



Office of the Town Manager  
Frank Cassidy

Warrenton Town Council  
Carter Nevill, Mayor  
Heather Sutphin, Ward 1  
William Semple, Ward 2  
Brett Hamby, Ward 3  
James Hartman, Ward 4 Vice Mayor  
Jay Heroux, Ward 5  
David McGuire, At Large  
Paul Mooney, At Large

# STAFF REPORT

<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	July 11, 2023
<b>Agenda Title:</b>	Arts in Public Places
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Hold a Work Session
<b>Department / Agency Lead:</b>	Department of Community Development
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Rob Walton

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Town Staff has met twice with seven (7) individuals to begin discussions to consider art in public places throughout Warrenton. The individuals consist of local artists, art teachers in our schools, and an ARB member. The group has started to think of ideas that can influence art in the Town. Initial ideas include:

- Develop Design Guidelines
- Pop-up Art Galleries
- Tile/Mosaic Murals
- Studio Tours
- Create a Map Showing Points of Interest
- Parking Space/Crosswalk Art
- Cultural Spray Ground
- Create More Interest Along Broadview Avenue
- Painted Parklets
- Spirit of Halloween

The group will continue to meet once a month to discuss ideas, guidelines, and funding opportunities. Other than private projects, the first pilot mural could be located along the parking lot retaining wall facing Horner Street at the rear of 21 Main Street. The group is also considering sculptures that could be located in public spaces (parks, trails, etc.). The adopted Comprehensive Plan envisions the Greenway and Makers District as an area that could maximize the use of industrial areas for maker space with food and arts, create connective elements to the greenway, and enhance gateway form and function.

## BACKGROUND

In early May, Town staff reached out to local artists, art teachers, and citizens to meet and discuss art within the community. On May 24, 2023, the Arts group held their first meeting to discuss the possibility of expanding artwork throughout the Town. The group is in the early stages of ideas to include guidelines, locations, and project types. Public spaces would be easiest to pursue, however, private properties may be available with the owner's permission. The group will also look for available grants and donations to help fund the projects.

Below is an example of what a mural could look like in the Town. The sketch up shows the Culpeper Street side of the Britches building. This is an example only.



### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Hold the work session and offer input.

### **Service Level / Policy Impact**

Plan Warrenton 2040 (Historic Resources) seeks to promote economic development through historic resources. One of the goals is to work with the Town's Main Street organization and other entities to strengthen economic opportunities highlighting the Town's historical, arts, and culinary assets for placemaking events. Encouraging arts in public places helps meet this vision of the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The addition of art to the downtown area may attract new visitors to the Town. The artwork can attract more visitors to stay longer and explore more areas of the Town to see the projects that are completed. The group will ultimately create a map indicating the location of all of the artwork.

### **Legal Impact**

No legal impact identified at this time.