



# ARTS COUNCIL SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING

Monday, September 16, 2024 | 5:30pm

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair: Elizabeth Mitchell  
Vice Chair: Daniel Becker  
Councilors: Suzanne Skone, Jonathan Harrington,  
JB Gibson, Hannah Youn, Irene Rajagapol

## LOCATION & CONTACT

MICEC – Slater Room Council Chambers  
and via Zoom  
8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Phone: 206.275.7600 | [www.mercerisland.gov](http://www.mercerisland.gov)

*We strive to create an inclusive and accessible experience. Those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison's Office 3 days prior to the meeting at 206.795.8518 or by emailing [Katie.Herzog@mercerisland.gov](mailto:Katie.Herzog@mercerisland.gov).*

The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom and recorded and saved on the City's [YouTube Channel](#).

**Registering to Speak:** Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances must register their request with the staff liaison at 206.795.8518 or [email](#) before 4 PM on the day of the Arts Council meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

**Join by Telephone at 5:30 PM:** Call 253.215.8782 and enter Webinar ID 884 5771 0624 and Password 686288.

**Join by Internet at 5:30 PM:**

- 1) Click [this link](#).
- 2) If the Zoom app is not installed on your computer, you will be prompted to download it.
- 3) If prompted for Webinar ID, enter 884 5771 0624; Enter Password 686288

**Join in person at 5:30 PM:** Mercer Island Community & Event Center 8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island

## CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL - 5:30 PM

## APPEARANCES

## SPECIAL BUSINESS

1. **Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan – Workshop #3**  
**Recommended Action:** Discussion only; no action needed.

## OTHER BUSINESS

2. **Absences**

## ADJOURNMENT



# ARTS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item (1)  
September 16, 2024  
Special Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	Art in Public Places 6-Year Workplan – Workshop #3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Discussion only; no action needed.	

<b>STAFF:</b>	Sarah Bluvas
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Ted Weinberg
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Plan Section: Framework for Developing Public Art Projects</li> <li>Guidelines for Deaccession of Public Art</li> </ol>

## SUMMARY

This special meeting is the third in a series of workshops to develop a 6-Year Workplan for the Art in Public Places Program (the Plan). The Mercer Island Arts Council has participated in two special meetings (i.e. workshops) and one regular meeting to provide input on the Plan.

- Workshop #1, May 20, 2024 ([Agenda Item #2](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 7:13) – The Arts Council reviewed City planning documents relevant to public art and explored the City’s public art collection and program. They shared their observations as well as short phrases/sentences they wrote responding to two prompts.
- Workshop #2, June 17, 2024 ([Agenda Item #2](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 3:02) – For the second workshop, the Arts Council began discussing the framework for developing public art projects over the six-year planning horizon and shared feedback on public art policies.
- Regular Meeting, July 17, 2024 ([Agenda Item #5](#) | [Video Recording](#); Item begins at 1:30:00) – Staff recapped planning progress, and the Arts Council endorsed the “public art pillars” as well as provided feedback on the planning process and timeline.

### FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

Staff used Arts Council input to start drafting the Framework for Developing Public Art Projects (Exhibit 1), a section of the Plan that will include the public art goals, actions, project opportunities, and selection criteria identified through this process.

During Workshop #3, staff seek feedback on the following elements of this section:

1. Goals for the City of Mercer Island’s Public Art Program
2. Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan
3. Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Proposed goals and actions were drafted using the Arts Council’s input from Workshop #2, and the selection criteria are based on the “public art pillars” endorsed by the Arts Council on July 17. Feedback received at Workshop #3 will be used to refine those elements into a second draft that will be shared with the Arts Council at the October 16 Regular Meeting.

The Framework section will also include the Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix, which the Arts Council will begin reviewing after the draft 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is released in the fall.

**PUBLIC ART POLICIES**

A draft public art policy document will be presented to the Arts Council as part of this planning process in Q4 of 2024. Arts Council members previously provided input related to public art acquisition, and staff now seek policy feedback for deaccession and community/temporary public art projects.

*Public Art Deaccession*

The current guidelines for deaccession (Exhibit 2) were provided on June 3 but were not discussed during Workshop #2. Staff seek Arts Council feedback on this public art policy at Workshop #3.

*Community Public Art and Temporary Public Art Projects*

Aside from Art in Public Places (AIPP) projects, the City’s public art program includes the following:

- Community Public Art Projects: Requests from the community to install permanent public art projects. Recent completed acquisition – *Twin Foxes* (2015)
- Temporary Public Art Projects: Short-term exhibits generated by City staff, Arts Council members, community members/organizations, and/or others. Recent projects – *Island Lanterns* (2021, 2023, 2024) and *Prairie of Possibilities* (2021)

Staff recommend using the same selection criteria identified for AIPP acquisitions to evaluate the other public art project types. If the Arts Council wishes to identify supplemental criteria to include in public art policy, staff seek input during Workshop #3 to draft those criteria.

**UPDATED PLANNING SCHEDULE**

The updated proposed schedule for this internal planning process is provided below.

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
October 16, 2024	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Development Framework</li> <li>• Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement: Framework for Developing Public Art Projects</li> <li>• Draft Review: Goals for Public Art Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>
November 18, 2024	Special Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Public Art Policy</li> <li>• Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Review: 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix</li> <li>• Draft Release: Public Art Guidelines</li> <li>• Endorsement: Goals for Public Art Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>
January 15, 2025	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Collection Care</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsement: 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix</li> </ul>
February 10, 2025	Special Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Review: Updating the Plan</li> </ul>

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Discussion only; no action needed.

The Framework for Developing Public Art Projects section of the workplan will include the following elements:

1. Goals for the Public Art Program
2. Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan
3. Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix – Prioritized list of project opportunities based on known/anticipated CIP and other projects
4. Artwork/Artist Selection Criteria – Updated selection criteria based on the Four Pillars

This is a running draft of that section.

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### **Goals for the City of Mercer Island’s Public Art Program**

Through public art, the Mercer Island Arts Council seeks to:

- Spark curiosity where Mercer Island residents live, gather, and play.
- Cultivate community pride, civic engagement, high quality of life, and social connection.
- Share Mercer Island’s rich history, natural beauty, diverse community, and local creativity with Island residents and visitors.
- Provide accessible, inclusive, and safe public art experiences for people of all abilities.
- Steward a public art collection that future generations can sustainably enjoy, engage with, and enhance.

### **Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan**

To work toward these goals over the next six years, the City will focus the public art workplan on the following actions:

- Activate existing public art installations and spaces with performance, special events, and community-led projects that raise awareness of the public art collection and educate about its many offerings.
- Select locations for public art installations and activations that provide equitable access to residents, create a destination for visitors, and integrate public art into its surroundings. Examples include the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery (centrally located) and the South End (lacking concentration of public art).
- Prioritize diverse and innovative artists, forms of expression, and mediums, including those not currently represented in the public art collection, when developing new public art projects.
- Embrace Mercer Island’s history, natural environment, and local values when identifying themes for new public art projects.
- Provide opportunities for Island residents, community organizations, and local artists to collaborate in developing and implementing public art projects.
- Evaluate project opportunities not only for their immediate impact but also for their potential to endure and inspire future generations. Considerations will include financial, environmental, and cultural sustainability as well as long-term maintenance requirements.

### **Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria**

After public art projects are identified, the following criteria will be used to evaluate artwork submittals and proposals.

#### *Aesthetic*

- Quality – Does the proposal demonstrate high artistic merit?
- Diversity of Representation – Will the proposal add new mediums, materials, artmaking processes, styles/genres, and/or artists to the public art collection?
- Originality and Innovation – Will the proposal bring something fresh and unique to the public art collection?

#### *Place*

- Context – Does the proposal demonstrate understanding of the project site and its historical, cultural, and environmental context?
- Functionality – How will the proposal integrate into and/or enhance the site?
- Sense of Identify – Will the proposal enhance and/or cultivate a strong sense of place for residents and visitors?

#### *Connection*

- Inspiration – Will the proposal provoke feeling in the viewer?
- Diversity – Does the proposal engage diverse communities and foster community dialogue?
- Inclusion & Accessibility – Does the proposal provide a safe and inclusive public art experience for all?

#### *Longevity*

- Staying Power – Does the proposal demonstrate appeal for future Mercer Island generations?
- Collection Care – Can the proposed project be sustainably completed and maintained?

### **Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix**

Development of the Public Art Project Opportunities Matrix will begin after the draft 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is released.

**Policy**

Deaccessioning is a procedure for the withdrawal of an artwork from the public collection. Deaccessioning should be considered only after a significant amount of time has elapsed from the date of installation of permanent works and acceptance in the case of portable works or under special circumstances (e.g., the piece has been damaged beyond repair.) Deaccessioning will be considered only after a careful and impartial evaluation of the artwork within the context of the collection as a whole. At the beginning of the process, District staff will make reasonable effort to notify any living artist whose work is being considered for deaccessioning.

**Eligible Artworks**

All artworks owned by Mercer Island whether acquired through Commission, a Percent for Art Program, donation, or any other method. In the case of donated artworks, all legal documents relating to the donation will be consulted prior to beginning the process.

**Criteria for Deaccessioning**

A Public Art Committee may consider the deaccessioning of artwork for one or more of the following reasons in the event that it cannot be resited:

1. A work is not, or is only rarely, on display because of lack of a suitable site.
2. The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonable guaranteed.
3. The artwork has been damaged or has deteriorated and repair is impractical or unfeasible.
4. The artwork endangers public safety.
5. In the case of site specific artwork, the artwork is destroyed by severely altering its relationship to the site.
6. The artwork has been determined to be significantly incompatible or inferior in the context of the collection.
7. The City wishes to replace the artwork with work of more significance by the same artist.
8. The artwork requires excessive maintenance or has faults of design or workmanship.

**Deaccessioning Procedure**

A Deaccessioning Subcommittee will be appointed by the Arts Council when necessary. This subcommittee will consist of no more than five arts professionals/experts (including one member of the Public Art Committee and an art conservator or curator).

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the collection, the Deaccessioning Subcommittee of the Public Art Committee will review the collection when deemed appropriate. The Arts Council staff will be responsible for recommending artworks for consideration/evaluation for deaccessioning.

1. The Subcommittee determines that an artwork meets one of the criteria for deaccessioning listed above.
2. The Council staff prepares a report that includes:
  - a) The opinion of legal staff on any restrictions which may apply to this specific work.
  - b) Approval of appropriate city authority

- c) Written recommendation for deaccessioning.
- 3. The Public Art Committee will review the report. The Committee may seek additional information regarding the work from artists, art galleries, curators, appraisers or other professionals prior to making a recommendation to the full Arts Council.
- 4. A recommendation for action is sent to the City Council for approval at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Upon confirmation of its recommendation, a PAAC shall consider the following actions:

- 1. Sale or Trade
  - a) Artist will be given first option to purchase or trade artwork.
  - b) Sale may be through auction, gallery resale or direct bidding by individuals, in compliance with appropriate law and policies governing surplus property.
  - c) Trade may be through artist, gallery, museum or other institutions for one or more artwork(s) of comparable value by the same artist.
  - d) No works of art shall be sold or traded to members or staff of the District, consistent with District conflict of interest policies.
  - e) Proceeds from the sale of a work of art shall be returned to a departmental account form, which the original purchase was made if acquired through the District or a % for Art Program. Funds from the sale of gifts shall go into a Public Art Trust Fund for future artwork projects. Any pre-existing contractual agreements between the artist and the District regarding resale shall be honored.
- 2. Destruction of work deteriorated or damaged beyond repair and deemed to be of negligible value.
- 3. If the council is unable to dispose of the artwork in a manner outline above, the work shall be donated to a nonprofit organization or otherwise disposed of as council sees fit.





# 6-Year Art in Public Places Workplan – Workshop #3

Arts Council Special Hybrid Meeting  
September 16, 2024





# Goals for Tonight's Workshop

1. Provide feedback on Framework for Developing Public Art Projects.
2. Provide input to update the Public Art Deaccession policy.
3. Provide input for Community Public Art & Temporary Public Art policy.
4. Look ahead and confirm the date/time for Workshop #4.



# Framework for Developing Public Art Projects



*Growing Up* by Richard Beyer  
Commissioned by the City in 1987

# What is the Framework for Developing Public Art Projects?

- Section of the 6-Year Workplan that will include the following for the public art program:
  - Goals
  - Actions
  - Project opportunities
  - Selection criteria
- Staff used Arts Council feedback from previous workshops to draft elements of the section, including the **Public Art Pillars** and **Framing Statements** exercises.
- Tonight, we're discussing the goals, actions, and selection criteria. We will discuss project opportunities after the draft 2025-2030 CIP is released.

# Goals for the Mercer Island Public Art Program

## **Through public art, the Mercer Island Arts Council seeks to:**

- Spark curiosity where Mercer Island residents live, gather, and play.
- Cultivate community pride, civic engagement, high quality of life, and social connection.
- Share Mercer Island's rich history, natural beauty, diverse community, and local creativity with Island residents and visitors.
- Provide accessible, inclusive, and safe public art experiences for people of all abilities.
- Steward a public art collection that future generations can sustainably enjoy, engage with, and enhance.



## Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan

**To work toward these goals over the next six years, the City will focus the public art workplan on the following actions:**

- Activate existing public art installations and spaces with performance, special events, and community-led projects that raise awareness of the public art collection and educate about its many offerings.
- Select locations for public art installations and activations that provide equitable access to residents, create a destination for visitors, and integrate public art into its surroundings. Examples include the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery (centrally located) and the South End (lacking concentration of public art).
- Prioritize diverse and innovative artists, forms of expression, and mediums, including those not currently represented in the public art collection, when developing new public art projects.

## Focused Actions for the 6-Year Workplan

**To work toward these goals over the next six years, the City will focus the public art workplan on the following actions:**

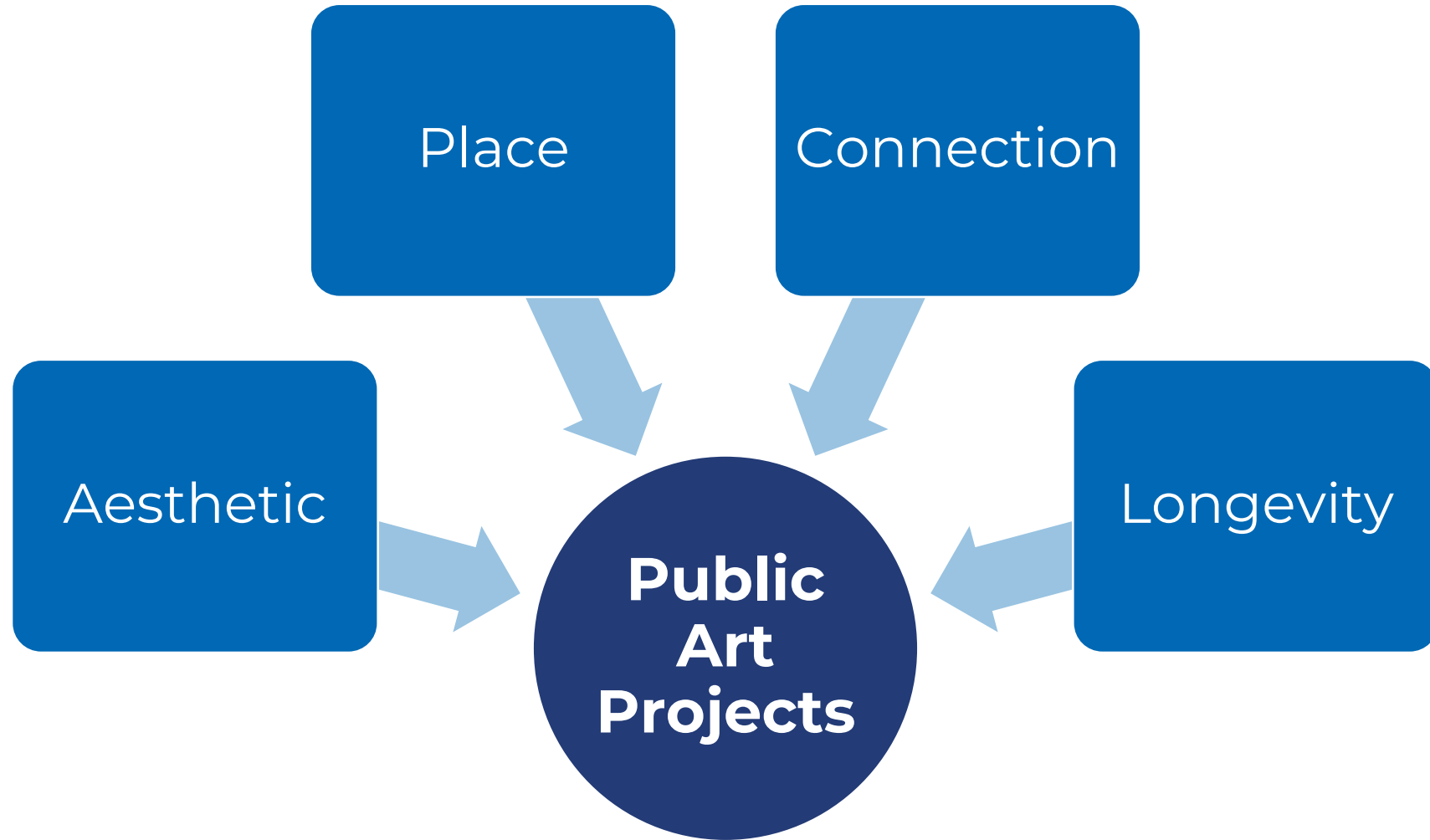
- Embrace Mercer Island's history, natural environment, and local values when identifying themes for new public art projects.
- Provide opportunities for Island residents, community organizations, and local artists to collaborate in developing and implementing public art projects.
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# Four Public Art Pillars

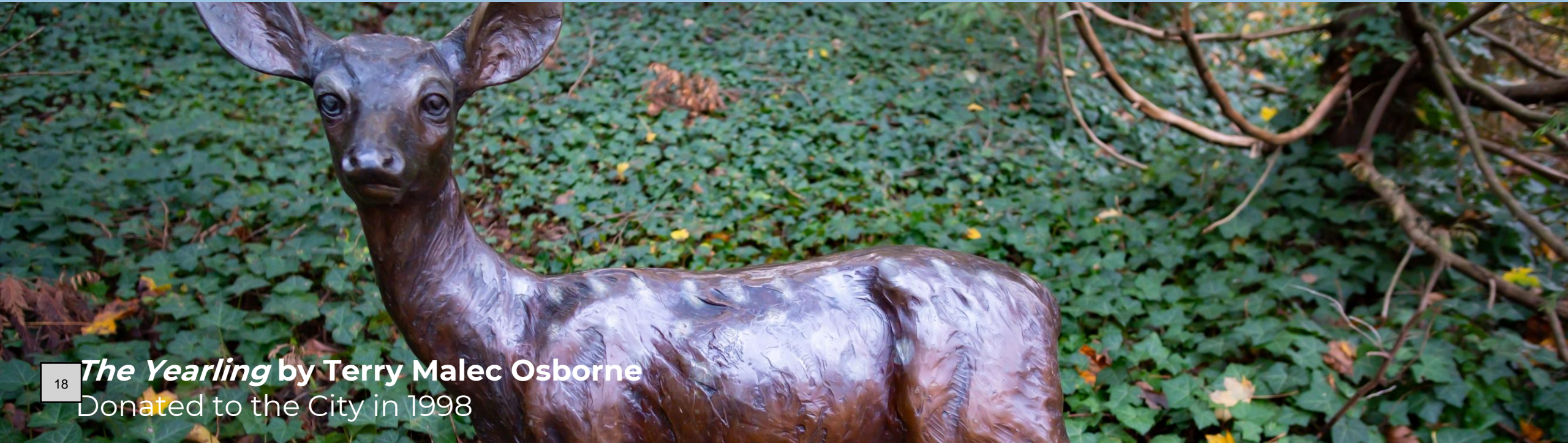


# Artwork & Artist Selection Criteria

Public Art Pillar	Selection Criteria
Aesthetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Quality</b> – Does the proposal demonstrate high artistic merit?</li> <li>• <b>Diversity of Representation</b> – Will the proposal add new mediums, materials, artmaking processes, styles/genres, and/or artists to the public art collection?</li> <li>• <b>Originality &amp; Innovation</b> – Will the proposal bring something fresh and unique to the public art collection?</li> </ul>
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Context</b> – Does the proposal demonstrate understanding of the project site and its historical, cultural, and environmental context?</li> <li>• <b>Functionality</b> – How will the proposal integrate into and/or enhance site?</li> <li>• <b>Sense of Identity</b> – Will the proposal enhance and/or cultivate a strong sense of place for residents and visitors?</li> </ul>
Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inspiration</b> – Will the proposal provoke feeling in the viewer?</li> <li>• <b>Diversity</b> – Does the proposal engage diverse communities and foster community dialogue?</li> <li>• <b>Inclusion &amp; Accessibility</b> – Does the proposal provide a safe and inclusive public art experience for all?</li> </ul>
Longevity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staying Power</b> – Does the proposal demonstrate appeal for future Mercer Island generations?</li> <li>• <b>Collection Care</b> – Can the proposed project be sustainably completed and maintained?</li> </ul>



# Public Art Policy Input



18 ***The Yearling* by Terry Malec Osborne**  
Donated to the City in 1998

# Who is involved in the deaccession process?

Activity	Current “Who”	Updated “Who”
Identify deaccession needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City staff recommend artworks for consideration/evaluation.</li> <li>2. Arts Council appoints Deaccession Subcommittee of the Public Art Committee to evaluate and confirm artwork meets deaccessioning criteria.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than five arts professionals/experts</li> <li>• Includes member of Public Art Committee and an art conservator/curator</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
Approve deaccession recommendation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff prepares a deaccession report.</li> <li>2. Public Art Committee reviews report and makes recommendation to Arts Council.</li> <li>3. Arts Council reviews Committee recommendation.</li> <li>4. Staff present final recommendation to City Council for approval.</li> </ol>	
Implement deaccession.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Art Committee considers options (sale, destruction, donation, etc.)</li> <li>2. Staff carry out selected action and update public art records.</li> </ol>	

# How are deaccession needs evaluated?

## Current Deaccession Criteria

1. A work is not, or is only rarely, on display because of lack of a suitable site.
2. The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonable guaranteed.
3. The artwork has been damaged or has deteriorated and repair is impractical or unfeasible.
4. The artwork endangers public safety.
5. In the case of site-specific artwork, the artwork is destroyed by severely altering its relationship to the site.
6. The artwork has been determined to be significantly incompatible or inferior in the context of the collection.
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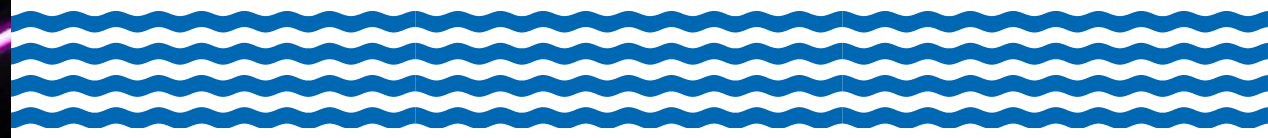


# Other Public Art Program Policy Needs

- **Community Public Art Projects:** Requests from the community to install permanent public art projects.
  - Recent acquisition – *Twin Foxes* (2015)
- **Temporary Public Art Projects:** Short-term exhibits generated by City staff, Arts Council members, community members/organizations, and/or others.
  - Recent projects – *Island Lanterns* (2021, 2023, 2024); *Prairie of Possibilities* (2021)



21 *Prairie of Possibilities* by Moonlight Collective  
Exhibited in October 2021



# Considerations for Community & Temporary Public Art Projects

## **Project Proposal Process**

- Will the City administer a call for artists or accept unsolicited proposals?
- When will proposals be accepted? (E.g. On a rolling basis vs. specific deadline)
- Should individuals be required to demonstrate community support for the project? (E.g. Require a project sponsor from the community, submit letters of support, etc.)

## **Artwork Details**

- What types of community/temporary public art projects will be considered? (E.g. specific mediums only vs. any type of artwork, etc.)
- Where will community/temporary public art projects be installed/exhibited? (E.g. Any City property? Specific locations identified by staff and the Arts Council? Etc.)





# Upcoming Meetings & Public Art Updates



*Call of the Wild* by Donald Riggs  
Donated to the City in 2013

23 *Puzzle Play* by John Liczwinko  
2002 Mercerdale Park Playground AIPP

# Upcoming Planning Schedule

Date	Title	Topics	Milestone
October 16	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Development Framework</li> <li>• Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Endorsement:</b> Framework for Developing Public Art Projects</li> <li>• <b>Draft Review:</b> Goals for Public Art Interpretation &amp; Engagement</li> </ul>
November 18	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Public Art Policy</li> <li>• Interpretation / Engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft Review:</b> 25-30 Project Opportunities Matrix</li> <li>• <b>Draft Release:</b> Public Art Guidelines</li> <li>• <b>Endorsement:</b> Goals for Public Art Interpretation &amp; Engagement</li> </ul>
January 15, 2025	Regular Hybrid Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Opportunities</li> <li>• Collection Care</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Endorsement:</b> 25-26 Project Opportunities Matrix</li> </ul>
February 10, 2025	Special Hybrid Meeting (Workshop #4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Draft Review:</b> Updating the Plan</li> </ul>





# Public Art Updates

- Restoration of the mosaic murals at Luther Burbank Park is **complete!**
- Contracting process to restore *Totem* by Bernard Hosey is still underway. Work likely happening in 2025.
- General public art maintenance wrapping up by end of summer.
- Staff will provide an update on the Street Name Inlays in October.
- Updated STQRY platform is live!