



City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

File #: 23-1156

Meeting Date: 4/06/2023

TITLE:

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REVIEW

DEPARTMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRESENTED BY: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST

CONTACT INFORMATION: LAURETTE GARNER, ARTS SPECIALIST, (714) 754-5322

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of staff that the Arts Commission:

1. Review and discuss the Art in Public Places Report to prioritize future initiatives
2. Approve the Art in Public Places Report for inclusion in future programs and policies

BACKGROUND:

The Arts and Culture Master Plan's Goal #2 states: 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 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 Art in Public Places Report was created by Arts Orange County at the behest of City staff. Arts OC was chosen as the consultant due of their extensive work on the Arts & Culture Master Plan. The data that was collected from the Arts and Culture Master Plan was also used to create content for the Art in Public Places Report. A scope of work was developed by staff, which included all the initiatives from the Arts and Culture Master Plan Goal #2. A professional services agreement was approved for Arts OC and the work commenced.

Arts OC then completed a draft report and submitted it to City staff. Staff reviewed and provided feedback and sent the original draft to the legal team for review. The legal team made minor edits which are reflected in the current draft of the document. The Art in Public Places Report elaborates and provides more task-specific information about each of the above recommended actions from the Arts & Culture Master Plan.

During the last two years, the City fulfilled multiple goals of the 2021 Arts and Culture Master Plan including hiring a full-time arts professional (action item 3.2), establishing an Arts Commission (action item 3.3) , creating a new Art Crawl program (action item 1.2.1), and planning free park performances (action item 1.2.4). In addition, staff have already taken necessary steps to complete action item 2.1 to continue the City-operated program of temporary utility box art.

ANALYSIS:

Staff has reviewed the Art in Public Places Report and determined with the current resources in place, the City is well positioned to address action items 2.2 through 2.6 from the Arts and Culture Master Plan. The Art in Public Places Report will be a valuable tool in commencing this work. It is a comprehensive report of recommendations for programs and policies and provides detailed specifics as to how the six initiatives from the Arts and Culture Master Plan may be executed in the next three years. Each of detailed components below will be crucial to assisting City staff in creating new policies and processes around the Arts & Culture Master Plan initiatives:

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

Staff has already received multiple inquiries regarding potential public art projects within the City. Inquiries have included; how to donate art to the City and approval processes for murals and sculptures on private and residential property. The Parks and Community Services Department has also been consulted to give input on City driven projects considering possible art components.

In order to complete the initiatives outlined above and to address the community's current interest level in public art, staff would like the Arts Commission to prioritize initiatives to assist staff in moving them forward through appropriate city channels by creating new processes and procedures in collaboration with other city departments.

FISCAL REVIEW:

None.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City of Costa Mesa's legal team has reviewed the Art in Public Places Report.

CONCLUSION:

At this time, it is the recommendation of staff that the Commission review, discuss and approve the Art in Public Places Report as provided by Arts OC. Staff from Arts OC will be making a presentation to commence the discussion. Staff are asking that the Commission review the remaining initiatives and begin the process of setting priorities. Future discussions will be brought back before the Commission at a later date, depending on how the Commission prioritizes the initiatives.