

Summary of Primary Funding Sources for Municipal Public Art Programs

(Sources: Americans for the Arts and Project for Public Spaces)

Bill Flood January 2023

- Local government from general fund

- Local government from funds dedicated to public art
Examples:
 - percent ordinance
 - capital construction
 - other city expenditures
 - arts tax
 - entertainment tax (City of Vancouver WA passed an entertainment/movie tax, then the source temporarily dried up when people stopped going to movies.)
 - use of hotel/motel room tax
 - tax increment financing
 - parking meter revenue
 - fees from utilities, etc.
 - community funds or endowments, potentially connected with parks or other public spaces

- Private percent for art ordinances or incentive programs for gaining public art in private development. Incentive programs generally involve developers gaining benefits such as additional project space in exchange for amenities such as public art or public spaces.
 - Developer can be required to develop, manage, and own project based on public benefit criteria
 - Developer can choose to forgo a public art project but provide dollars they would spend on a project to a city public art fund

- Cash or in-kind contributions from individuals and/or businesses

- Grants from public sources (regional, state, federal government) and private (foundations)

- Public/private sector collaborations -- voluntary partnerships/collaborations between municipal, non-profit, and businesses to involve artists in projects

- Endowment through the Commission

Summary

Every community is different, and funding for public art must be based on methods that will gain public art in that community. Consider a variety/mix of sources and methods to ensure a variety of annual public art projects.

Especially with the anticipated public development in Wilsonville, it certainly makes sense to have a public percent for art ordinance. But remember that you won't gain art through this

route unless you have public capital construction. Both Beaverton and Lake Oswego have public percent ordinances, but Hillsboro does not. Instead, the City of Hillsboro allocates approximately \$125,000 a year specifically for public art, and the public art supervisor is also able to leverage public art through a variety of partnerships. It also seems possible to leverage public art in private development in Wilsonville, potentially through an ordinance or a system of incentives imbedded in the City development process, or through public/private partnerships. The City of Portland has an incentive program which provides developers additional floor/area ratio (space) in exchange for public art or public spaces. Portland also allows developers to include public art as an alternative to the requirement of ground floor windows.