



A Five-Year Municipal Art Plan for the City of Olympia

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Unity – Tree People, by Andrea Wilber-Sigo. Eastside St. Art Crossing, 2021

The mission of the Olympia Arts Commission is to help enrich the lives of the people of the region by making visual, performing and literary arts vital elements in the life of our community.

The Commission's purpose is to promote and encourage public programs that further development, public awareness, and interest in fine and performing arts and cultural heritage, and to advise City Council in connection with these. The Olympia Arts Commission (OAC) was created to provide expertise regarding the visual and performing arts and cultural heritage, and to reach out within and beyond the community to expand artistic and cultural programs and services for the citizens of Olympia. (Olympia Municipal Code (OMC) 2.100.100, 2.100.110)

Supported by City staff, the OAC pursues this mission through a public art program that includes programming and events, services, outreach, education and networking, and the purchase, placement and maintenance of works of art in the community.

1. Municipal Art Plan (MAP): What and Why

The MAP is the annual budget and spending plan for the Municipal Art Fund, and it provides direction and accountability for the use of public resources in support of the arts.

City Ordinance calls for the OAC to "prepare and recommend to the City Council for approval a plan and guidelines to carry out the City's art program," (OMC 2.100.140) and notes that a municipal arts plan should prescribe the projects to be funded from the municipal arts fund. "*Municipal Arts Plan* means a plan outlining the City expenditures of designated funds for public art projects for a one-year period." (OMC 2.100.160)

Olympia's public art programs and purchases are funded through two sources: a \$1 per capita allocation from the City's General Fund that was initiated in 1990, and a 1% for Art set-aside for City construction projects over \$500,000 in value. Funds from these sources are deposited in a Municipal Arts Fund (MAF). The MAP establishes budgets for new public art projects undertaken by the City, whether in conjunction with new capital projects or independent of them. Projects range from small (less than \$15k) to major (over \$50k) installations involving design teams, and may include visual, literary and performing arts.

2. Planning for Public Art

The OAC develops an Annual Work Plan that details program initiatives and activities of the City's art program to promote the work of local artists and the arts within our community, and for the purchase of public art (including paid performances) to enhance and enliven the community. These public art investments are the focus of the MAP.

To develop funding projections for the MAP and budgets for individual projects, City staff reviews the Capital Facility Plan to identify projects that trigger the 1% for Art set-aside. These projects and their locations, impacts, and estimated public art budgets are reviewed and considered by Arts Commission. The Commission generates a complete project list that includes planned capital-funded purchases as well as other projects identified in the

Commission's Annual Work Plan. This project list forms the core of the Municipal Art Plan, which the Commission then recommends to City Council for approval.

In developing plans for public art projects, a number of conditions and values are considered to determine the best use of available resources for the benefit of the arts and the community. As a starting point, capital project-generated funds are considered for art projects at or near the site of the construction to enhance the public improvement, or to mitigate for the impact of the improvements. For large design/build projects, staff has piloted a process where the consultant has been required to bring a public artist into the design team. The Franklin and Legion Way Pedestrian Improvements is the first of these completed projects, which includes West Bay and Yelm Highway Park Planning. This approach eliminates redundancies in the process and ensures the participation of a public artist at the ground floor of complex design/build projects. The 1% for Art Funds are maintained and used for public art in those specific design/build projects. The Arts Commission reviews and provides comment on the developing art component as part of the general project community outreach, and City Council approves the art design as a seamless part of the overall construction design.

The funding for art generated by small capital projects is often too small to be very effective. In these cases, funds from multiple projects may be combined, or \$1 per capita funds added when available, to create a viable public art project budget. Balancing opportunities for multiple small projects versus fewer, more significant projects is an important planning consideration. Combining funds can bring a significant installation of public art to a capital improvement project that is too small to generate funds on its own, but which may be desirable because of location or community access. Until complete, priority for smaller projects or transportation related project funds will be directed toward completion of the eight projects that make up the Art Crossings Project. In selecting projects, programs and works of art, the OAC will consider how proposals accomplish the following:

- **Contribute to broad distribution of public art throughout Olympia.**
Commissioners will consider the relative representation of art among City neighborhoods, and seek to distribute public art broadly throughout the community.
- **Provide for diverse forms of art within the public collection.**
A wide range of style, media, subjects and viewpoints will offer perspective and interest for everyone.
- **Bring new ideas, innovation, or thinking to the community.** Encourage community conversation with focus on broader art experiences and culture and heritage focus.
- **Achieve a balanced City collection that includes a strong local base but also has regional and national reach.**
- **Ensure artwork is maintainable and safe.**
- **Ensure artwork is well-suited to chosen site or venue.**

3. Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

As an organization, the City of Olympia understands the power and influence government has to impact the daily lives of our residents, and the power to shape policies and practices that reduce inequities stemming from institutional and structural racism and oppression. In addition, the Parks, Arts and Recreation Department is committed to deepening engagement with underrepresented community members through creativity, innovation and relationship building to better provide a parks, arts and recreation system where all Olympians feel they belong.

4. Project List for 2022

The following slate of projects is diverse in arts disciplines and are located throughout Olympia. These investments in the arts support current and future endeavors, care for the collection we have and offer opportunity for local and regional artists, from youth through professional, to benefit the community and shared built environment. Together, this slate of initiatives will contribute to the creative and cultural arts in Olympia in the following ways:

- Expanding a diversity of the arts deeper into our neighborhoods and beyond the downtown core,
- Investing in the future of the arts and artists in our community, and showcasing their talent,
- Continuing with successful programs that are embraced by the community.

Traffic Box Wraps - \$16,000 – Up to 10 utility boxes in Olympia will be wrapped with artwork by local artists of all ages and printed on vinyl, both to replace failing wraps and wrap new boxes. As vinyl is expected to last up to 3 years, wraps may be replaced in following years, depending on project evaluation. This project is intended to provide opportunities for youth and emerging artists.

Music Out Loud - \$3,000 – Funding for 9 performances during the summer months: three performances at each of the three sites marked with a sidewalk mosaic in downtown Olympia.

Percival Plinth Project – \$33,000 – This ongoing project hosts loaned sculpture (up to 18) for an exhibition of one year along Percival Landing. During the month of July, the public is invited to vote for the sculpture they wish for the City to purchase.

Olympia Art Crossings - \$75,000 – Sited at key "gateway" locations surrounding the downtown, creative works of art that reflect Olympia's neighborhoods and community, and mark passage between downtown and our neighborhoods. The Eastside St location is currently in fabrication, with installation expected fall 2021, with the Martin Way/Pacific location getting started with artist selection.

City Hall Rotating Exhibit Support - \$1,100 – Host rotating exhibits of visual art and cultural artifacts for public interest and enjoyment, inside City Hall. Exhibits will be supported by concurrent presentations open to the public.

Poet Laureate - \$2,250 – Biennial Poet Laureate program, to promote poetry as an art form, expand access to the literary arts, connect the community to poetry, and promote poetry as a community voice that contributes to a sense of place. Funds cover an annual honoraria and small fund for materials and supplies.

Arts and Culture Organizations Granting Program - \$35,951 (\$20,000 + \$15,951 from contracts in 2020 and 2021, extended due to COVID) – The Arts Commission will continue with Grants to Arts & Culture Organizations, to provide equitable access to the arts for all Olympians. The program goal is to expand citizen involvement with the arts, engage underserved populations, and promote the interests of the broader Olympia community.

Artist-In-Residence Program – \$2,250 - In partnership with the City's Homeless Response efforts, work with City-supported shelters to invite an Artist-In Residence to provide art education to one location for a period of up to 6 months.

4. Planning Context

Beginning in 2015 the OAC adopted a five-year budget planning horizon to allow a longer look ahead, facilitating planning for prospective capital projects that will be phased over several years, and for ongoing costs associated with others.

Taken together with the efforts described in the 2022 Work Plan, this 2022 budget and MAP reflect a continuing effort to build supportive social and practical infrastructure for the arts and artists in Olympia, supporting the creative and nourishing energy that the arts bring to our community, especially important as collectively we emerge from the global pandemic. Especially uplifting is the potential of the Armory Creative Campus, currently in the planning phases.

The balance of 2022 projects reflect this Commission's goal to continue with programs that have shown strong popular support and public engagement, including Arts Walk, the Plinth Project, and Traffic Box Wraps, Grants to Arts & Culture Organizations, and the Poet Laureate program.

5. Other Activities

Maintenance and conservation efforts are necessary to preserve the integrity of the City's collection for the benefit of the community. Annual art cleaning/maintenance is completed with assistance of a .25FTE parks seasonal staff person, while for funding for conservation and maintenance materials and supplies is generated from interest drawn on the Municipal Art Fund.

Budget Summary and 5-Year Prospective (for Planning Purposes)

FIVE YEAR MUNICIPAL ART PLAN						
	2021 Actual	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Projected Revenue						
Available balance	341,246	287,139	165,606	135,024	104,442	73,860
\$1 per capita	56,018	56,018	56,018	56,018	56,018	56,018
Capital projects 1% for art (received)	10,894					
Revenue Total	408,158	343,157	221,624	191,042	160,460	129,878
Projects						
Traffic Box Wrap		16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Music Out Loud		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Percival Plinth Project	21,960	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
Olympia Art Crossings	72,376	75,000				
City Hall Rotating Exhibition	700	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Arts Walk cover purchase		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Poet Laureate	1,350	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
Grants to Arts and Culture Organizations	17,133	35,951	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Artist in Residence		2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
Annual Maintenance/Conservation	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Insurance	500	500	500	500	500	500
Expense Totals	121,019	177,551	86,600	86,600	86,600	86,600
Remaining Balance	287,139	165,606	135,024	104,442	73,860	43,278