

Glossary of Public Art Terms

(Sources: <https://artsandplanning.mapc.org/glossary-of-terms/> , City of Las Cruces Public Art Master Plan)

Acquisition

An asset or piece bought or obtained (acquired)

Call for Artists

General term for a request for artists to apply for a public art commission

Commission

An artwork, permanent or temporary that is created by an artist at the request of City and under contract with the City, specifically for a site and/or community

Community Engagement

The process of using multiple strategies to provide opportunities for all to be informed and to participate in public decision-making.

Concept Proposal

The phase of a public art project in which an artist creates an initial proposal

Conservation

The regularly scheduled examination, documentation, treatment and preventative care of artwork conducted by a professional art conservator

De-accessioning

The permanent removal of work from the City's Collection by selling, donating or destroying

Donation

Art donated to the City from a private individual, institution or other outside source and accepted by the City.

Donor

An individual or entity that donates an artwork to the City or makes a monetary contribution

Final Design

The phase of a public art project in which the artist finalizes the design, placement, installation specifications, cost estimates, and has relevant components approved by licensed engineer.

Maintenance

The routine care and repair of works of public art (i.e dusting, washing, lubrication of moving parts, etc.)

Monument

A structure (plaque, artwork and/or other item) sited in a public location that is established to honor, preserve the memory of, or commemorate a deceased person(s), an event that occurred in the past, or an important idea that has shaped or impacted the community

Mural

A Painting or other work of art executed directly on a wall

Percent for Art

Percent for Art programs allocate a small portion of capital construction or renovation budgets for the purchase, commissioning, and installation of artworks. Percent for art programs are one effective way for states and territories to foster access to the arts and increase the aesthetic value of state-owned public buildings and public places. In the US there are more than 350 percent for art programs.

Public Art

Public Art is a multifaceted field of inquiry; it encompasses a wide variety of creative expression in the public realm. It encompasses works of art in any media that have been planned and executed with the specific intention of being sited or staged in the physical public domain, usually outside and accessible to all. Public art can be temporary or permanent. For some communities public art is seen as a means of enhancing or personalizing otherwise impersonal space. For others, it's a way to activate civic dialogue or provide a vehicle for communities to express their unique identity.

Public Art Fund

Typically a separate fund established by a City to hold funds allocated for public art.

Public Art Ordinance

The legislation establishing public art program within a unit of government. Generally, a public art ordinance established the financial mechanism that funds the public art program, identifies the unit of government or private contractor that will manage the public art program, and establishes a basic for the development of public art policies and/or guidelines.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Term for a document soliciting qualifications from artists for a specific public art project

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Term for a document soliciting Concept Proposals from artists for a specific public art project.

Site Specific Artworks

Works of art or projects that take into account, interface with, or are otherwise informed/inspired by the surrounding environment.

Temporary Public Art

Works of art that are created to be in a public place for a limited period of time, as agreed upon at the outset of the project.

Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA)

A United States Law (17 U.S.C 106A) granting certain rights to artists. VARA guarantees to authors of fine art the right to claim or disclaim authorship in a work; limited rights to prevent distortion, mutilation, or modification of a work; and the right, under some circumstances, to prevent destruction of a work that is incorporated into a building.