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City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Report

Arts Commission

File #: 23-1393 **Meeting Date:** 10/5/2023

TITLE:	**MURALS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY REVIEW**
DEPARTMENT:	**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**
PRESENTED BY:	**LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST**
CONTACT INFORMATION:	**LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is staff recommendation that the Arts Commission review the new commissioning process for Murals on Public Property (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The Art in Public Places Report created by consultant, Arts Orange County was approved by the Arts Commission on April 6, 2023, to address aspects of the Arts and Culture Master Plan's Goal #2: Expand Public Art throughout the City. The following initiatives were recommended as follows:

> **Action 2.1:** Continue the City-operated program of temporary utility box art, which affords opportunities to local artists, established and emerging, to create images that offer the community beautification. Review additional sites that are suitable for such installations, including wayfinding signage.
>
> **Action 2.2:** Develop a plan for more ambitious temporary and permanent public art, including the identification of potential locations around the City, creation of policies with respect to selection and acquisition of artworks, and determination of the funding sources to be used.
>
> **Action 2.3:** Temporary art programs are very popular with the public because they are constantly refreshed with new works, offering a variety of themes, styles, shapes, colors, and scale to the cityscape. Create a new program of temporary installations of large-scale sculptures. We recommend two-year loans, placed at sites inclusive of all the City's districts. This can be ramped up gradually by installing three works in Year 1 (one in each of three districts), adding three (3) in Year 2 (in the remaining districts), and then continuing to rotate the works on expiring loans annually.
>
> **Action 2.4:** City may consider adopting a policy mandating fees for public art from new development projects.

Action 2.5: Create a new program of permanent public art and implement the process of selecting and installing a first work.

Action 2.6: Incorporate imaginative design in all the City's functional elements and fixtures. There are artists and existing companies that specialize in the custom fabrication of creatively designed elements such as street lights, playground equipment, fitness stations, bus shelters, benches. After a period of research, the City should conduct a call for artists to submit designs, which would be selected by the City through a process involving the Arts Commission, Planning Commission, City staff and Council. Based on budget, the City can choose to transform the chosen elements over a short period of time or phase them in as replacement of older elements.

The new commissioning process for Murals on Public Property is part of Action 2.2: to develop a plan for more ambitious temporary and permanent public art. Murals and the commissioning process can also be found within the Art in Public Places Report beginning on page 29 (Attachment 2).

ANALYSIS:

The Art in Public Places Report is a comprehensive report of recommendations for programs and policies and provides detailed specifics as to how the six (6) initiatives from the Arts and Culture Master Plan may be executed in the next three (3) years. Each of the components below detailed in the Art in Public Places Report, will be crucial to assisting City staff in creating new policies and processes:

1. Public Art Commissioning Process
2. Public Art Collection Management
3. Murals and the Commissioning Process
4. Public Art Donations and the Criteria
5. Public Art inclusion in City Public Works Development Projects
6. Public Art inclusion in Private Development Projects

The newly drafted commissioning process for Murals on Public Property will address numbers three (3) and five (5) from the Arts & Culture Master Plan initiatives, and will also be part of a larger Public Art Policy document created by City staff in the coming months.

The first step of Action 2.2 was to establish Public Art Criteria and Guidelines to assist with new temporary and permanent public art projects in the future, which was brought to the Arts Commission in May of 2023. The Murals on Private Property permit application and process was brought to the Arts Commission in June of 2023. Murals on Public Property is one of the next steps in this process.

Two (2) other city examples have been added for comparison and for general information on how different cities implement and address murals on public property (Attachment 4 and 5).

FISCAL REVIEW:

There are currently no costs associated with this process.

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required for this report.

CONCLUSION:

As mentioned above and brought forward in the Arts in Public Places Report brought to the Arts Commission on April 6, 2023, City staff will be working on the individual public art initiatives from the Arts & Culture Master Plan, and implementing them one by one. Once reviewed, staff will begin work to create sustainable processes and procedures for the City moving forward. Review and discuss the commissioning process for Murals on Public Property for citywide implementation.