts experiences can be provided in businesses, schools, parks, City buildings or even on the streets, but having dedicated venues for the arts diversifies the types and quality of the arts that can be presented. Meridian’s location, central to the Treasure Valley urban area, offers an opportunity to become a new regional focal point for the arts.
- **Knowledge and availability of implementers:** None of the exhibits, performances, or public art projects that MAC provides the community can be done without the support of knowledgeable and committed MAC members, City leadership, staff and volunteers. When a MAC member resigns, City leadership changes, or volunteers move on to other

efforts, it can be challenging to keep the momentum necessary to provide programs. Increased volunteer participation with more help from contracted and staff administrators will be needed to grow MAC's programs.

SUCSESSES

MAC has a legacy of bringing together dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to see that those who come to Meridian to live, work, and play can take part in the arts. Thanks to these wonderful volunteers, staff, and partners:

- Unique traffic boxes decorate street corners
- Art Week brings music, children's theater, chalk artworks and more to downtown
- Public artworks help define and celebrate City parks and other spaces
- Concerts gather community members on Broadway
- Partnerships bring artworks to private properties

LOOKING AHEAD

Building upon these successes, MAC envisions Meridian as a vibrant arts community that integrates the arts experience into everyday life and enhances the spirit of our great city. Beyond the five-year scope of this plan, future MAC programs might include:

- Expanded youth arts opportunities
- Targeted arts programs that reach:
 - Military veterans and their families
 - Facility- and home-bound residents
- Implementation of a scholarship or free ticket program
- Mobile arts exhibits that can reach every corner of Meridian
- Artist-in-Residence programs that enhance artist abilities and integrate arts into the community fabric
- A central clearinghouse of Meridian arts information, opportunities, and local artists

I. PUBLIC ARTS

Goal: Create opportunities for all Meridian residents and visitors to experience public art.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Item	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Encourage the integration of public art as a component of community development.	1. Partner with Meridian Development Corporation (MDC) to create public art in the redevelopment area.	a. MAC members attend MDC meetings quarterly to identify opportunities.	Near-term	5.4.1.B
		b. Coordinate selection of public art pieces when requested.	Long-term	
		c. Request funding from MDC for public art projects.	Near-term	
	2. Incorporate public arts as part of the Meridian parks system.	a. Involve the Meridian Parks and Recreation Dept. in upcoming public art plan development.	Near-term	5.4.1.B 5.1.1.B
		b. Meet with Parks and Rec. staff regularly (at least annually) to assess opportunities and identify future locations for public artworks.	Long-term	
		c. Establish art selection process for public artworks in City parks (i.e., roster vs. RFP).	Mid-term	
		d. Participate in Parks and Rec. Plan process.	Long-term	
		e. Inventory parks and trailheads to identify thematically relevant opportunities for artworks.	Long-term	
	3. Encourage the placement of public artworks within private development.	a. Create a Developer's Guide to public art	Near-term	5.4.1.B 5.1.2.C
		b. Work with Planning and Zoning to involve MAC in artwork selection and placement.	Mid-term	

			c. Engage private developers one-on-one.	Long-term	
			d. Engage regional Homeowners' Associations.	Long-term	
			a. Identify possible locations and opportunities for regional identity public art projects.	Near-term	5.4.1.C 5.1.2.B
			b. Partner with Meridian Planning Dept. to determine upcoming City projects and public art opportunities.	Near-term	
B. Strategically and transparently use funds available through the Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) ordinance.	4. Use public art to create and define regional identity, community gateways, and unique places.		c. Review ACHD planning documents and partner with ACHD to install public artworks in conjunction with upcoming road projects.	Mid-term	
			a. Contract with arts professional to facilitate public art planning process.	Near-term	5.4.1
			b. Engage community in public art location and theme planning.	Mid-term	
			c. Gain City Council approval of public art policies and priorities.	Long-term	
			a. Install traffic box wraps annually.	Near-term	5.4.1.A
			b. Coordinate the selection and placement of public artworks in public parks.	Near-term	
			c. Install public artwork in downtown Meridian.	Mid-term	
			a. Ensure that project signage includes recognition of MAPS funding source.	Near-term	5.4.2.A
			b. Include MAPS funding source in project press releases and promotions.	Mid-term	
C. Promote and monitor Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) ordinance.	1. Identify MAPS as the project funding source.	2. Install visual artworks in public places in Meridian.			

	2. Advocate for and educate elected leaders and community groups about benefits of Percent-for-Arts programs and MAPS.	a. Identify specific benefits of MAPS and other like programs.	Near-term	5.4.2.A
		b. Create presentation format for civic organizations, City officials, and public.	Mid-term	

II. ARTS EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

Goal: The youth of Meridian will perform, create, and experience the arts.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Develop and offer extracurricular arts opportunities to youth.	1. Participate in Meridian Symphony Orchestra young artist award program.	a. Help to identify and recruit appropriate judges.	Near-term	5.5.1.D
		b. Attend concerts and rehearsals.	Long-term	
		c. Maintain sponsorship program.	Mid-term	
	2. Participate in West Ada School District Art Show.	a. Identify and provide program judges.	Near-term	5.5.1.A
		b. Maintain sponsorship funding.	Mid-term	
		c. Host exhibit at Initial Point Gallery.	Near-term	
		d. Promote show, winners, and pieces selected for traffic boxes.	Long-term	
		e. Engage past winners in promotion of show and contest.	Mid-term	
	3. Support local youth theater providers.	a. Invite Treasure Valley Children's Theater and other youth arts providers to participate in MAC events.	Near-term	5.5.1.D
		b. Connect youth theater providers with the resources or venues they need.	Mid-term	
		c. Promote youth theater opportunities through MAC outlets.	Near-term	
		d. Maintain sponsorship funding.	Mid-term	

III. PERFORMING ARTS

Goal: Meridian's residents and visitors will have an opportunity to experience performing arts.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Item	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Present a variety of performing arts shows locally.	1. Produce free concerts at City Hall amphitheater.	a. Contract with production company to produce series.	Near-term	5.5.1.C
		b. Place concerts on community calendars and social media outlets.	Mid-term	
		c. Provide emcee for each concert.	Near-term	
		d. Review and approve performers as recommended by production company.	Near-term	
		e. Provide MAC and City staff representatives at concerts.	Mid-term	
	2. Develop additional performing arts opportunities to offer to the public for free.	f. Contact and work with Parks and Rec to coordinate performance opportunities in parks and plazas.	Near-term	
		g. Work with local organizations and offer them public platforms or sponsorships to present their work.	Near-term	
		h. Incorporate performances into existing events.	Near-term	
B. Sponsor performing arts in partnership with community and cultural organizations.	1. Promote and endorse area performing arts opportunities.	a. Promote events in Meridian presented by other groups on community calendars, social media outlets, publications, and playbills. b. Engage with local arts groups to encourage cross-promotion.	Near-term Mid-term	5.5.1.D 5.3.2.J
C. Advocate for the development of performing arts venues.	1. Be a resource to Meridian Planning Dept. and developers.	a. Work with performing arts partners to gather information about audience size, production needs, and frequency of use.	Mid-term	5.5.1.E 5.3.2.E 5.4.1.E
		b. Appoint MAC member as liaison to Meridian Planning Dept.	Near-term	
		c. Meet regularly with Meridian Planning Dept. staff to identify opportunities.	Mid-term	

IV. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Goal: Meridian residents will grow their appreciation and participation in the arts.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Item	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Cultivate base of arts support and patrons in the community.	1. Develop a cohesive message about MAC and value of the arts to Meridian.	a. With consultant help, define a branding, messaging, and marketing plan.	Near-term	5.4.2
		b. Create marketing materials, such as functional, reusable and/or recyclable gifts, to provide to new residents and to hand out at events	Long-term	
		c. Update MAC's web and social media presence.	Mid-term	
		d. Regularly evaluate effectiveness of marketing approaches.	Long-term	
	2. Promote MAC programs and public artworks to the community.	a. Make presentations to civic organizations regularly.	Mid-term	5.4.2
		b. Designate a MAC representative to attend concerts and events.	Near-term	
		c. Use existing MAC programs such as Art Week to provide arts information by having a booth and using an emcee for announcements.	Near-term	
		d. Maintain good relationship with local media by welcoming and inviting them to meetings and programs.	Mid-term	
		e. Work with City Communications manager to issue press releases about MAC activities and update online information outlets.	Near-term	
		f. Create a for-credit social media internship opportunity to gain	Long-term	

B. Pursue public input into MAC's programs and goals.			assistance in promoting MAC activities via social media.		
			g. Partner with other organizations to cross-promote arts events and opportunities.	Near-term	
			h. Encourage digital engagement with public artworks.	Long-term	
	1. Provide opportunity for attendees and public to give input at MAC programs.		a. Provide an easy and quick evaluation tool at appropriate events to gather audience feedback.	Near-term	5.4.1.E
			b. Set up MAC info booth at appropriate events with a tool to gather public input.	Mid-term	
	2. Provide remote opportunities for the community to give input into MAC programs.		a. Work with City Information Technology Dept. to create online public input opportunity.	Near-term	5.4.1.E
			b. Promote link to online public input opportunities at MAC events and programs.	Near-term	
	3. Welcome and invite members of the public to participate in MAC meetings and programs.		a. Invite community members to participate in the selection of public artworks.	Mid-term	5.4.1.E
			b. Promote MAC meeting schedule to public.	Long-term	
			c. Invite community members to speak or present to MAC.	Long-term	

V. VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITIONS

Goal: Meridian residents and visitors will have the opportunity to experience the visual arts.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Item	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Present visual arts exhibits for the community to enjoy.	1. Provide exhibits in the Initial Point Gallery at City Hall.	a. Coordinate rotating exhibits in the gallery annually.	Near-term	5.4.1.A
		b. Issue call to artists, vet applying artists, and work with selected artists before, during, and at the end of each exhibit.	Near-term	
		c. Establish volunteer group to assist with exhibit installation and removal responsibilities.	Mid-term	
B. Encourage presentation of visual arts by partnering with organizations and business.	2. Provide opportunities for the presentation of temporary artworks.	a. Develop guidelines and policies for temporary artworks.	Mid-term	5.4.1.A 5.4.1.D
		b. Identify potential spaces and venues for temporary artworks.	Long-term	
		c. Engage in partnerships with artists and arts groups to provide temporary artworks.	Long-term	
	1. Foster and encourage the presentation of impromptu artworks.	a. Gather examples of impromptu artworks from other communities to share.	Mid-term	5.4.1.D
		b. Create incentive for presentation of impromptu works during Art Week.	Long-term	
	2. Provide encouragement and advice to businesses to exhibit artworks.	a. Outline benefits to businesses that install art exhibits.	Long-term	5.5.1.E
		b. Offer and provide guidance to businesses on best practices and techniques for exhibits.	Long-term	
C. Encourage accessibility and		a. Install signage in City Hall Plaza and/or along Main Street.	Near-term	

awareness for Initial Point Gallery	1. Develop mechanisms to increase public awareness of the gallery. 2. Strengthen marketing efforts to promote the gallery.	b. Consider internal signage options that would increase public awareness of the gallery.	Mid-term	
		a. Work closely with Communications Manager to increase publicity for gallery.	Mid-term	
		b. Consider increasing funding devoted to gallery promotions via radio, print, or social media.	Mid-term	

VI. SUPPORTING LOCAL ARTISTS

Goal: Provide local artists opportunities to grow their skills and showcase their work.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Item	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Visual artists will be provided exhibition opportunities.	1. Coordinate rotating exhibits in the Initial Point Gallery.	a. Assist artists with exhibit installation and removal.	Near-term	5.4.1.A
		b. Provide display space for artists' information.	Near-term	
		c. Promote the artist at the opening-night event and through other MAC marketing efforts.	Near-term	
B. Provide professional development trainings and opportunities for artists.	1. Incorporate professional development opportunities for artists into the Art Week program.	a. Reach out to local artists to identify types of programs they need.	Near-term	5.4.1.E
		b. Partner with organizations, such as the Idaho Commission on the Arts, Meridian Library District, and the Small Business Development Center and others, to facilitate, host, and lead the workshops.	Near-term	
		c. Identify local venues that may benefit from hosting a workshop for artists.	Mid-term	
C. Recognize and celebrate outstanding local artists.	1. Present Mayor Tammy deWeerd Award in the Arts.	a. Assist with nomination and selection process.	Near-term	5.4.1.D
		b. Promote selected artists via MAC media outlets and at MAC programs.	Mid-term	

VII. ARTS ACCESS

Goal: Support experiences in the arts for everyone, regardless of age, race, ability or other protected class.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Item	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Broaden experiences and showcase all facets of arts from diverse cultural backgrounds.	1. Develop partnerships with local and regional cultural arts organizations and artists.	a. Identify local and regional cultural organizations.	Near-term	5.4.1.D 5.5.1.C 5.3.2.J
		b. MAC representatives meet with cultural organizations to discuss partnership opportunities.	Mid-term	
B. Ensure that arts programs, projects, and exhibits are accessible to differently abled persons.	2. Incorporate cultural arts into existing MAC programs.	a. Consider cultural representation when selecting artists for MAC performances and exhibits.	Near-term	5.4.1.D 5.5.1.C
	1. Make exhibitions at Initial Point Gallery as accessible to all as possible.	a. Conduct an audit of the Initial Point Gallery exhibit practices to identify any needed accessibility improvements (e.g., Braille title cards).	Near-term	5.5.1
	2. Encourage access in calls to artists.	b. Revise calls to artists to invite proposals from artists on how their work is or can be made accessible.	Mid-term	
	1. Continue to provide free arts experiences.	a. Clearly promote free arts exhibits, public artworks, and performances as being no-cost or free.	Near-term	5.5.1
C. Ensure arts opportunities can be enjoyed regardless of economic status.	2. Explore establishment of an arts participation scholarship or free ticket program.	a. Research how other arts commissions provide scholarships or free ticket programs.	Long-term	

VIII. SUSTAINABILITY

Goal: Build the human and financial resources needed to fulfill the vision of the City of Meridian and Meridian Arts Commission.				
Objective	Strategy	Action Item	Priority	Comp Plan Goal
A. Secure the professional expertise needed to provide quality programs and operate efficiently.	1. Partner with City departments to fully use existing City staff resources.	a. Meet with City Dept. staff to identify opportunities for collaboration and assistance.	Near-term	5.4
		b. Use existing City staff expertise as appropriate.	Near-term	5.5
	2. Explore increasing dedicated City staff for arts administration support.	a. Identify needed arts administration duties.	Mid-term	
		b. Work with Finance to prepare cost-benefit analysis of more City staff support vs. contractors vs. volunteers to accomplish maximum public benefit.	Long-term	
		c. Present gathered information to City Council and management.	Long-term	
	3. Contract with consultants or other professionals to accomplish specific tasks.	a. Annually identify the need and scope of work for consultants or contract professional assistance.	Near-term	
		b. Include professional services in MAC budget.	Mid-term	
	4. Identify and promote for-credit internship opportunities.	a. Develop description(s) of internship opportunities based on MAC needs.	Near-term	
		b. Identify schools and/or universities that would be willing partners.	Mid-term	
		c. Open position for intern(s).	Long-term	
B. Create and support a core volunteer group to assist with MAC	1. Identify MAC's volunteer needs.	d. Document and evaluate intern roles and projects.	Long-term	
		a. Create volunteer job descriptions.	Near-term	5.5.1
		b. Differentiate between short-term and ongoing/standing volunteer positions.	Near-term	

programs and operations.	2. Develop a volunteer recruitment strategy.	a. Research best practices for volunteer recruitment. b. Identify likely volunteers by matching MAC needs with the expertise and availability of groups and individuals.	Mid-term	
			Long-term	
			Near-term	
			Long-term	
C. Increase the skills and expertise of the Meridian Arts Commission and its committees.	3. Recognize volunteers in a meaningful way.	a. Research examples and develop a list of recognition strategies that can be used.	Near-term	5.4 5.5
		b. Get to know each volunteer and tailor recognition to interests.	Long-term	
		a. Provide a formal and comprehensive orientation for new MAC members.	Near-term	
		b. Align meeting agendas with Strategic Plan goals/objectives.	Near-term	
	1. Maintain a well-rounded Meridian Arts Commission that is focused and goal-oriented.	c. Continue to work in committees to streamline programs and operations.	Near-term	
		d. When MAC member openings occur, identify skills needed and recruit members accordingly.	Mid-term	
		a. Identify needed skills.	Near-term	
		b. Partner with organizations such as the Idaho Commission on the Arts to provide board training.	Mid-term	
D. Seek and obtain the financial resources needed to fulfill MAC's goals.	2. Provide skills development training opportunities to MAC members.	a. Research and document grant opportunities.	Near-term	5.4 5.5
		b. Apply for grants as they fit program needs.	Mid-term	
		c. Obtain professional grant writing or administration services as needed.	Long-term	
		d. Seek partnerships with other organizations to pursue grant opportunities.	Mid-term	
	1. Pursue grant funding from public agencies and private foundations.	a. Research and document grant opportunities.	Near-term	
		b. Apply for grants as they fit program needs.	Mid-term	
		c. Obtain professional grant writing or administration services as needed.	Long-term	
		d. Seek partnerships with other organizations to pursue grant opportunities.	Mid-term	
	2. Identify and secure individual contributions	a. Obtain or attend fundraising training for MAC members.	Mid-term	

	and business sponsorships.	b. Annually identify MAC program/project needs for private donations, sponsorships, and in-kind contributions.	Mid-term	
		c. Match MAC programs and projects with the interests of individuals and businesses.	Mid-term	
		d. Offer businesses meaningful marketing exposure in recognition of sponsorships.	Near-term	
		a. Establish levels of giving and corresponding recognition strategies.	Near-term	
	3. Formalize and execute a donor recognition program.	b. Invite donors to sponsored events.	Mid-term	
		c. Publicly acknowledge granting agencies, donors, and sponsors at MAC events.	Near-term	
		d. Promptly thank donors and sponsors.	Near-term	

Arts and Culture

Introduction

The Arts/Culture element reinforces the City's vision for a vibrant arts and entertainment scene that integrates the arts experience into everyday life and enhances the spirit of the City.

Background

As part of its commitment to raising awareness of existing opportunities and providing new offerings to experience art, the Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) provides the community with visual, performing, and musical arts opportunities throughout the year. MAC ensures continued access to a variety of offerings for all residents, regardless of age, race, or ability.

.....
Below: Sculptures on Broadway Ave, adjacent to City Hall



In addition to supporting the arts, the City will continue to encourage community events and annual programs that are vital to the community's well-being. Maintaining a variety of social opportunities is essential in promoting community for all residents; the City supports the exploration of other opportunities to support new facilities for community enrichment, education, and outreach.

Through Meridian's Art in Public Spaces Ordinance and community partnerships, major public art pieces have been installed throughout Meridian—in Downtown, in several parks, and in city buildings. The visual arts, performing arts, community events, and Meridian's heritage are integral components of the community's identity. The sense of community is evident in many celebrations and events, neighborhoods, and public institutions.

For additional information, refer to the following resources:

- » [Existing Conditions Report; Addendum to the City of Meridian Comprehensive Plan](#)
- » [Citywide Strategic Plan](#)
- » [Meridian Arts Commission Strategic Plan](#)

TABLE LEGEND

Goal	Objective	Action
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Policy Direction

Table 5.3. Arts and Culture Goals, Objectives and Action Items				
		Priority	Lead	Support
5.03.00	Create opportunities for all Meridian residents and visitors to experience public art.		PR	CD, AO MO, IT
5.03.01	Support art throughout the community.		PR	CD, AO, MO, IT
5.03.01A	Exhibit both permanent and rotating works of art in City Hall and other public places.	On-going	PR	AO, MO
5.03.01B	Encourage the integration of public art as an integrated component with new development.	On-going	PR	CD
5.03.01C	Consider a central Art and Cultural District to showcase a wide variety of cultural offerings.	Low	PR	MO
5.03.01D	Provide local artists with opportunities to showcase their work.	On-going	PR	MO, IT
5.03.01E	Determine and respond to the community's art and cultural facility needs.	On-going	PR	MO
5.03.02	Raise awareness and promote existing arts offerings and artwork within the community.		PR	AO, MO
5.03.02A	Utilize the Meridian Art in Public Spaces program to raise awareness and appreciation of the arts.	On-going	PR	MO
5.03.02B	Partner with the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to create and install artwork on traffic boxes, within roundabouts, and as part of other roadway improvement projects as appropriate.	On-going	PR	AO, MO
5.04.00	Support hands-on experiences in the arts.		PR, MO	MO, PR
5.04.01	Provide a diversity of education and art experiences for all residents.		PR, MO	MO, PR
5.04.01A	Develop and offer youth art opportunities in partnership with the School District and afterschool programs.	On-going	PR	MO
5.04.01B	Strengthen partnerships with community organizations, schools, and institutions to support and encourage arts programs and education for adults and seniors.	On-going	PR	MO
5.04.01C	Sponsor a variety of musical and performing arts in partnership with community organizations.	On-going	MO	PR
5.04.01D	Identify opportunities to partner with existing organizations and businesses to make their facilities available for civic and cultural purposes.	On-going	PR	MO
5.04.01E	Engage with and support the full diversity of the community in the planning for arts and culture facilities, programs, and events.	On-going	PR	MO
Priorities: Very High = Currently/Immediately; High = 1 to 3 years; Medium = 3 to 5 years; Low = 5 to 10 years; and On-going = regularly or at every opportunity. Departments: All = All City Departments, AO = Attorney's Office, CD = Com. Dev., CO = Clerk's Office, FD = Fire Dept., FI = Finance, HR = Human Resources, IT = Information Tech., MO = Mayor's Office, PD = Police Dept., PR = Parks and Recreation, PW = Public Works.				

Appendix F

IMAGINE ART HERE! MERIDIAN WORKSHOP REPORT

On October 9, 2025, community members gathered for the Imagine Art Here! workshop to help shape a vision and identify opportunities for public art in Meridian. Organized by the City of Meridian and the Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) and facilitated by Public Art Master Plan consultants Via Partnership, the workshop generated ideas that will inform the recommendations in the Public Art Master Plan. Participants included staff from City departments; MAC members; local artists and arts professionals, and civic stakeholders.

WORKSHOP FORMAT

The workshop began with a welcome from Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator for the City of Meridian. Meridith McKinley of Via then made a presentation about the public art master planning process and the importance of creating a vision for public art. Participants were invited to use Mentimeter to respond to the following question and build a work cloud: What one word would you like to be able to use to describe the experience of seeing Meridian's public art?

McKinley then made a brief presentation to set up the first breakout session, sharing examples of public art in the types of places or settings that would be relevant to Meridian:

- Community Facilities
- Parks
- Downtown Meridian
- Streets and Corridors

Participants were then invited to take part in the first breakout. Each breakout table of approximately 5 – 6 people was assigned one of the places outlined above and were asked to **brainstorm possible locations and approaches for art in this place / family of places.**

Following the first breakout, McKinley made a second presentation on different types or approaches to public art that may be relevant in Meridian:

- Art + Youth and Family Life
- Art + Community Building
- Art + History and Heritage
- Art + Nature and Ecology
- Art + Beautification and Design

Participants were then invited to take part in the second breakout. Each breakout table of approximately 5 — 6 people was assigned one of the above approaches and were given the charge to **discuss ideas and places related to this approach to public art.**

Facilitators helped guide the conversation and record the responses for both breakouts on flipcharts and maps.

In addition to the breakout discussions, workshop participants contributed input by filling out an exit questionnaire that allowed participants to elaborate on ideas or concerns they have about public art in Providence.

THEMES

Across the discussions and breakout sessions, there were several themes that surfaced. The overarching message is that participants want public art to transform Meridian into a place with its own vibrant identity — one that honors its roots while creating engaging, beautiful spaces for current and future residents.

Public art can help bolster Meridian’s **identity**. Participants repeatedly emphasized that public art should help Meridian develop its own distinct personality and character, differentiating it from neighboring Boise. Many comments express desire for art that creates “sense of place” and helps answer “what do we want to be?”

Participants are interested in artwork that is **interactive and family-friendly**. There was a strong emphasis on art that people can physically engage with — climbable sculptures, play structures, musical elements, and educational components. There’s consistent focus on serving families with children and making art accessible to youth.

Participants want art that honors Meridian's **agricultural past** (dairy farming, irrigation canals, Oregon Trail). Suggestions included using old farm equipment, wagon sculptures, references to dairy farming, highlighting the importance of irrigation, and pathway storytelling to celebrate this aspect of Meridian's heritage.

Art can draw attention to Meridian's **natural environment**. There were frequent references native plants, bird migration, wildlife, conservation, and environmental themes. Suggestions include kinetic art in ponds, pollinator-themed pieces, and integration with natural landscapes.

Many participants would like to see one or more **"you are here"** moments, including gateways into Meridian, gateways into downtown, and iconic "placemakers." Several participants mentioned the water tower and making it more of a placemaking opportunity, as well as bringing something equally as iconic to downtown.

Several participants mentioned **functional art**, including benches, bike racks, planters, and other utilitarian objects that are also beautiful

Public art should be **accessible and visible**. Art should be visible to both drivers and pedestrians, with pieces scaled appropriately for their context.

There were multiple mentions of needing more resources, exploring partnerships, grants, and developer contributions.

VISION QUESTION WORD CLOUD

What **one word** would you like to be able to use to describe the experience of seeing Meridian's public art?



BREAKOUT #1 NOTES

What follows is a transcription of the notes generated in the first breakout session about places in Meridian.

Community Facilities

Library

- Not a city building
- We can have partnerships
- Can use MAPS funds
- Rotating Art
- Cherry Lane Library Renovation Project offers wall spaces for mix media & 3d sculpture especially in main entrances
- Goal: Value historic preservation

Community Center

- Art plan in place
- History
- Education
- Interactive

Fire Station

- 8 locations
- Identify the ones w/o public art
- Focus on outside art
- Fire community education
- Image: Insignia Lattice

Water Tower

- Art on floor level (educational, interactive)
- Add lighting effects

New Meridian Gateway Sign

Senior Center @ Kleiner Park

- Needs some art

Successful Projects in Meridian

- Historical & Heritage
- Educational
- Audience includes families and seniors
- Interactive
- Functional

Wastewater treatment for nature/ environment piece (near Rita Husky Park?)

Nature Themed Art in Fuller Park

Parks (Team A)

Goals

- Park identifier
- Accessible
- Interactive

Why aren't schools a place for public art?

Settlers Park

- Theming Art at exits and entrances FY28
- Community center art murals

Tammy St. Park

- 3-7 age play structure 2026
- Interactive art

Stacey Park

- Interactive Art in the back

Lakeview Golf

- Murals on RR buildings
- Monarch Butterfly
- At each tee over time
- Interactive financial support

Fuller

- Kinetic art in the pond

West Meridian Regional Park

- Gateway Art East West Street, Fairway/Cherry

Bear Creek Park

- Climbable art
- Story Walk
- Planets/solar system interactive
- Engaging

Hillsdale Park

- Art in around the Hillsdale Family
- Tiny Park
- Signage Art

Downtown community-engaged art project on street, alley or other paved space — could be temporary (image: Seed the Change)

Interactive/climb on @ parks (image: turtle park)

Along some pathways? Art that fits into nature / fits with context (image: Riverine)

It would be so cool to have one of the Thomas Dambo Trolls in Meridian!!

Gateways needed E&W on Cherry/Fairview (image of leaf gateway)

Gateways @ main entrances to meridian (image: Sunflower Gateway)

Parks (Team B)

Unique Parks

- Each of them different
- Not cookie cutter
- Specific to the space/area

Golf Course

- Functional
- Lots of space/room for art

What is the history of the space?

For parks – where is the line between nature and us? Native plants, animals. Incorporate/merge them.

Locations

- West Meridian Regional Park – develop this
- New Community Center @ Settlers Park
- Storey Park – Art/decorative fencing (motorists)
- Bear Creek Park – #1? Adult supports, families
- Renaissance Park
- Hillsdale Park – partnership with St. Lukes? Something tall?
- Roundabout on Amity Road between Linder and Meridian Road
- Irrigation tools as art

Downtown Meridian

Arches in Reno

Functional art

- Seating
- Family Friendly

Alleyways

- Murals
- Inviting
- Plants

Lighting

Temporary Installations

Kiosk Updates

Piece like the Meridian Watertower but downtown

Special events banner

Poets

Arch/Pedestrian Bridge at Main & Fairview

Arch at Main between State and Pine

Arch at Main & Bower

Green triangles at Meridan Road curve between King and Bower

Streets and Corridors

Transit shelters – Records Drive (2) –
Kleiner Park

Pine

- Corridor – bikes, buses
- Narrower & Slower
- Intersection of transit stop & pathway
- Nearby trailhead

Car Centric culture/infrastructure = big art

Activity centers/human scale

Trail hub Meridian Road and
Five Mile Creek

Pathways & waterways

Middle-mile roads/collectors – narrower,
slower, friendlier – art like pathways

ACHD redevelopment – Linder Road linear
parkway with art

Future bus service on Linder Road

Stormwater basins & art – canal crossings/
bridges, SW area?

Rail trail & rail service

Transit in future on Lake Hazel Road

Differentiate Boisie and Meridian with
gateway on Fairview and/or Ustick

Gateway at Linder south of Amity

Gateway at Linder north of I-20

Clusters of smaller pieces – human scale

Accessibility for pedestrians

ACHD & City Partnership

South Meridian YMCA – bus service/shelter

Avoid words or other designs to prevent
focus while driving

Fields area (NW Meridian) – mixed use &
pathway/waterway

SH-16 – new development (ITD)

Signage @ gateways – eagle road

Traffic calming

Roadside planters

Street level interest

Large scale for gateways and roadways
(image: silverton)

Use to slow traffic – protect pedestrians
and biked and create interest (image: Eu-
clid Street Planters)

Form liner for canal crossings (image: Vicki
Scuri Arlington)

Smaller roadways (image: leaf gateway)

Image: underpass mural

BREAKOUT #2 NOTES

What follows is a transcription of the notes generated in the second breakout session about types or approaches to public art in Meridian.

Art+Youth & Family Life

Community building (image: Adrienne
Outlaw bottlecap dome)

Fun (image: turtle)

Easily understood

Variety of media

Community builder

QR code see art to keep parents engaged

Interactive. Uses Imagination (image: West-
moreland Nature Play)

Interactive & Functional (Sports collective)

Musical sounds interactive

Maps as fingerprint of community (image:
Roberto Delgado)

Family hands on events, becomes an
exhibit, take names

Interactive

- Linetae Swim
- See yourself in art
- 18 mural
- Kids talk about
- Play on it
- Learn from
- Engagement

Park ownership in the community

- “It is our park”
- Art in support of the good uses

Art cones for traffic projects?

Borum Property – 47 acres

- Farm land

Nature & Ecology

Aspects of Meridian

- Waterways
- Irrigation
- Farming & water

Historical

Education & Interactive

Fire

Wetland Preservation

Native habitats – wildlife, plants

Air quality/pollution

Conservation

Diversity of works of art (size, style, media, etc.)

Earth forms

Dairy Heritage (more cows)

Ag Architecture

Bird Migration

Pollinators

Irrigation waterways interact with pathways

Corridors w/transit – AQ

Location

- Corridors
- Waterways
- Pathways
- Fuller Park
- Wastewater Treatment
- “Landfill Learning Center”

Impact

- Education
- Conservation
- Use more native plants
- Spectacle – ‘big moment’
- Nature materials
- Upcycling/recycling

Community Building

Community Center as a place to foster/nurture arts

Downtown as a focus for Art + Community Building

More temporary/ephemeral works downtown – supported by city. Rotating murals or sculptures.

More arts events like “art party,” “quick draw,” etc.

Mapping theme “initial point” heritage – topo lines and historic map with farms/features labeled “what was here before?”

How can we document, commemorate what was here in the past?

But also ... looking ahead. As we grow and change into the future – what is our identity? What do we want to be?

Signature / representative works where a lot of people will see/interact with.

Incubator spaces / mentoring of artists – like “mural school”

Schools/kids – art party mural block is good example. Libraries, too. Unbound. Construction fencing.

How do we get more artists engaged, a collective of artists? Residencies? “Art” hall – artist & maker spaces.

More creative art funding programs. % for art for developers/projects. Contributions/donations.

“quick draw” like Boise – auction off art works to raise funds.

Can we be open and accepting of ‘nice’ guerilla art works? Like Banksy. Like Budapest small bronze artworks. etc.

Design + Beautification

Roundabouts

City Hall Plaza

- Functional art – benches
- Lighting

Explore funding sources

- Grants

Creative signage

- Welcome to Meridian

Arches – gateways

Footbridges w? creative design

Signs @ freeway exists

Bike racks & corrals, benches

- Downtown

Generations plaza – tilework/mosaic

Weather resistant

Pathway & roadway intersections

- Benches

Story walk from school to library

Artsy wayfinding

Quick, easy projects

Railroad corridor

Streetscape/landscape buffers in commercial areas

Family-friendly art in changing areas

Creative placemaking to turn a bar area into a community space

High-contrast, colorful

Tied to Meridian's history

Artsy garbage cans

History & Heritage

Learning about history/heritage as you walk on a linear pathway

- Farm equipment display
- Oregon Trail Wagon Sculpture

Oregon Trail History

- Alley murals in downtown
- Wagons
- Interactive sculptures

Historical figures

- Sculptures/statues
- 6 – 8 people to commemorate — artists, farmers, farmworkers

Meridian History

- Walking story sculptures at parks
- Focused on youth and families

Dairy history — outer Meridian

Agriculture

- Sculpture in roundabouts
- Artifacts in public (history center, city hall)
- Out of commission machinery (plows, tractors)
- Wagons

New York canal and other canals

Meridian Speedway

Historical buildings (old town)

Locations

- Pathway between 8th & Tully
- Kleiner Park
- Pathways/Sidewalks
- Downtown
- Roundabout

Types of Public Art

- Sculpture/Statues
- Old artifacts
- Out of commission machinery
- Alley murals
- Interactive art

EXIT QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Why do you think it is important for the City of Meridian to support public art?

It's our connection to each other, this place, and our sense of community and identity.

To enhance our identity and build a stronger sense of who we are as a community.

To create identity and spaces where residents can engage and build community, collaboration and spark through inspiration and conversation.

It touches our humanity.

It builds community! It engages and connects us!

Public art gives a sense of community and identity.

For pride in your community and community building.

Community engagement

To create a sense of place and identity in Meridian

Helps cultivate a community identity

Public art humanizes a community

Public art engages viewers, creates connections, sparks imagination, and helps define communities.

Gives character to a neighborhood and provides significance to a specific place.

Art is vital to any community as it keeps things vibrant and enticing for visitors and residents.

To create identity through art.

Community building

Culture

It creates a more vibrant, interesting, fun and engaging place.

It elevates a city. It shows a level of investment in community

Meridian needs a personality and art provides one.

I think it could help Meridian's identity — it is a great way to engage and educate families.

What are you looking forward to most about public art in Meridian?

Making it more accessible to you, both creation and consumption. They should shape the place that will become theirs!

Really taking a deep dive into the arts – all arts – art becomes a mainstay of our identity here.

Getting the community involved in the decision-making process.

I want to incorporate more art into my events.

Seeing more of it.

Being engaged in the process of more pieces being exhibited.

Growth and vibrancy

Being able to identify Meridian just by its art.

Art supporting the inevitable growth of our community.

Public art in a renovated Cherry Ln

I believe a robust public art program can generate tourism, as well as active underutilized areas throughout the city.

That it is provocative

The artistic visions that are waiting to be born

Natural integration of aesthetic and beautification to day to day life.

Seeing it happen.

Public engagement

History and culture plaques(?).

Discovery

More!

Seeing photos of people bragging about art they discover in Meridian.

I'd love to see a LARGE, ICONIC placemaker.

What was the most exciting idea you heard this evening?

Partnership between a park, school and artist to take inspiration from the students to make public art at the park.

Create a nurturing / cultivating set of programs to support emerging artists — with residencies, incubator spaces, classes, labs, etc.

There is stable funding for public art in the City.

The water tower is the biggest opportunity for activation + lighting installation, landscaping, etc.

Muralfest!

Muralfest.

Partnering w/businesses/developers to get more art up.

Temporary/rotating art.

More art focused events.

Fuller Park art addition and capitalizing on the old trees.

Just the fact that you are asking the community.

Sculpture-based history walk along pathway bet. Tully & 8th Street Park.

I liked the concept of “storytelling” along our linear pathways. Using static displays to explain the transformation from a transportation corridor (i.e. Oregon Trail), to the development of the canal system and agricultural industry.

Oregon Trail in Meridian

Multiples – ideas for public art on pathways

Potential for art / linear park along Linder from Pine to Ustick.

Funky benches.

Archways welcoming you to downtown Meridian

Water tower, sidewalks and pathways locations.

Wood pile art / playground piece.

Leaning into locations where lots of things come together.

I liked the community built bottlecap domes.

Embracing historical roots instead of being embarrassed about them.

People engaged and thinking BIG – it was great.

More cows! I think meridian should embrace anything “embarrassing.” Just own it.

What image of a public art project from today’s presentation will stay with you?

Troll art

Water filtration art

Community engagement built works – permanent and temporary.

Natural interactive art in parks and public spaces.

The idea that there is a small group who are passionate.

Functional large green ‘bench’.

Interactive and functional art.

The circular, concrete sitting piece that looked like a ribbon.

Interactive.

Natural core sample with layers of earth

Using old farm equipment at roundabouts.

I think it was possibly the potential for public art @ lakefield

Smaller items like benches, landscape features that can be mixed in without significant cost or effort.

The one that's a wave bench

Interactive and functional art for families and youth (large turtle).

Large iconic pieces

The arch over the roadway.

Large/out of scale pinecones

The Trail of Death gathering/remembering piece.

Flying cows.

[Please share any questions, suggestions or concerns you might have about public art in Meridian that weren't addressed at today's workshop.](#)

Some voices dominated conversation

We need to fund art at a higher level. \$.50/person is too low. Set up donations / fee in lieu of/ percent for arts programs; find benefactors and sponsors, cultivate local arts & artists

Art that thrives here

Good luck and thank you!

We need more funding and more staff.

How do we grow our artistic community as we grow our economy and development?

Money. Financial support.

It was wonderful to be a part of this and share ideas and listen to others.

Give us money and we will give you art!

Its great to use art to solve problems, too. Great job tonight.

Appendix G

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS

PURPOSE AND 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. A questionnaire was distributed that asked participants about their awareness of existing public art, the types of art they value most, preferred locations for new installations, and what they believe public art should express or achieve. The results offer important insights into how respondents perceive public art in Meridian and how they hope to see it evolve in the future.

Tabling

The City of Meridian staff hosted four tabling events featuring four interactive stations designed to gather community input on public art. Participants were invited to engage in several activities to share their input on public art in Meridian. They placed sticker dots on a map to indicate where they would like to see new public art installed and identified their favorite existing artworks by marking the pieces they recognized or appreciated most. They also shared words or short phrases that captured their vision for future public art in the city. Additionally, they reviewed examples of public art from other communities and selected the styles they felt best represented the kind of art they would like to see in Meridian.

Questionnaire

A public questionnaire was launched on June 23, 2025 and was up through August 18, 2025. It received 201 responses. The questions were designed to better understand the public's view on public art, how public art could have an impact on Meridian, and what locations and types of public art are of most interest.

KEY THEMES FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Several themes emerged from the community engagement results that cut across multiple questions and help us understand people's preferences related to public art.

High Awareness and Appreciation for Existing Public Art

Community engagement through both surveys and in-person events revealed a strong awareness and appreciation for Meridian's current public art. Respondents consistently recognized and celebrated artworks located in central, highly trafficked areas such as Downtown Meridian and Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park. Pieces like *Far and Wide* by Sector Seventeen and *Under the Sun and Dreaming* by CJ Rensch stood out for their visibility and accessibility, and they were frequently mentioned as favorites. This trend extended to the Julius Kleiner statue by Thomas Jay Warren and the *Obelisk 1, 2, 3* installation by J. Amber Conger, which also earned high recognition due to their prominent placement in Kleiner Park. Conversely, artworks located in less visible or specialized areas, such as trails or smaller neighborhood parks, received notably lower recognition. **These findings emphasize the importance of location, accessibility, and interaction in shaping public awareness and appreciation of art in Meridian.**

Desire for Interactive, Functional, and Family-Friendly Art

Community members consistently express a preference for public art that **invites physical interaction, particularly installations that engage children and families**. Examples like *Turtle Park* by Bob Cassilly and *Interlacing Patterns* by Re:Site Studio were praised for their whimsical, climbable structures, which offer both aesthetic value and playful functionality. Similarly functional artworks like *Leaf Pavillion* by Frank Schwaiger that offer seating and shade structures that blend artistic design with utility are highly regarded. 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 both in-person and survey participants. An overwhelming 81.4% of questionnaire respondents selected parks as ideal sites for public art, followed by Downtown Meridian and bike or pedestrian pathways. These spaces offer opportunities for interactive, large-scale installations that feel natural and accessible. 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 place high value on art that reflects local stories, people, and places. The questionnaire shows there is a strong preference for artwork created by local or regional artists (41.0%) rather than internationally known figures (8.2%), indicating that the community wants art that feels connected to Meridian's identity. Respondents are drawn to art that celebrates inclusivity, nature, and the city's history. **Public art is expected to reflect Meridian as a community, fostering belonging and shared meaning among people from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.**

Balancing Tradition with Growth

Meridian is widely described as a clean, safe, and family-oriented community with a strong small-town atmosphere. Many respondents reference the city's agricultural roots, including farms, dairies, and long-standing traditions like Dairy Days, as important components of its identity. However, this heritage now exists alongside rapid growth and development, generating a mix of optimism and concern. **While some residents welcome new amenities and economic opportunities, others are cautious of suburban sprawl, traffic congestion, and the loss of Meridian's original charm.** There is a shared desire to preserve the city's character as it evolves.

Art as a Contributor to Quality of Life and Community Vibrancy

Public art is viewed as 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 to enhance community vibrancy, strengthen civic identity, and elevate the overall quality of life.** Well-designed and durable artworks are appreciated as long-term investments in shared public spaces. Fiscal responsibility is also a noted concern, with some residents emphasizing the importance of budget-conscious approaches to funding art that is both impactful and sustainable.

Public Art as a Tool for Placemaking and Identity

Public art is seen as a vital contributor to placemaking and the expression of Meridian's identity. Nearly 60% of questionnaire respondents want public art that creates **iconic, memorable landmarks.** These visual anchors are expected to 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.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

1 Below is a small sampling of public artwork already existing in Meridian. Which examples are you familiar with? Please click on each image you recognize.

	Percent	Count
"Far and Wide," Sector Seventeen, Zamzows Feed Mill	66.3%	116
"Under the Sun and Dreaming," CJ Rensch, Meridian and Main Streets	65.1%	114
"Julius Kleiner," Thomas Jay Warren, Kleiner Park	63.4%	111
"Obelisk 1,2,3," J. Amber Conger, Kleiner Park	62.3%	109
"Journey of Heroes," Ken McCall, Heroes Park	44.0%	77
"All In — Another Day at the Office," Daniel Borup, Fire Station #6	40.6%	71
"Fanfare," Steve Parker, Discovery Park	40.0%	70
"Imagining Egger's Farmstead" Claire Remsberg, W Chinden Blvd. & N Ten Mile Rd.	38.3%	67
"A Place to Shine," Sector Seventeen, Meridian Pool	37.7%	66
"Water Metrics," Eileen Gay, Fivemile Creek Trailhub	33.1%	58
"Origin," J. Amber Conger, City Hall	32.0%	56
"Somos Idaho," Miguel Almeida, N Linder Rd. & W Franklin Rd.	25.1%	44
"At the Keys," Rachel Linquist, E Overland Rd. & SE Fifth Way	24.6%	43
"Hawk Benches," Colin Selig, Discovery Park	19.4%	34
"Perfect Union," Key Detail, unBound Library	18.9%	33
"Bloom Meridian," Blake Coker, S Wayfinder Ave.	18.9%	2

2 Do you have a favorite public artwork in Meridian? Which one? Why?

Sculptures & Statues (53)

- Colin Selig Benches & Bike Racks (6)
- Kleiner Park Sculptures (4)
- *All in Another Day at the Office*, Daniel Borup (4)
- *Water Metrics*, Eileen Gay (3)
- *Fanfare*, Steve Parker (2)
- *Girl with Calf (“Showtime”)*, Bernie Jestrabek-Hart, Patty Young, Lori Hoagland, Vada Manhire (2)
- *Under the Sun and Dreaming*, C.J. Rench (2)
- *Out on the Town*, Daniel Borup (2)
- Other Individual Sculptures – includes *Origin*, *Journey of Heroes*, *Native Grasses*, *City Hall pieces*, *Champion Flame*, *Perfect Union*, *Flushing Pheasants* (24)

Utility & Traffic Box Art (26)

Murals (16)

- *Far and Wide*, Sector Seventeen (2)
- *Tully Mural*, Macy Ratzesberger (1)
- *Perfect Union*, Key Detail (1)
- *A Place to Shine*, Sector Seventeen (1)
- General praise for murals (11)

General Appreciation for All Public Art in Meridian (17)

Critical or Neutral Feedback (6)

3 Of these projects, pick up to four that you think are visually interesting and represent the type of art you think would be successful in Meridian.

	Percent	Count
"Turtle Park," Bob Cassilly	45.9%	83
"Leaf Pavillion," Frank Schwaiger	38.7%	70
"Interlacing Patterns," Re:Site Studio	35.4%	64
"Windmill," Tom Fruin	33.1%	60
"Together," The Urban Conga	32.0%	58
"Old Concord Road," Chandra Cox	32.0%	58
"Homophone," David Hess	31.5%	57
"Yield for Verhaeghe Park," The Arts Dept.	29.3%	53
"Leap of Faith," GiGi Miller	22.1%	40
"Paragon Prairie Tower," David Dahlquist	16.6%	30
"Convergent Focus," Project One Studio	16.6%	30
"Kinloch Courts," William LaChance	14.9%	27
"Nature Intervention Mural," Pete Goldlust and Melanie Germond	9.4%	17
"Stacked Friends," Brad Oldham	8.8%	16
"Indoor/Outdoor Garden," Nancy Blum	8.3%	15

4 Of the projects you chose, what do you like about them?

Interactivity & Playfulness (51 mentions)

- Interactive / Tactile / Climbable (22)
- Engages senses / immersive (8)
- Encourages selfies / social sharing (5)
- Large-scale & experiential (4)
- Whimsical / playful / fun (4)
- Family-friendly / kid-friendly (4)
- Invites public participation (4)

Colorful & Visually Engaging (13 mentions)

- Colorful / bold / vibrant (11)
- Visually striking / statement pieces (2)

Nature-Based Themes (25 mentions)

- Nature-inspired / earthy (10)
- Blends with environment (5)
- Animals / flora / fauna (4)
- Calm, not industrial (3)
- Celebrates rural heritage (2)
- Environmental awareness (1)

Functional Elements (6 mentions)

- Benches / shade / shelters (3)
- Art with purpose / utility (3)

Photo Ops & Landmark Identity (7 mentions)

- Creates landmarks (4)
- Encourages photos / tourism (3)

5 What IMPACT should public art have in Meridian? (Select up to 4 options.) I would like to see public art in Meridian that ...

	Percent	Count
Creates memorable and recognizable landmarks.	59.6%	109
Supports and enhances the identity of Meridian.	47.0%	86
Creates opportunities for Meridian residents and visitors to experience art.	47.0%	86
Anchors focal points or community gathering places throughout the community.	43.7%	80
Supports the development of local artists.	43.2%	79
Supports and encourage pedestrian activity.	37.7%	69
Gives voice to the history of Meridian.	24.0%	44
Creates an outlet for community creativity through hands on involvement.	23.0%	42
Enhances the identity of important areas of the community, such as downtown.	21.9%	40
Other — Write In	14.8%	27

Other — Write In

Community Connection & Inclusivity (7 mentions)

- Fosters emotional connection / unity (3)
- Celebrates Meridian's history (2)
- Represents diverse populations (2)

Functionality & Practicality (6 mentions)

- Provides shade / seating (2)
- Supports gathering / activity (2)
- Includes water / natural elements (1)
- Has practical or dual-purpose design (1)

Inspiration & Education (5 mentions)

- Inspires children / curiosity (2)
- Encourages learning / conversation (2)
- Uplifting / culturally enriching (1)

Aesthetic & Artistic Quality (4 mentions)

- Well-designed / beautiful (2)
- More texture and detail (1)
- Avoids bright, harsh colors (1)

Public Access & Visibility (3 mentions)

- Art in everyday life (1)
- Use blank walls for murals (1)
- Creates recognizable landmarks (1)

Critical / Opposing Views (2 mentions)

- No taxpayer-funded art (1)
- Prefer funding fire/police instead (1)

6 What AREAS of Meridian are the best opportunities for public art?

(Select up to 4 options.)

	Percent	Count
Parks	81.4%	149
Downtown	54.1%	99
Bicycle and pedestrian pathways	41.0%	75
Libraries	41.0%	75
Gateways to the city	28.4%	52
Roundabouts	24.0%	44
Community Centers	23.0%	42
Visible from the freeways / major roadways	19.1%	35
Large development areas	19.1%	35
Schools	17.5%	32
City Hall	11.5%	21
Alleys	7.1%	13
Police and fire stations	6.6%	12
Other — Write In	4.3%	8

7 What TYPES of public artwork would you like to see in Meridian? (Select up to 4 options.)

I would like to see more ...

	Percent	Count
Artist-designed functional elements in the streetscape (benches, bike racks, crosswalks, manhole covers).	61.7%	113
Interactive and playful artworks.	55.7%	102
Murals.	43.2%	79
Artwork by local and regional artists.	41.0%	75
Artwork that is large-scale and iconic.	39.3%	72
Artwork that creates pedestrian-scale visual surprises.	27.9%	51
Illuminated/Light-based projects.	26.8%	49
Street art (independent, sometimes unsanctioned, art in public spaces).	23.0%	42
Socially engaged public art projects that involve the public.	15.3%	28
Temporary or rotating installations that last 6 months to 2 years.	11.5%	21
Artwork by nationally or internationally recognized artists.	8.2%	15
Video projection and media-based artworks.	3.3%	6
Other — Write In	8.2%	15

8 What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about Meridian?

Family-Focused & Community Values (22)
Farming, Dairy & Local Heritage (19)
Growth & Change (14)
Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces (14)
Home, Community & Belonging (13)
Suburban Identity (10)
Safe & Clean Environment (10)
Water Tower as Symbol (7)
Welcoming & Friendly (4)
Downtown Meridian (4)
Other Unique or Individual Comments (39)

9 What are the things you love the most about Meridian?

Parks, Trails, Open Spaces (20)
Safety & Cleanliness (17)
Small Town Feel / Historic Character (17)
Family-Focused (15)
Community & Friendliness (14)
Convenience & Accessibility (14)
Arts, Events & Culture (11)
Downtown Identity & History (9)
Growth (6)

10 What places in Meridian do you take visitors to show them what Meridian is all about?

Parks, Trails & Nature (144)
 Downtown Meridian / Old Town / Main Street (91)
 The Village at Meridian (86)
 City Hall / Galleries / Libraries (33)
 Restaurants & Local Businesses (27)
 Farms, Agriculture & Rural Identity (10)
 Entertainment, Agriculture & Rural Identity (10)
 Places Outside of Meridian (16)
 Neighborhoods / Residential Areas (12)
 Historical Sites / Old Buildings (11)
 Public Events / Seasonal Activities (10)
 Religious / Spiritual Landmarks (2)

11 Approximately how many art activities or events (museum or gallery visits; concerts, plays, musicals or other live performances, etc.) have you attended in the past 12 months?

	Percent	Count
1 – 3	37.0%	64
4 – 7	26.0%	45
8 – 11	15.6%	27
More than 12	12.7%	22
None	8.7%	15

12 What is your awareness of Initial Point Gallery located on the third floor of Meridian City Hall? (select all that apply)

	Percent	Count
I have never heard of Initial Point Galley	33.7%	60
I have heard of Initial Point Gallery, but have never visited.	23.6%	42
I have visited Initial Point Gallery.	34.3%	61
I have attended an event at Initial Point Gallery.	20.8%	37

13 Do you live in Meridian? If so, how long have you lived here?

	Percent	Count
Less than 1 year	5.1%	9
1 to 3 years	9.6%	17
4 to 6 years	16.9%	30
7 to 9 years	15.7%	28
10 to 20 years	21.3%	38
More than 20 years	20.8%	37
I do not live in Meridian	10.7%	19

14 Do you work in Meridian? If so, how long have you worked here?

	Percent	Count
Less than 1 year	3.4%	6
1 to 3 years	8.6%	15
4 to 6 years	9.8%	17
7 to 9 years	7.5%	13
10 to 20 years	10.9%	19
More than 20 years	6.3%	11
I do not work in Meridian	53.4%	93

15 What is your age range?

	Percent	Count
Younger than 18	2.9%	5
18-24	2.9%	5
25-34	12.1%	21
35-44	23.0%	40
45-54	21.3%	37
55-64	16.7%	29
65 or older	19.0%	33
Prefer not to answer	2.3%	4

TABLING RESULTS

Station 1: Most Popular Locations Indicated on Map

Settlers Park (7)

Bear Creek Park (4)

Gordon Harris Park (4)

Discovery Park (4)

Heroes Park (4)

Julius M. Kleiner Park (3)

Fuller Park (3)

Downtown Meridian (3)

W. Chinden Blvd & N. Linder Rd. (3)

Black Cat Rd. between W. Cherry Lane and W. Ustick Rd. — West of Lakeview Golf Club (3)

Renaissance Park (3)

W. Ustick Rd. and N. Linder Rd. (2)

Tully Park (2)

Storey Park (2)

Station 2: Favorite Works in Meridian

Sculpture: Under the Sun and Dreaming, CJ Ranch, Meridian and Main Streets (25)

Mural: Far and Wide, Sector Seventeen, Zamzows Feed Mill (25)

Sculpture: Fanfare, Steve Parker, Discovery Park (25)

Bus Stop Mural: Bloom Meridian, Blake Coker (24)

Sculpture: All In — Another Day at the Office, Daniel Borup, Fire Station #6 (23)

Sculpture: Water Metrics, Eileen Gay, Fivemile Creek Trailhub (21)

Traffic Box Mural: At the Keys, Rachel Linquist, E. Overland Rd. & SE Fifth Way (19)

Traffic Box Mural: Somos Idaho, Miguel Almeida, N. Linder Rd. & W. Franklin Rd. (19)

Mural: A Place to Shine, Sector Seventeen, Meridian Pool (18)

Functional: Hawk Benches, Colin Selig, Discovery Park (17)

Sculpture: Obelisk, 1, 2, 3, J. Amber Conger, Kleiner Park (15)

Sculpture: Julian Kleiner, Thomas Jay Warren, Kleiner Park (14)

Sculpture: Journey of Heroes, Ken McCall, Heroes Park (14)

Mural: Perfect Union, Key Detail, unbound Library (14)

Sculpture: Origin, J. Amber Conger, City Hall (8)

Station 3: Themes

Interactive & Functional Art

Musical wings with lights
Unique, surprising, interactive
Music instruments to play
(see Indian Creek)
Interactive art
Interactive arts installation for all ages
Touchable / texture
Art with movement
Functional
Functional
Functional
Functional art is so neat
Immersive experience
More benches
Children playing

Local Identity & Representation

Be part of the community
Representative of Meridian
Proud of place where I live
I love the place where I live
Iconic Meridian sculpture
Local Heroes
Local artists
First Responders and Police

Murals

Murals like Freak Alley
Murals
Murals
Murals to enjoy
Road murals
Curvy wall each section have murals
Nature murals (maybe by Jay Rasgorshek?)
Paint all of the electrical boxes

Inclusivity & Diversity

Inclusivity of all
Queer pride
Mystical gay
GAY ART
Multicultural local artists
Celebrate people of all backgrounds

Nature-Inspired Art

Nature
Pollinator garden
Integrating nature and place
Things that exemplify goodness,
beauty, and nature. Art is the overflow
of the heart and mind of society
Rustic barns

Historical Significance

Historic figures (Sacajawea)
Heroes and history
Honor our heroes
Abe Lincoln
America 250 Anniversary
Historical and place markers

Joyful Themes

Brings joy
Puts a smile on your face
Joy
Inspiring
Joy and bring a smile

Art Shows & Performances

Portrait shows
Arts shows like this
Have speakers up playing local musician
music along a walking path

Arts Education & Community Service

Junior art classes
Rec facilities for youth and disabled adults
in the Lake Hazel/Fivemile area
More homeless shelters. Not just for women
and kids. Everyone needs a little help

Public Space & Infrastructure

Concert venue
Troll bridge (Seattle)
Pieces integrated with public works projects
Manhole covers and tree grates

Support for the Arts

We need more money for all art endeavors.
Not enough money spent on art!
Grant public art
Support nice local artists

Style Preferences

Abstract
Pop art
Architectural standards that reflect
Hyperpop art
Reckless art
Abstract
Pop art

Medium Preferences

Mosaic!
Mosaic art
Mosaic work is beautiful
Dichroic glass
Sculpture and lighting
Sculpture
Bronze sculpture
Sculptural
Pottery studio
Using repurposed materials

Location Specific Recommendations

Something along main roads such as
Overland and Eagle
South restroom in Kleiner Park cement wall
PAL Meridian soccer tribute

Miscellaneous

Not political
Introspective
Collaborative and collection
Wooden trolls (Seattle)

Station 4: Favorite Types of Work People Would Like to See in Meridian

Activating Place:

Leaf Pavillion, Frank Schwaiger (13)

Together, The Urban Conga (11)

Kinloch Courts, William LaChance (7)

Comment: *Functional Spaces in Art!*

Creating Focal Points

Paragon Prairie Tower, David Dahlquist (22)

Stacked Friends, Brad Oldham (10)

Silverton, Project One Studio (5)

Celebrating Identity

(The dots weren't very specifically placed, so in some cases it's hard to tell exactly which piece the dot was intended to be put onto.)

Yield for Verhaeghe Park, The Arts Dept. (14)

Windmill, Tom Fruin (14)

Leap of Faith, GiGi Miller (13)

Enhancing Design (3 dots on the title)

Interlacing Patterns, Re:Site Studio (14)

Comment: *Captivating*

Nature Intervention Mural, Pete Goldlust and Melanie Germond (8)

Old Concord Road, Chandra Cox (7)

Nurturing Creativity

Turtle Park, Bob Cassilly (32)

Comment: *I'm from STL, RIP, Bob. You've inspired thousands.*

Homophone, David Hess (12)

Indoor/Outdoor Garden, Nancy Blum (4)