

Public Art Program

Introduction

Public Art facilitates the healthy growth of a community. It creates a vibrant sense of place and contributes to a community's unique cultural identity. It enhances the quality of life, contributes to economic development and celebrates a community's heritage and distinctive cultural diversity. It brings art to life for its citizens in many everyday settings. Public Art shows a commitment to local artists and to providing citizens with access to art from Mission, British Columbia, Canada and around the world.

Public Art Definition

Public Art means original artworks, permanent or temporary, in any medium or discipline, placed or incorporated in public spaces, indoor or outdoor locations, for the benefit of the public. Public Art includes but is not limited to:

- Sculpture, in any combination of materials, whether in the round, bas relief, high relief, mobile, fountain, kinetic or electronic;
- Murals, mosaics, fibre works, glass works, photography, paintings, or other art forms in any combination of materials;
- Aesthetic enhancements of municipal infrastructure such as railings, street furniture, buildings, equipment, streetlights, manhole covers and waste receptacles.

For the purpose of further definition, the following elements are not considered public art:

- Directional elements, signage, or colour coding except where these elements are an integral part of the work of art;
- Objects that are mass produced in a standard design, such as playground equipment, benches, drinking fountains and light fixtures;
- Artwork that serves as advertising for a business (such as a mural depicting the services of a business). This type of commercial art is considered advertising and is reviewed as signage.
- Artwork which has been placed in public places illegally or without permission of the property owner.

Overview of the Program

The purpose of the District of Mission Public Art Program is to provide a set of guidelines that support the Policy goals to develop and manage a collection of public art that reflects the diversity of Mission, enhances civic spaces and neighbourhoods, and makes art accessible to all.

The Program includes three streams:

- Community Public Art

- Civic Public Art
- Developer Initiated Public Art

The Public Art Program employs a collaborative approach incorporating the Cultural Resources Commission, Mission Arts Council, Parks, Recreation & Culture and Development Services. Through this approach potential sites and funding will be identified for public art.

To be successful the Public Art Program will start small, be flexible and will build for success. The short to mid-term priorities (1 – 4 years) include:

- Completing the public art inventory with the Cultural Resources Commission and establishing an online presence
- Identifying potential public art sites on District land or in District facilities
- Responding to opportunities for gifts, sponsorships, partnerships, donations, developer contributions and grants
- Financially supporting the development of one public art project on District land or in a District facility over the next 4 years
- Supporting a community event which showcases and celebrates public art

Three Streams of the Public Art Program at a Glance

	Community Public Art	Civic Public Art	Developer Initiated Public Art
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and animate public spaces • Engage citizens through participation in the creative process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and animate District facilities and land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and animate private or public spaces
Funding Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal and/or application for community grants • Sponsorship/gifts to the District • External grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital project budget • Gaming Reserve Fund • Community Amenity Reserve Fund (CAF) • Partnerships • External grants • Sponsorship/gifts to the District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Amenity Reserve Fund • Developer provision
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artist and community collaboration • Proposal to and liaison with the District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Commissioned • District led or community/District collaborative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification in the OCP and Neighbourhood Plans • Coordination through Development Services

1. Community Public Art

Goal

In addition to the enhancement and animation of a public space, the goal of the Community Public Art Stream is to encourage resident engagement through participation in the creative process and the development of art that enlivens a neighbourhood and fosters a sense of place and connection.

The Community Public Art stream is defined as artwork projects:

- Initiated or guided by a professional artist; or
- Created in collaboration with members of the community and the Cultural Resources Commission; or
- Installed on District land or in a District facility; or
- Accessible to the public in a temporary or permanent capacity

While Community Public Art projects tend to be facility focused and sometimes small in scope, they often tell a local story or highlight a unique aspect of the community. The ceramic tiles lining many of the hallways of the Leisure Centre and the Truth and Reconciliation house posts at Fraser River Heritage Parks are examples of this.

Funding

An artist, resident group or organization wishing to undertake a Community Public Art project is encouraged to develop a proposal to be submitted to the District. This will then be referred to the Cultural Resources Commission for comment to Council along with a report from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

Financial assistance for Community Public Art projects may be considered through the District community grants program, the Mission Community Foundation Public Art Fund, sponsorships and gifts, and external grants with the support of the District.

Process

The Proposal submitted to the District should be completed on the Public Art application form and outline:

- The goals and scope of the project
- Plans for collaboration between the artist and the community
- The secured and requested funding sources
- The commitment required by the District, in particular land or facility space
- A plan for ongoing maintenance of the completed artwork

Parks, Recreation & Culture staff will be assigned as the liaison for the project throughout the process.

2. Civic Public Art

Goal

The goal of the Civic Public Art Stream is to enhance and animate civic facilities and spaces through art opportunities that emerge in the process of developing and/or revitalizing the District's facilities and land. Civic Public Art is defined as artworks, for temporary or permanent installation, that are initiated and commissioned by the District. A community project committee, including but not limited to representation from the Cultural Resources Commission and District staff will play a collaborative role.

The projects can range in scope and scale but are generally sizable, becoming significant landmarks. The District has very few of this type of project currently but an example would be the eagle and sturgeon sculptures located at the harbour.

Funding

Potential funding for Civic Public art projects may be available through the following sources:

- **Capital Project Budget:** The District could allocate a percentage of construction costs of defined capital building project budgets to Public Art. The District could also budget set funds for Civic Public Art projects through it's capital budget planning process.
- **Gaming Revenue:** The District may apply a portion of its gaming revenue to support a Civic Public Art project.
- **Partnerships:** The District may work in collaboration with local non-profits and private sector organizations to develop artworks.
- **External Grants:** Occasionally Federal and Provincial government grants and non-profit organizations and foundations support public art projects.
- **Sponsorship and Gifts to the District:** Staff will be alert to opportunities that these sources may provide for public art projects.

Process

Opportunities for the inclusion of publically accessible artworks emerge as the District is planning a new facility, renovating an existing facility or developing a park, street or plaza. The Development Services, Engineering and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments will identify potential art opportunities in the initial stages of project development.

There are two possible roles that the District can play in the Civic Public Art stream process:

- In the first, the District produces the Terms of Reference, leads the artist commissioning process and coordinates all stages of the project.
- In the second, the District works in a collaborative capacity with the Cultural Resources Commission and additional community members they feel are appropriate. Their role is to assist in the development of the project including the Terms of Reference, provide input into the type of artwork appropriate to the site and participate in the selection of the artwork.

Whether the District takes the lead or plays a collaborative role, staff will apply best industry practices at each stage, from the planning and consultation, to the selection of the artist, execution of the project and the accessioning and celebration of the artwork.

3. Developer Initiated Public Art

Goal

The goal of Developer Initiated Public Art Stream is to either enhance a private or public space. In the case of private space it must be visible and/or accessible in the public realm. The voluntary inclusion of artworks, often featured at the entry or access way of a property is becoming more common as developers recognize added value that an iconic piece can bring to a neighbourhood.

While landscaping and general beautification of the site enhances the attractiveness of a development, these activities are not considered public art. The District of Mission differentiates beautification from public art as the latter is artist led.

Funding

Currently, there is no requirement for developers to provide public art. However developers are required to contribute to the District Community Amenity Reserve Fund which may be used for public art projects or they may choose to provide public art from their own project budgets. During the development process, conversations between developers and staff will serve to inspire public art components as options within development projects.

Process

Public art sites should be identified during the OCP and neighbourhood planning processes. Developer Initiated Public Art is coordinated through the District's Development Services Department with consultation from the Cultural Resources Commission which can provide guidance and assistance to development companies in the identification of a project.

4. Management of the Public Art Program

The Public Art Program is managed through an interdepartmental approach involving the following staff teams:

- Planning and Development Services will support Developer Initiated Public Art through the OCP and neighbourhood planning processes and development applications
- The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department will take the lead on Community Art and Civic Art and sites within park and facility construction projects
- Corporate Services such as Finance, Legal, Communications and Purchasing will assist as needed through the various stages of the commissioning, installation, and accessioning processes of a public art project

Process

- Opportunities for Public Art are identified
- Funding source is confirmed
- Representation from the appropriate District Department is determined
- Community, Civic or Developer Art process is initiated
- The community is engaged (Cultural Resources Commission input, Arts Council, etc)
- Public Art commissioning, fabrication, installation and accessioning processes are implemented and managed using industry best practices
- Maintenance is ensured throughout the lifecycle of the artwork. The District has a standard of including operating funds tied to capital projects and including new assets in the Tangible Capital Asset pool.
- De-accessioning is undertaken when artworks reach the end of their lifecycle.

Gifts and Loans

There may be occasions in which individuals or groups wish to give or bequeath art to the District. While these gestures are appreciated, it is prudent for the District to ensure suitability before accepting a gift. A process and set of criteria must be developed to ensure that artworks accepted are compatible with District and Program goals and are an appropriate use of public space.

When a gift is offered, staff will advise the prospective donor that the District has a Public Art Policy and Program which guides the process for accepting and accessioning any artwork intended for a public site. The donor should be aware that if the piece is accepted, a legal agreement will be developed that identifies each party's responsibilities, such as installation and cost of ongoing maintenance.

Additionally, there may be occasions when the District recognizes a benefit in borrowing a piece of art from another municipality or from a private collection. The District may also be asked to lend a piece for a set period of time. Both transactions may be reviewed by the appropriate members of the District departments to ensure that standards for proper care and handling are observed and that the piece is insured against loss, damage and liability.

Celebration and Participation

Celebrating the addition of new artworks and creating opportunities for community learning and discovery are important elements of a Public Art Program. When a new piece is accessioned into the collection, an opening ceremony should mark the event and announcements made on the District website, in social and print media.

As the Program develops, a variety of educational opportunities may be offered that bring together the community with artists and arts and cultural organizations; workshops, tours, special events and artist talks are some of the ways to enhance community awareness and enjoyment of the District's collection.

There may be community members who wish to become involved in public art such as collaborating with an artist on a project, participating on a project committee or the Cultural Resources Commission. These opportunities can be facilitated through the program. The increased capacity and confidence of interested citizens and local cultural organizations will help strengthen and sustain the Public Art Program as it grows and develops.

Appendix A – Public Art Sites

Public Art sites in the District of Mission will be recommended by the Cultural Resources Commission with the assistance of District of Mission staff and will take into consideration the following factors:

- The visibility of the site by the general public
- Public safety
- Interior and exterior vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns
- Relationship of the site to existing or future architectural features and natural features
- Facility users and/or interaction of users with the proposed artwork
- Future development plans for the area
- Site design including landscaping, drainage, grading, lighting and seating considerations
- Public accessibility in particular handicap access
- Impacts on adjacent property owners
- Impacts on operational functions of the District (ie mowing, snow clearing, custodial)

The following sites have been identified as potential Public Art sites in the District of Mission as of September 2015:

- Mission Leisure Centre
- Mission Skate Park
- Municipal Hall
- 7th Ave Rain Garden
- Mission Library
- Community level parks – Centennial Park, Heritage Park, Harbourside Park/Jack Poole Plaza, Mission Sports Park
- Welton Street Plaza (pending construction)
- Downtown gateways (pending construction)
- Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce