



Special Meeting Agenda Public Arts Commission

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020
6:00 P.M.

City of Maple Valley City Hall
22017 SE Wax Road, Suite 200

**THIS IS OFFERED AS A ZOOM WEBINAR ONLY.
CALL IN AND JOINING INFORMATION AS FOLLOWS:**

Dial In option: 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 987 940 68967

<https://maplevalleywa.zoom.us/j/98794068967>

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|--|---------------------------|
| 1. WELCOME | Chair |
| 2. ROLL CALL | Chair |
| 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – January 2, 2020 Regular Meeting | Chair |
| 4. CONTINUED BUSINESS | |
| • Public Arts Master Plan | Chair |
| • Summit Park Utility Box Artwork | Chair |
| ○ Color Selection | |
| • Art Map | Tiesha Fields & Andy Peck |
| ○ Review Revisions | |
| • SR-169 Retaining Wall Artwork Update | Chair |
| 5. NEW BUSINESS | |
| • None | |
| 6. ADJOURN MEETING | Chair |

Preliminary

**City of Maple Valley
Public Arts Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2020
6:00 pm
Lake Wilderness Lodge**

Attendees: Trevor Lind, Robin Porter, Neviah Leer, Tiesha Fields, Kathy Beckwith, Suzanne Gardner, Andy Peck, Dorothy Stickney

Absent: Jeonghee Churches, Skylar Churches, Brenda Chrystie

WELCOME

- The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Trevor Lind at 6:00 pm. Newly appointed commissioners present were introduced.

ROLL CALL

- Roll call as indicated above.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting were approved as prepared.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Summit Park Utility Box Artwork

- Latest Design – Laurel's most recent design was shared with commissioners for review and comment.
- Artwork Presentation & Seek Approval at 1/21/20 Council Meeting – Commissioners were asked to attend if available.

SR-169 Retaining Wall

- Funding available in the Public Arts budget for the project was discussed.
- Call will be finalized and issued.
- Available to artists living in Pacific Northwest.

LWL Art Exhibition Program

- All space is reserved for 2020 with waiting list and booking into 2021.
- Dorothy will send Doodle Poll regarding date for first quarter Artist Reception.

Open Commissioner Positions

- Two Alternate Positions are currently open.

Subcommittees

- Commissioners agreed to continue utilizing subcommittees of two members to work on projects.
- Tiesha and Andy agreed to be on the Art Map subcommittee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominate & Elect Chair – Trevor Lind was elected as Chair.
- Nominate & Elect Vice Chair – Tiesha Fields was elected as Vice Chair.

Preliminary

- 2020 Meeting Dates – the following dates were agreed upon
 - March 5
 - May 7
 - June 4
 - September 3
 - November 5
- Complete/Update Volunteer Emergency Contact Information Form – commissioners were asked to complete a Volunteer Emergency Contact Information Form or take home to complete and forward to Dorothy.
- Box Updates
 - Dorothy shared the Commission information that has been placed on Box for easy and consolidated access.
- PAC Budget Review
 - Expenditures for 2019 and available budget for 2020 was shared with Commissioners.
- Work Plan for 2020
 - SR-169 Retaining Wall artwork project
 - Continue Street Art
 - Host receptions for artists participating in the Lake Wilderness Lodge Art Exhibition Program

ADJOURN MEETING

- The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



DRAFT

City of Maple Valley
Public Arts Master Plan

February 2020

Acknowledgements

CITY COUNCIL

Sean P. Kelly, Mayor	Position 1
Dana Parnello, Deputy Mayor	Position 6
Linda Olson	Position 2
Les Burberry	Position 3
Erin Weaver	Position 4
Syd Dawson	Position 5
Linda Johnson	Position 7

PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION

Voting Representatives:

- Trevor Lind, Chair
- Kathy Beckwith
- Robin Porter
- Jeonghee Churches
- Suzanne Gardner (Maple Valley Creative Arts Council Representative)

Non-Voting & Alternate Representatives:

- Tiesha Fields, Vice Chair (Works in Maple Valley Representative)
- Neviah Leer (Student Representative)
- Skylar Churches (Student Representative)
- Brenda Chrystie (Maple Valley Creative Arts Council Representative Alternate)
- Andy Peck

MAPLE VALLEY STAFF

- Laura Philpot, City Manager
- Dorothy Stickney, Staff liaison to Public Arts Commission
- Dave Johnson, Parks & Recreation Director

CONSULTANT TEAM





1 | INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the subject and application of public art has gone through rapid growth in appreciation and value. Public art has become more community-engaged, subject-specific and more closely tied to creating a sense of place and enhancing community identity. Cities across the country are capitalizing on artistic works to deliver high-quality, aesthetically-engaging experiences that build audiences and create local or regional uniqueness. Planning for and implementing public art installations, programs and activities improves community involvement and helps capture the best of local and regional artisans – contributing to civic pride and place.

This Public Arts Master Plan helps formalize and expand on the growing foundation of public arts programming and implementation efforts already underway in Maple Valley. The City’s Public Arts Commission, established by ordinance, reviews and recommends local public art projects and helps garner their financial support in partnership with the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council and local businesses and developers. The Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, initiated in 1998 to promote arts programming in local schools, has been expanding its role in the community to support and encourage a wide range of active arts programming and projects. Efforts from private and public entities to expand the role and installation of public art in the community have been accelerating. By planning strategically, the City, school district and regional arts groups can work together to integrate public art more fully into the community.

Maple Valley seeks to create an overall integration of public art and artistic expression in its physical, cultural and social environments that distinguish the City with its own unique sense of place and belonging. A 2019 community survey that explored the role of public art in Maple Valley indicated that over 59% of respondents supported the growth of the local arts community. The survey also showed that the majority of respondents recognized that public art can bring a sense of whimsy to everyday spaces and help build and reinforce the city’s identity. The opportunity for public art to provide a sense of welcome to Maple Valley was also important.

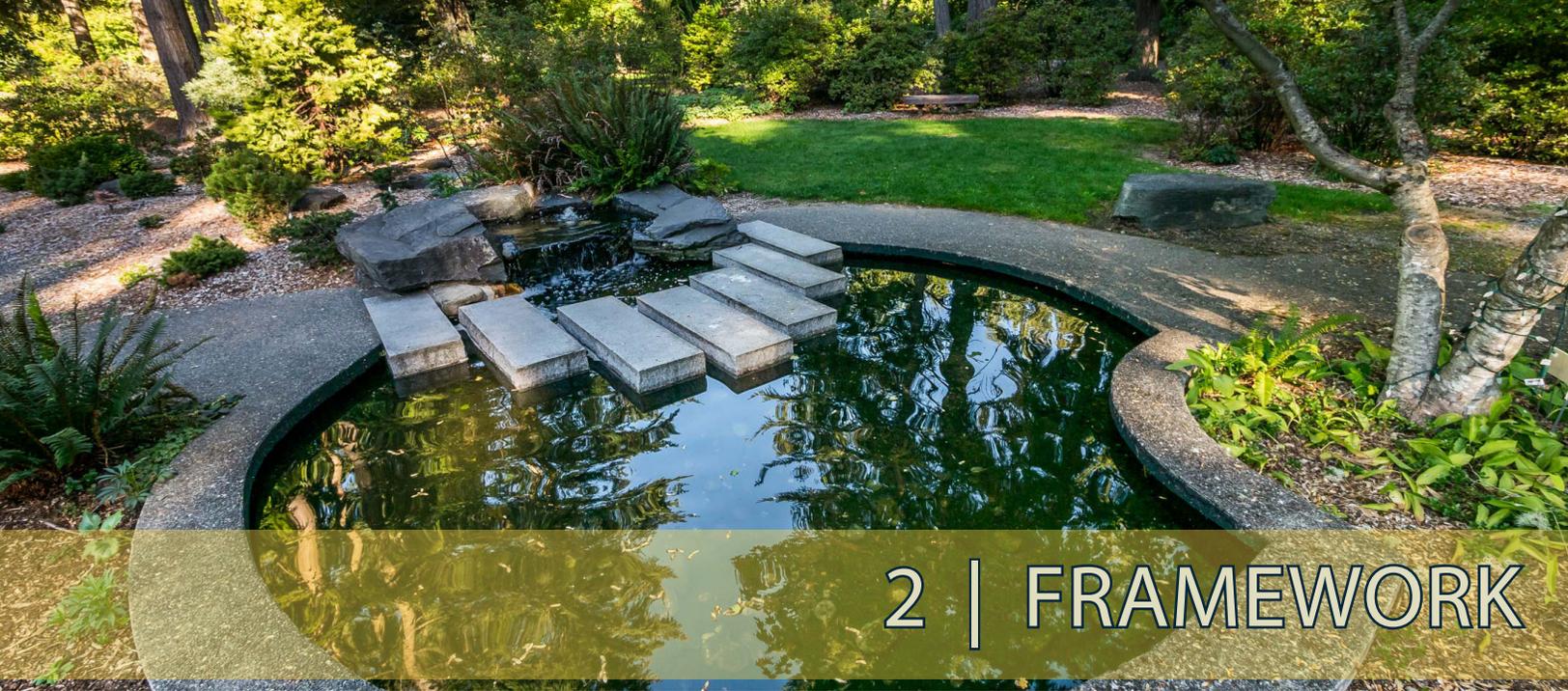
The current Downtown Visioning project has developed a set of draft downtown design guidelines, expected to be finalized in mid-2020, in an effort to codify features that will shape the future development of public and private spaces in downtown. The visioning discussions for these design guidelines included the desire to create the “heart and soul of a community”, exhibit a connection to nature, reflect local heritage, offer a safe and welcoming atmosphere, include civic public spaces, engage the community and develop a vibrant and energetic place. All these

characteristics are relatable to the incorporation of public art into the community's identity. The Downtown Vision seeks to create a mix of neighborhoods and public spaces, with businesses that "promote the artistic, cultural and entrepreneurial spirit of the city's residents...Downtown Maple Valley will reflect the area's heritage..." Public art and local culture and heritage are clearly part of the City's future planning.

Maple Valley's Legacy site has gone through extensive public planning for its future development. The 2018 Legacy Site Task Force developed overarching recommendations for the site that included incorporating history and art in designs and displays. Innovative design and the creation of a regional destination were among the guiding principles adopted by the Task Force. The committee also cited alignment with the City's Comprehensive Plan with the target of creating a catalyst for economic development and civic expression on the Legacy property. Here to, the inclusion of public art plays a strong role in future Maple Valley projects.

Integrating public art more fully into the community serves livability, diversity and economic development goals. Arts and cultural investments quicken economic activity by helping to capture a higher share of expenditures from local income. Residents can be patrons of local venues where creative placemaking fosters active uses and attracts more audiences enlivening retail venues. People are drawn to a community's livability and character, which in turn supports local businesses and enhances the cycle of sustainability to reinforce the quality of life.

The need to reinforce, enhance and expand the current collaborative partnerships that support policies and programs for active public (and, by association, private) arts efforts is recognized by the City and the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council. This Public Arts Master Plan seeks to establish the platform for furthering these opportunities to continue to promote, support and sustain public arts in Maple Valley.



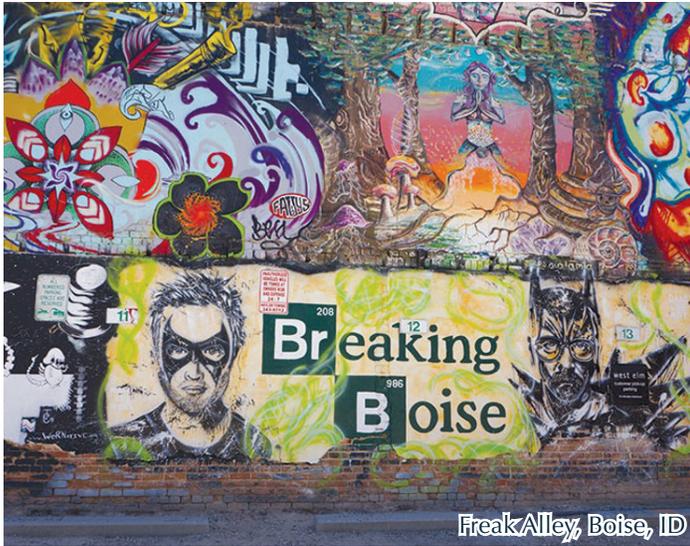
2 | FRAMEWORK

Communities across the country have discovered the value of formally developing public art programs to enhance the aesthetic character of public spaces, promote a unique sense of place, strengthen community ownership of civic spaces, increase property values, and provide new employment opportunities for local and regional artists and craft workers. Beyond the ability to enrich a space visually, public art can express a community’s positive sense of identity and demonstrate civic pride. Cities with public art tend to think innovatively and grow strongly together. This Public Arts Master Plan aims to inspire and encourage a long-term investment in arts throughout Maple Valley that will help connect community, culture and commerce.

Maple Valley seeks a well-articulated sense of vision, understanding and unified direction establishing public art and cultural expressions as integral to its sense of place and community identity. The City recognizes that beautiful and interesting civic and public spaces create and maintain the health and vitality of Maple Valley. Existing partnerships and leadership are ready to continue developing the structure and role of arts and culture on behalf of the community.

Vision Statement

Maple Valley will support and host artistic endeavors and activities visible throughout the city at all scales, including the parks, trails, public places, sidewalks and rights-of-way in a mix of physical spaces using artwork and cultural programming that support a healthy, vibrant community.



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Creative placemaking generates stronger community identity and fosters entrepreneurs and cultural industries that can stimulate jobs and incomes. Improved livability and economic development can result from the growth of character and interest resulting from positive and intentional placemaking. Creative placemaking envisions an expanded portfolio of spaces, beyond any one arts institution, that integrates art into commercial, residential and institutional places to transform those landscapes into active and engaging sites.

“In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, non-profit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.”

(From Creative Placemaking, by Ann Markusen & Anne Gadwa; A White Paper for The Mayors’ Institute on City Design)



ART ON TRAILS (& IN PARKS)

The creation of the Grand River Arts Walk in Jackson, Michigan is an example of a successful non-motorized trail corridor that was developed with transportation enhancements funding. The corridor trail corridor runs through the Armory Arts Village, a unique space designated for creative uses from the foundations of a former prison. The redeveloped prison space provides affordable artist live and work spaces. The Armory Arts hosts public art-related events that provide a destination for Grand River Arts Walk users. The Arts Walk enhances social connectivity and promotes physical activity. The Arts Walk connected the creative spaces to other active community spaces from Farmers Market to local neighborhoods and along the river; the trail corridor offers multiple opportunities for people to connect with unique public art and provides engaging spaces for stimulating interest and linking the central business district. The Armory Arts project acted as a regional economic and social catalyst and promoted citizen awareness of the regional culture and environment.



Whittier Greenway Trail, Whittier, CA



Seattle Sculpture Park, Seattle, WA

ART & COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES

The National Park Service (NPS) recognizes the role that site-based public art can have as a catalyst for increased environmental awareness and stewardship. In their report on Art & Community Landscapes, NPS, in partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, reported on 18 art-related projects that promoted a deeper engagement with the environment and the stories relating to the places through site-specific art.

One example project in the report involves the Whittier Greenway Trail where station stops each highlighted a facet of Whittier’s history, growth, and development. Along the Trail, kinetic wind sculptures (by Lyman Whitaker) were installed to resemble actual trees and flowers; the sculptures twirl and rotate at different speeds and their copper and steel parts will develop an organic patina over time. Funding for the sculptures was provided by the City’s Art in Public Places Program. The Greenway includes six “stations” reminiscent of the corridor’s railroad past, each highlighting a facet of Whittier’s history, growth, and development, along with four fitness stations.

“People who come to know special places through their own creative process come to understand that place with new meaning and a heightened reality.”

(Sarah Olson, Superintendent, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites)

ARTS & ECONOMY

In the comprehensive economic impact study, Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, the contribution of arts and culture to the local economy reported that the typical arts attendee spends \$31.47 per person per event beyond the cost for admission. One-third of arts attendees were from outside the county in which the arts event took place (34.1%) and spent twice as much (\$47.57 vs. \$23.44) as their local counterparts. Two-thirds of those nonlocal attendees (69%) indicated the arts event as the primary reason for their visit. The arts, unlike most industries, leverage significant amounts of event-related spending by their audiences—valuable income for local restaurants, parking garages, hotels, and retail stores. The study also reported that arts and cultural organizations contribute to the local economy through direct spending, job creation, and are members of their Chambers of Commerce and help promote their regions.

“Mayors understand the connection between the arts industry and city revenues. Arts activity creates thousands of direct and indirect jobs and generates billions in government and business revenues. The arts also make our cities destinations for tourists, help attract and retain businesses, and play an important role in the economic revitalization of cities and the vibrancy of our neighborhoods.”

(Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, President, The United States Conference of Mayors)

City Public Arts Commission

The City's Public Arts Commission, established by ordinance in 2013, is tasked with developing, assessing and promoting the implementation of opportunities for public art in coordination with City-planned projects. The Arts Commission purpose is to gather and evaluate information about these public art projects and programs to advise and make recommendations to the City Council to support the following goals and activities:

1. Support successful collaborations between the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, business community, service groups, arts organizations, schools, citizens and artists in regards to the selection, placement, maintenance and enjoyment of public art.
2. Assist the City Council in the acquisition of a public art collection in order to expand the opportunity for residents to experience art in public places and to enhance the City's unique built and natural environments.
3. To encourage and, if possible, garner donations, grants or other support to further expand artistic and cultural programs and services for the citizens of Maple Valley. Review all proposed donations of public art and submit a recommendation on the proposed donation(s) to the City Council for formal acceptance or rejection.
4. To provide local artistic and cultural services to the citizens of Maple Valley by making expertise available to the City and its citizens on the subjects of visual and performing arts and cultural heritage, especially as those artistic endeavors may be used to influence the use of public art in public spaces.
5. To advise the City Council concerning the receipt of or purchase of works of art to be placed on municipal property.
6. Prepare and recommend to the City Council for approval a plan and guidelines to carry out the City's public art program, which shall include, but not be limited to, a method or methods for the selection of artists or works of art and for placement of works of art that are attached or detached within or about any municipal construction project or other municipally owned, leased or rented property.
7. To take such other action(s) as the City Council may direct from time to time.

The City supports the Public Arts Commission with an assigned staff liaison designated by the City Manager. During interviews for this Plan, the Commission voiced interest in advocating for a variety of art, such as:

- Cultural (Asian, African, Native)
- Performing (dance, theater, poetry, workshops, symphonies in the park, parades/festivals)
- Accessibility of art so people can see and experience it

The Commission sees their role as working together with the art community to support these efforts. There is interest to get the broader community involved before and during art projects to enable the sense of shared responsibility, ownership and sense of community. The Commission is interested in developing strategies for reaching out to the community and exploring what the community wants to see for public art. A 4Culture survey indicated community interest in an amphitheater, indoor theater and regional musical performances.

Local Partners

Maple Valley Creative Arts Council

The Maple Valley Creative Arts Council (MVCAC) is the primary non-profit promoting regional creative arts in the Maple Valley area, dedicated to the promotion and appreciation of the arts in both community and schools to enhance the quality of life for everyone. MVCAC's immediate goal is focused on cultivating stronger partnerships across schools, businesses and the community – specific to youth and citizens in the areas of visual and performing arts. MVCAC holds an annual Arts Festival during Maple Valley Days and supports other visual arts and performing arts programs, and they initiated its first Maple Valley ArtWalk in 2014 involving local artists and participating businesses. MVCAC sponsors a number of opportunities for local artists through a Farmer's Market booth, Artist's Rotations at the Arts Center and other performances.

Maple Valley Creative Arts Center

The Creative Arts Center, run by the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, hosts a variety of art events, such as visual art rotations, classes, workshops, critique group, lectures and a writing group, as well as hands-on children's activities. The facility is equipped for staging performances, including theatrical plays, open mics, recitals, and film showings.

Maple Valley Historical Society

The Maple Valley Historical Society, a non-profit and all volunteer organization, seeks to teach people about the history of the greater Maple Valley region and to showcase the history of the area. Formed more than 40 years ago, the Society maintains the Gibbon-Mezzavilla General Store and the Fire Engine museum with displays of the past. The Society also provides a historic-based curriculum for third graders and free public programs during the year. They also publish periodicals and books about local history. The integration of history and the potential partnership with the resources of the Historical Society offer an opportunity for expressing art projects that both inform and reflect Maple Valley's past character.



3 | GUIDING PRINCIPLES & GOALS

Guiding Principles are intended to provide a conceptual structure to ensure that installed public art adds value, expression and uniqueness to the City’s public infrastructure without unduly burdening its operations and collection maintenance responsibilities. These principles apply to art installations and permanent art projects that will provide lasting value to the community and can be used as criteria to help guide the selection process.

Innovative with Site-Specific Relevance

Projects should demonstrate imaginative and creative approaches that contain some reference or relevance to the specific site where the artwork is to be permanently located.

Sustainable

Projects should use high quality materials that age well, and where feasible, utilize reclaimed or recycled materials and/or low-energy/solar lighting sources. Consideration should be given to the long-term curation costs for proposed art works.

Multi-functional - Variable - Interactive

Where feasible, physical installations could offer multi-sensory interaction, seasonal variability, cyclic patterns of public interaction (i.e., movement, season, light, weather, day/night changes)

Uniqueness to Maple Valley

Some relation with the community’s character, history, culture and/or environment should be a priority. Potential sources of inspiration from folklore, music, performing arts, culinary traditions, local ecology, cultural diversity and local indigenous and settlement history should be supported by local artists’ and organizations’ works.

Welcoming

Innovative art projects that link to community identity and foster social interaction and audience interest could reflect the City’s desire to encourage growth, development and a continuing pursuit of quality of life in Maple Valley.

GOALS

The goals outlined below see to establish a balance of public art projects and programming throughout the City. With the vision to create and enhance the creative identity of Maple Valley as a supporter of art and culture, the goals describe the aspects of the public art plan that seek to strengthen civic identity and community quality of life and add meaning to the places where people live and work. Keeping these goals at the forefront of planning for, selecting and implementing specific art projects can help the Public Arts Commission and other leadership in the arts community focus on the advancement of public art in Maple Valley.

1. Community Identity

Reflect the City's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system, and identify appropriate locations within parks and public spaces for the installation of public art, interpretive signs or cultural displays.

2. Historic Interpretation

Integrate the unique history of the locale and the region through the creation of artistic works that celebrate the past: events, including cultural practices, historic sites and significant people.

3. Interactive Art

Stimulate audiences and engage the community through physical displays and projects of interactive art, as well as programs and events that encourage participation or response.

4. Art Programming

Support and promote arts and cultural programming offered by the City, the School District, non-profits and commercial entities that help foster the development of artistic skills, knowledge, appreciation and endeavors.

5. Local Artists

Engage local artists to the extent feasible to actively contribute their skills and craft as producers of public art and programming within the City.

6. ArtWorks Growth

Expand the collection of public art across Maple Valley and beyond its civic spaces by promoting art into private development projects through the subdivision/land development review process.

7. Leverage Partners

Actively engage with partners and grant funding sources to leverage resources effectively to generate additional funding.

8. Community Engagement

Offer opportunities for the community to participate in the choices and options for incorporating different and varied art forms and projects throughout the City. Develop a clear and day-lighted process to help interested citizens to share opinions and ideas about potential public art projects.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CURRENT PROJECTS

In recent years, the Public Arts Commission has led several notable projects, including the installation of Papa Bear, the Big Wall (SR 169th) and electrical box wraps. The Commission also is compiling an inventory and map of existing art installments, with the end goal of having information to support a walking tour map.

Existing public art located in the City covers a range of creative expressions, history and culture. From historic photographs to colorful utility box wraps and sculptures, Maple Valley has been collecting a variety of public art installations since the Totem Pole was installed in Lake Wilderness Lodge in 1950. With the first purchase of public art (nests in lamp posts) in 1915, the engagement of art projects has progressed quickly. The existing public art collection is listed in the Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Existing Public Art Installations in Maple Valley

Project Name	Type	Description	Location	Date
Historic Photographs	Photographs	Photos illustrating the history of Lake Wilderness Lodge and surrounding area (from the Maple Valley Historical Society's collection.)	Lake Wilderness Lodge	Unknown
Totem	Pole	Standing 35' high, and weighing approximately 10 tons, the totem pole is example of local Native American artwork.	Lake Wilderness Lodge	1950
Unknown	Sculpture	Bronze sculpture commissioned by the King County Arts Commission. Weighs 1,400 lbs & measures 6' x 8' x 4'.	Lake Wilderness Park	1976
Fence & Wooden Bench	Metal Cut-outs	A large cedar bench with designs cut from aluminum as well as aluminum cut designs on the fence along Witte Road.	Community Center	1996
Totem Pole at Arboretum	Totem	chainsaw carved figures in the cedar log cut from the yard of Maria Van Zanen.	Maple Valley Arboretum	
Labyrinth	Labyrinth	60 foot wide labyrinth	St George Episcopal Church	
Gravel Pool	Unique Roof runoff system	A gravel pool fills with water via unique roof dounspout runoff system.	Maple Valley Library	2000
Water Feature	Water feature	Water feature located at the center of the Lake Wilderness Arboretum Smith-Mossman Western Azalea Garden.	Maple Valley Arboretum	2001
Cedar River Painting	Oil Painting	Located in the lobby of Lake Wilderness Lodge, this oil on canvas depicts the Cedar River in Summer at Landsburg.	Lake Wilderness Lodge	2005
Historical Photos	Photos	A collection of historic photos (from the Maple Valley Historical Society's collection) illustrating the history of Maple Valley.	Maple Valley City Hall	2010
Scenic Photos	Photos	Scenic photographs of the Pacific Northwest.	Maple Valley City Hall	2010
Nest	Sculpture	Nest and Leaves sculptures representing home and nature. Public Arts Commission's first purchase of public art.	Witte Road-lamp posts	2015
Wilderness Village Pocket Park	Pocket Park	Commissioned by the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, park includes a rain garden, labyrinth, integrated bench seating, mosaic game boards & hopscotch court, & boulders inscribed with words of welcome in 12 languages.	Wilderness Village	2016
Local Native American Languages	Vinyl Utility Box Wrap	Artwork representing local Native American Languages which the Public Arts Commission had printed in vinyl & wrapped on utility boxes.	Witte Road & SE 240 Street	2017
Love of Maple Valley	Vinyl Utility Box Wrap	Artwork created to generate a whimsical "Love Note" to the City.	Witte Road & SE 240 Street	2018
History of Wilderness Village Site	Vinyl Utility Box Wrap	The rich history of the current Wilderness Village site is shared via vibrant comic-themed artwork.	Witte Road & SR-169	2018
Framed watercolor painting	Watercolor	This playful watercolor depicting Maple Valley is on loan to the City by local artist, Suzanne Gardner.	Maple Valley City Hall	Loaned to City 2018
Papa Bear	Sculpture	Large bronze bear sculpture dedicated to former Tahoma School District Superintendent Mike Maryanski, who was fondly nick-named "Papa Bear".	Round-About on Tahoma Way	2019
Framed Mosaic	Mosaic	Framed mosaic depicting Lake Wilderness Park. Donated to the City of Maple Valley by Julielyn Lakey in March 2019.	Lake Wilderness Lodge	2019
Up Balloons	Street Art Mural	Up Balloons street art. Located in Lake Wilderness Park near Patrick's Field on Restroom building.	Lake Wilderness Park	2019
Flower Bollards	Street Art	The handpainted flowers on the bollards by the Greater Maple Valley Community Center.	Witte Road	2019
Dance Steps Street Art	Street Art		Community Center	2019
Waterfall/Fish	Street Art		Lake Wilderness Lodge	2019

PENDING PLANNED PROJECTS

The Public Arts Commission and the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council have been collaborating with community partners and participating in the planning, creation and installation for future public arts projects. Current projects include a variety of street art and a proposed mural along the extensive retaining wall on SR 169. The Paint My Tunnel program, led by MVCAC, has completed one tunnel and plans to complete each of the existing five tunnels at a rate of one per year. The utility box wrap program continues to enliven rights-of-way with a variety of artistic themes. Figure 2 outlines the current, planned art projects expected to be implemented in the near future.

Figure 2. Planned/Future Public Art Installations in Maple Valley

Project Name	Type	Location	Artist
Lighthouse Bollard Street Art	Street Art	Witte Road	Cathy Walker, Julie Hunsaker
Turtle Family Street Art	Street Art	Storm Drain in Maple Wood neighborhood	Cathy Walker, Julie Hunsaker
Constellation Street Art	Street Art	Path from Witte Road to Trail	Shaunna Lee-Rice
Sundial Street Art	Street Art	Sidewalk near Ascend Apartments	Sierra Southworth, Julie Stutzke
Hopscotch Street Art	Street Art	Take A Break Park	Brenda Chrystie
Utility Box Wrap	Vinyl Utility Box Wrap	Summit Park	Laurel Henn
SR-169 Retaining Wall	Art on Retaining Wall	SR-169/Witte Road	TBD

FUTURE PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

As the City and its partners continue to plan and program for the community-wide development of creative arts integrated into regular routines and the physical environment, a variety of considerations can help define new directions, explore opportunities and evaluate artistic approaches.

The physical parameters for what can support specific art work or thematic art placement within the City cover a number of surfaces, structures, site furnishings, and public spaces.

Physical Opportunities:

- Vertical Surfaces (buildings, retaining walls, fences, walls, hillsides,
- Horizontal Surfaces (roadways, trails, sidewalks, plazas,
- Structures (utility boxes, street furniture, news boxes, benches, tables, bollards, parking meters, fountains, water towers, silos, drinking fountains, lampposts, etc.)
- Signs & Wayfinding (banners, logos, event flags, murals, sidewalk art, mileage medallions, etc.)
- Natural Areas (green spaces as placement for unique gardens, sculptural works or community-engaged initiatives).

Potential Media:

For visual art works, there is a range of different media that can be used to create public art. Among the listed types of media below, the primary qualification for outdoor artwork includes durability and sustainability to ensure long-term curation and low-maintenance costs, unless the work is intended as an ephemeral piece in a temporary installation.

- Paint
- Glass, polymers + fiberglass
- Lighting
- Mosaic, tile + frieze
- Technology (interactive audio, lighting, video, digital, etc.)
- Water
- Metal
- Concrete + masonry
- Natural material
- Stone

Programming Opportunities:

The City and its partners already host a variety of events and activities to provide exposure, enrichment and enjoyment of the arts in the community. As Maple Valley grows, its arts programming, projects and partnerships should expand and encompass a broader range of public art and consider more actively linking some of that programming with other interests such as environmental education, food and nutrition, outdoor recreation, community celebrations and other local events. Exposure to the arts in a variety of settings can continue to enliven the local identity and add to the quality of life.

- Events
- Performance
- Partner organizations & collaborations
- Temporary art installations
- Tactical urbanism (parklets, food trucks, temporary changes to the built environment, etc.)
- Social practice projects (community mapping, walking tours, story-telling pathways, etc.)
- Selection Procedures

Encouraging future art works through active selection and solicitation.

1. Direct artist selection: After review of their qualifications, a suitable artist is selected and retained to develop a concept, working with the Arts Commission, to create a public art project for a specific site.
2. Limited Invitation/RFP Method: Selective process including three to five artists invited to propose concepts for how to approach a specific site or group of sites. Concepts are reviewed then selection of winning approach is made.
3. Open Call for Local Artists: Either using a lead artist curated selection process or engaging a public voting method, artists submit proposed concepts/designs to then be chosen through the pre-determined selection process.
4. Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Issuing a call for artists can generate examples of artists' previous works along with their statement of interest about the project. This selection process can provide a short-list of qualified artists to be interviewed for the proposed project.

Selection Criteria

The following matrix offers an approach to evaluating individual or multiple art projects for inclusion into the City’s public art collection. The criteria are based on relevance to the arts plan goals and guiding principles. Without predetermining that public art objects, displays and installations should follow some thematic approach, these criteria allow for diverse themes, creativity and imaginative expressions that can vary from site to site and range in scale. When funding can only support a defined amount of art installations at a time, this criteria offers a method for ranking the broad considerations for selection of public art.

Figure 3. Selection Criteria for Proposed Public Art Installations

PROJECT TYPE	Location										
	Civic Buildings	Parks	Trails	Open Spaces	Rights-of-Way	Streetscapes	Legacy Site	Downtown	Infrastructure	Non-place-based	Other Site
Permanent											
Temporary											
Event											
Program											
Community-based											
Environmental											
Artist residency											
Technological											

Tracking the types & locations of public art projects can help direct future commissions and curated art by revealing gaps that direct attention to creating a balanced and robust public art collection.

Attributes of Public Artwork Placement

- **Place-making & Identity.** Art works can help define a space and provide a benchmark for wayfinding and navigation. “Meet me at the statue, fountain, mural...”
- **Create visibility.** Highlight locations for trailheads, river access, business districts, residential neighborhoods, school campuses, civic buildings to help define those focus areas and distinguish their identity in the community.
- **Define a Corridor.** Along a regional or local trail, public art can mark the sequence of the journey and provide wayfinding value, story-telling or sense of place character to the trail.
- **Increase the desirability of a destination** through artistic expressions that engage viewer response and positive place-making.
- **Celebrate special events.**

A successful public arts plan seeks to do more than solely install physical objects within public spaces. Public art can provide more than unique public infrastructure; public art can be applied to create the animation of places with cultural and economic activity, thereby stimulating further public engagement and economic stimulus.

PRIORITY LOCATIONS

Decisions regarding the use of public funds for art and culture throughout the City should provide for a balance of project types and locations to ensure a degree of equity in the process of placemaking in Maple Valley.

Projects should be sited to have the most positive effect for the community as a whole. Preference for locations choices favors highly visible and accessible public-owned lands where all members of the community can see and enjoy the art work. Public facilities, such as city hall, libraries, fire stations, community centers, parks and rights-of-way are the most obvious target locations for the placement of physical public artworks. The Legacy site and Downtown design both offer significant opportunities for incorporating more public art and enhancing placemaking for Maple Valley.

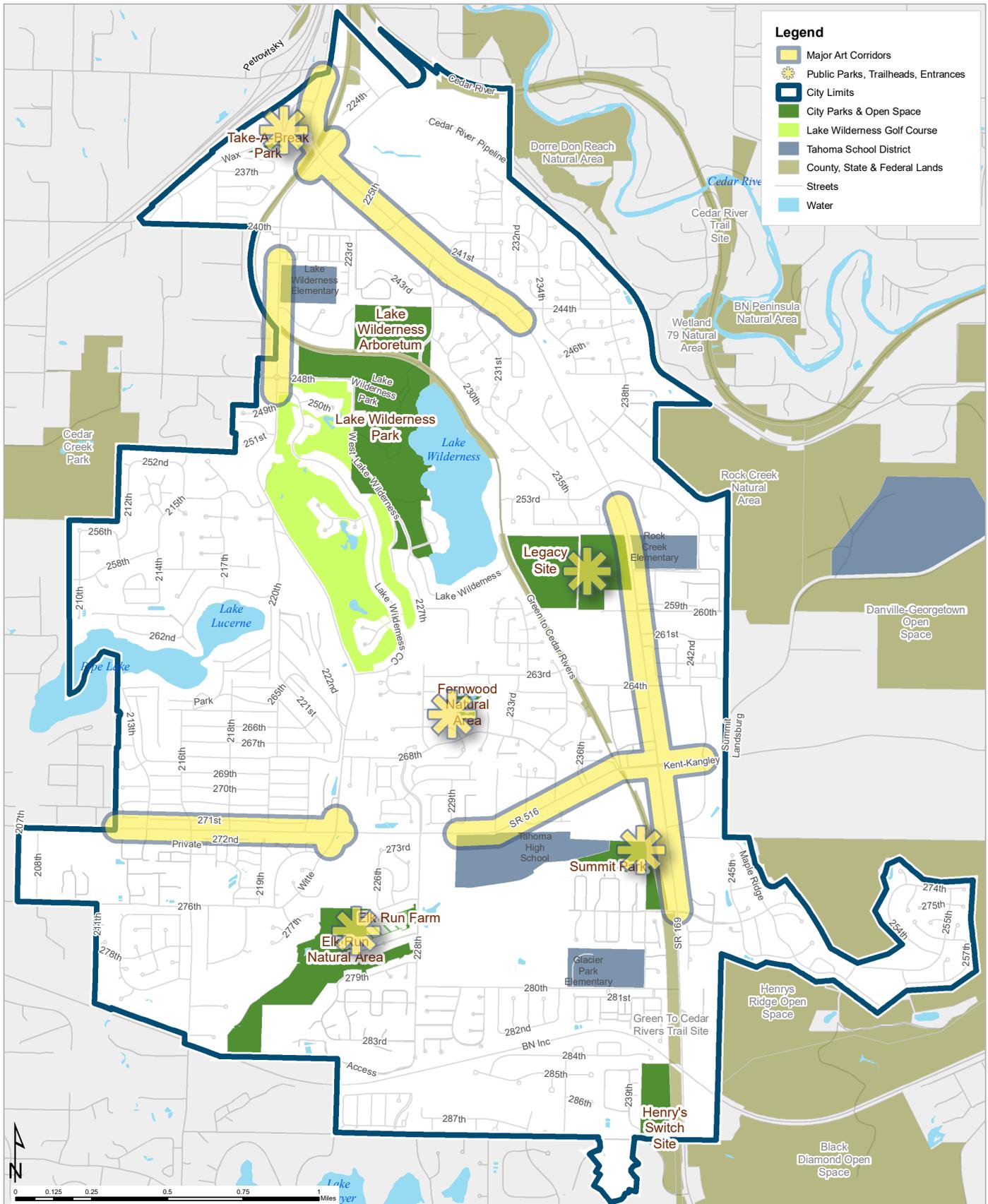
Trails that connect the community can also reflect the neighborhoods and local character that they travel through. Trail corridors often contains trailheads and nodes of larger spaces that would accommodate the incorporation of public art that helps define the trail and its place in the locale. Story-telling opportunities along trail corridors can create artistic expressions and engage the trail users to better enjoy and understand the immediate environment. Trails through public parks can also provide suitable locations for artwork to help stimulate and positively provoke the trail user and enhance their experience. Art placement along a trail should consider nodes and intersections that will add identity, wayfinding and benchmarking value to the trail. Public art and interpretive markers should be sited at highly visible locations and can be used to create a sequence along the pathway or mark a destination.

Existing and future parks are logical locations for public art. However, installations should follow some basic criteria for “fitting” within any park landscape that respects the park design and stimulates park users’ interest without distracting from the value and intent of park uses and its settings. Art projects should relate to the park’s setting – whether it is through history, physical characteristics, cultural background, environmental resources, thematic design elements, types of recreational uses or traits of the park’s infrastructure or furnishings. In other words, the sense of place and placemaking value of public art should be coordinated with its location. Art can help mark important places and create and define spaces within parks.

The artistic treatment of rights-of-way has already begun in Maple Valley with the placement of the Papa Bear sculpture and the utility box wraps. Adding interest to public spaces like rights-of-way can contribute in a positive manner to the community’s transportation network. Artworks in formerly “dead” space can spark engagement, sense of place and wayfinding by providing a higher level of identity.

The following map provides guidance for future corridors and public sites for locating public art across Maple Valley. The majority of existing public art projects are located in the northern portion of the city. The future priority placement for public art extends along the SR 169 corridor and east and west along the SR 516 corridor with core locations in existing public lands. The focus on public parks, trail corridors, and civic buildings provide the primary targets for artwork placement.

Figure 4. Potential Public Art Focus Areas



Priority Focus Areas

- Lake Wilderness Park
- Lake Wilderness Arboretum
- City Hall
- Maple Valley/King County Library
- Greater Maple Valley Community Center
- Henry's Switch Open Space (future)
- Elk Run Natural Area (future)
- Summit Park
- Take-a-Break Park
- Cedar to Green River Trail
- State Route 169 (Maple Valley-Black Diamond Road SE)
- State Route 516 (SE 272nd Street/SE Kent-Kangley Road)

Design planning is crucial to ensure appropriate siting within those locations will be needed to provide the most suitable angles, visibility and access to the work and to ensure that works of art do not disrupt or devalue the other functions of those locations. In other words, right place - right space - right artwork.

Extending Art Projects Further

Park Infrastructure Integration

Future park lands, both developed and open space/natural areas, should include a range of public art installations as part of their master plan design concepts. The type and placement of the artwork can be coordinated with the spatial and thematic development of public lands. The potential to include some types of performing spaces, amphitheater, plaza, band shell or other accommodating space should also be explored. The funding for performing arts space could be drawn from the park development budget, but also provides an opportunity for outside arts organizations to contribute to the future parks infrastructure for performance, activity, display and event support.

Private Art Installations

As the acceptance and inclusion of public artworks becomes part of the local tradition, it is hoped that private land owners, businesses, schools, churches and non-profit organizations might join in the celebration of life that art brings place-making in the community.

While public lands and rights-of-way should be given preference for publicly-funded art installations, private lands can also contribute to the breadth of art installations, events and activities that enhance the cultural life of Maple Valley. Examples of private art installations with good public access include the labyrinth at St. George Episcopal Church along the Lake Wilderness Trail and the pocket park at Lake Wilderness Village. Businesses, organizations and private individuals should be encouraged to participate in artistic expressions that capture the spirit of the community and create unique sense of place for their location.

New development and key re-development projects also offer opportunities for public art placement, particularly where carefully planned artwork can add character and place-making traits to the site. Business zones with public frontage along major traffic corridors at Wilderness Village and the intersection of SR 169 and SE Kent Kangley Road are highly-visible spaces where the distinguishing identity offered by public artwork could be added to create stronger Maple Valley place-making. Working with business owners (and shopping center landlords) could generate some interest in allowing and supporting the future installation of distinctive public visual art.



5 | STRATEGIES & RESOURCES

STRATEGIES

City Funding as Leverage

In recognition of the importance of incorporating public art into its growth strategy, the City adopted an ordinance with the purpose of providing funding for the acquisition and placement of public art as a component of the expenditure of City funds on public works projects. The ordinance sets up a per capita funding based on \$0.25 per citizen and up to 1% set-aside from any City-funded capital project reflected in the biennial capital improvement program. This funding is separate from any grant monies received by the City toward the funding of infrastructure projects. As the primary source of local funding for public art in Maple Valley, these funds will go much further if leveraged with other financial resources. Strategic matching of other funding sources should be a continual effort to provide for future projects and programming.

Supportive City Staff

Beyond the work of the Public Arts Commission and its percent for art funding, the City should continue to work to foster an internal climate where staff and elected officials see the value of consistently factoring arts and culture as an important component of the City's future. Planning efforts for both public and private projects should embrace the potential opportunities to integrate art and culture and set a standard for visioning and scoping in a comprehensive manner. This approach could provide the timely strategy to add a budget line for art and culture projects, events and programming in cost-effective fashion.

Artists Involved in Design

The City could request that local artists with public art experience be added to city teams applying to City capital projects. This practice could ensure that consultant teams have the full integration of public art into public projects from their inception. A comprehensive approach with an adopted policy can be developed and included in every RFQ published by the City. If projects are being developed internally, staff could retain an artist on contract for a specific time period

to offer conceptual and aesthetic input to help the project move forward through direct staff collaboration. This process could facilitate the Public Arts Commission’s work by reducing and streamlining the process for requests for proposals and allow the Commission to spend its time more efficiently on the actual, proposed design concepts.

RESOURCES

The resources listed below represent a few targets for this strategic approach.

4Culture

The 4Culture organization offers cultural funding and support in King County through the management of the County’s Public Art Program and the 1% for Art Ordinance implemented in 1973. They collaborate with artists, communities and organizations to produce memorable public artworks and experiences in shared public spaces throughout King County and beyond. Their work supports a range of arts programming and events, heritage and preservation programs and projects, public art planning and installations, and art galleries. 4Culture awards project grants in three disciplines: arts, heritage and preservation supported primarily through the revenues from county lodging taxes. 4Culture offers consulting services to assist local arts entities with project scoping, master plans, artist selection, design development and installation oversight.

Private Developer Incentives Program

Public art can be required or incentivized through the site development process as part of mandatory site development regulations. On-site amenity improvements could include either the actual public art piece (reviewed by the Public Arts Commission prior to approval) or a fee-in-lieu-of to be reserved for a future art installation. Increasingly, percentage for art legislation and local ordinances are written to encourage or mandate that private development (above a certain monetary threshold) participate in percentage for art laws. The requirements of participation vary from location to location, with some programs mandating the creation of new artworks, some offering incentives in return for participation (like greater floor-area-ratios or increased building height limits), and others accepting an alternative contribution to a general fund used and administered by the local public art program. Percentage for art laws typically include some combination of these factors and should be tailored to the needs of the community.

Funding for Creative Projects

Some of the arts funding could seed local projects being planned and managed by other non-governmental organizations, whether non-profit art/cultural groups or local businesses. Neighborhood projects, streetscape enhancements, community-based projects and others could benefit from small, set-aside funds that stimulate and foster more volunteer resources applied to the public art mosaic of the City.

Collaborations & Partnerships

The City of Maple Valley recognizes the greater Maple Valley Creative Arts Council for their expertise and role in promoting arts and culture in the community. Their representation on the Public Arts Commission helps foster collaboration and communication across projects and program planning. Maple Valley may also be able to capture a variety of partnership opportunities for promoting and providing public art. Business owners, schools, library,

community groups, non-profits and private individuals who are patrons of the arts could be partners to help leverage resources and provide more constituents supporting project implementation and program growth. The opportunity for public/private partnerships can be explored with local studios to expand the variety and quantity of public art and cultural activities in Maple Valley. The Public Arts Commission could consider how to engage the many diverse groups in and around Maple Valley who could contribute to the cultural life of the community.

National Endowment of the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is the independent, federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, other federal agencies and the philanthropic sector, NEA supports arts learning, celebrates diverse culture heritage and promotes equal access to the arts. NEA's Grants for Arts Projects is their principle grants program supporting a variety of arts and culture through specific projects, programs, or events from planning the implementation in any of the Arts Endowment's disciplines.

ArtPlace America

ArtPlace America is a collaboration among a number of foundation, federal agencies and financial institutions. Their mission is to position arts and culture as a core of community planning and development. The organization has invested \$104 million to grow the field of creative placemaking through demonstration projects, investments in organizational change and research. From 2011-2017, ArtPlace America invested over \$100 million in supporting artists as allies in equitable community development. They invested \$87 million in 279 creative placemaking projects in 208 communities of all sizes across the United States. While that funding program is no longer running, the organization supports other approaches facilitating creative placemaking and getting art practitioners involved in community development. Their website also hosts stories of incorporating art into community development that may provide ideas and concepts relevant to Maple Valley's future planning for the arts.

Washington State Arts Commission (ARTSWA)

The Washington State Arts Commission hosts an Art in Public Places program (AIPP) and cares for artworks in state buildings, colleges, universities and schools throughout Washington. Maple Valley can encourage participation of the Tahoma School District in the AIPP program to expand the public art community more actively in local learning environments. The AIPP staff provide technical assistance to program participants in the acquisition of public art and provides resources for the care of public art collections. Collection care resources include a Materials and Fabrication Handbook that guides the production of artworks to ensure durability in the public environment. An ArtCare: Collections Management Policy manual includes information about artwork conservation, deaccession and rights and reproductions. Reviewing these resources can help identify considerations and issues in the development of a curation and care policy.

As the City of Maple Valley and the Public Arts Commission, in particular, move forward to advance and support the efforts of public art, arts and cultural programming, and local arts organizations, the goals and strategies outlined in this Public Arts Master Plan will help guide their initiatives and provide a preliminary framework to allow the energy, dedication and passion of the community to foster arts and culture in the coming years.

ASSET COLLECTION & MAINTENANCE

Through its Municipal Arts Fund, the City of Maple Valley has demonstrated an active commitment to collect and maintain an inventory of public art as part of the public infrastructure in Maple Valley. The fund, established by ordinance, not only provides a financial resource for implementing a public art program but also sets a policy for routine maintenance, as well as an art conservation reserve fund for special conservation projects involving conservation, repair or restoration.

Each permanent art installation project should be accompanied with an allowance or calculation of future maintenance and costs. Artists should provide technical specifications about best management practices for the materials integrated in the art work, as well as a forecast of likely timing for the necessary cleaning and upkeep of the piece of work. This maintenance schedule can help Public Works with decisions about approaches to care and curation of public art.

An asset management program should be instituted within the public art program. Asset management is a systematic or coordinated approach to developing, maintaining, upgrading and disposing of assets in the most cost-effective manner to ensure protection of the collective assets value. A typical asset management program helps track current and predicted needs for active care of infrastructure. Asset management programs (software used for public works) help predict and direct services, performance and capital planning needs. The asset management practice for the public art collection should help track and manage the entire life cycle of each asset, as well as the network of their distribution across the city. In such a system, the life cycle costs of each asset can be better predicted and managed to help engage appropriate maintenance tasks for each art work.

For the public art collection, these maintenance tasks will involve art work conservation and restoration and occasionally deaccession. Record-keeping and the needs for routine and special maintenance tasks provides valuable information about how different materials and fabrication techniques react in the local environment. Predictive and actual aging can also be tracked to ensure appropriate upkeep for physical artworks.

As the public art collection grows larger in scope and media, it will be useful to have an illustrated method for determining how balanced the art collection is relative to representing a myriad of techniques, diverse locations and engaging interests. The project matrix below show one method for inventorying existing collection items in a generalized fashion to help reveal gaps in the current collection, and thus direct future efforts to acquire public art in areas deficient of artwork.

Figure 5. Project Matrix for Categorizing Maple Valley Public Art Collection

Project Candidate	Community Relevance	Strong Identity	Relationship to Location	Permanent Status	Public Visibility	Public Land*	Maintenance Requirements	Public Demand	Level of Participation	Local Artist	Age Range Involvement	Funding Status	Leveraged Funding	Rating/Evaluation
Papa Bear	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	?	2	3	2	2.5
Totem	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	-	-	2.4
Wilderness Village Pocket Park	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	3	-	-	2.1
Labyrinth	0	1	3	3	1	0	1	1	1	unk	3	-	-	1.4

Ratings: 3= strong; 2=good; 1=poor; 0=n/a

* Public Land Ranking: city-owned property = 3; other public lands=2; corporate but visible=1; private=0

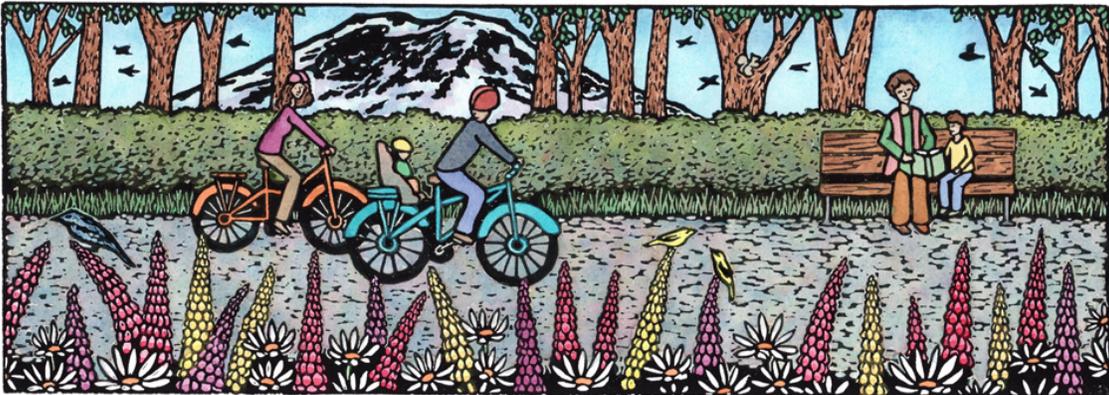


Maple Valley Parks & Recreation Department
P.O. Box 320
Maple Valley, WA 98038
(425) 432-9953
maplevalleywa.gov

Maple Valley Sunset



Maple Valley Sunny Day



ART MAP

VISION & OVERVIEW

- Rename map to “Public Arts & Cultural Experiences”
- Artwork Options to Include:
 - Physical public art
 - Private art (with permission)
 - Cultural experiences
 - Private art in areas surrounding City
 - Nature
- Use Public Art Archive <https://www.publicartarchive.org> as source to widely share public art & match descriptive information to allow maintaining one art database
- Update City PAC web page (when get new software) similar to City of Auburn’s art web pages https://www.auburnwa.gov/city_hall/parks_arts_recreation/arts_and_entertainment/public_art_program
- Create brochure of the arts within the City

DISCUSSION

- Rename map to “Public Arts & Cultural Experiences”
 - Allows promotion of a full arts experience offered within the City
 - Economic development tool
 - Relationship building within arts community
- Artwork Options to Include:

Art Map	Website	Brochure
Physical Public Art	Public Art – See City of Auburn as example to emulate	Map - Work with Cathy & Jennifer; photo/brief description/QR code(s)
Private Art (with permission) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such as Labyrinth 	Descriptions & Links to Private, Historic, Cultural Events	Links to website(s) including categories other than Physical Public Art
Historic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums (with permission) • Lake Wilderness Lodge 	Nature – Blurb about mountain, woods, trail, etc.	QR codes – easy to use with phones to view entire description
Cultural Events: (With permission as required - Location & links to websites in descriptions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MV Creative Arts Council events • Parks & Rec Music/Movies/Shakespeare in the Park • TSD Performing Arts Center 		Private Art in Areas Surrounding City
TSD (link with permission)		

- Use Public Art Archive <https://www.publicartarchive.org> as source to widely share public art & match descriptive information to allow maintaining one art database
 - Many cities use Public Art Archive as source to promote the arts within their cities
 - Able to search by location, artist, type of art work, etc.
 - Free to list public art per definition:

The Public Art Archive recognizes and respects the wide variety of practices and forms that public art takes, ranging from the permanent to the ephemeral; traditional sculpture to projects focused on social exchange, intervention, and engagement; and those works supported by public or private or a combination of funding sources. To qualify for inclusion in the Public Art Archive, a work of public art must meet two requirements: The work must be publicly viewable. The work must be sanctioned, commissioned, placed, or displayed through an official acquisition process.
 - Closely match descriptive information to Public Art Archive <https://www.publicartarchive.org> allowing maintaining one art database
 1. Title
 2. Artist
 3. Owner
 4. Collection
 5. Year (created)
 6. Street - Intersection
 7. Work Type (multiple)
 8. Material(s) (multiple)
 9. Description
 10. Images – at least 2 and up to 7
 11. Image Rights Holder – usually the photographer

Sample listing from Public Art Archive website:



5 Moments

Auburn, Washington

Artist Name(s): Ries Niemi: <http://www.riesniemi.com>

Owner: City of Auburn, WA

Date: 2001

Location Name: Auburn Senior Center

[Directions](#)

Collection: City of Auburn, WA

Artwork Type: statues, acrylic paintings

Material: steel (alloy), paint

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [t](#)

Description: "5 Moments," are five scenes located at the entrance to, and within the Auburn Sr. Activity Center. The scenes depict five individuals from both Auburn's history and the Sr. Center's history.

Images



Map



- Update City PAC web page (when get new software)
 - Use City of Auburn’s art web pages as example:
 - https://www.auburnwa.gov/city_hall/parks_arts_recreation/arts_and_entertainment/public_art_program

Screen shot of Auburn’s arts web page:

Arts and Entertainment

Public Art Programs

- [Art on Main](#)
- [Auburn BenchMarks](#)
- [Crow With Fries](#)
- [Downtown Sculpture Gallery](#)
- [Pianos on Parade](#)
- [Utility Box Wraps](#)

Public Art Programs

Created in 1988 as part of the City of Auburn Arts Commission's roster of multi-disciplinary cultural arts programs, the Art in Public Places Program is the thread that joins art, people and place. The program seeks to draw both residents and visitors; to echo a sense of time and place; and to enrich the experience that is distinctively Auburn. Through the acquisition of original artworks of definable artistic merit, and stewardship of the established collection, the program is an integral component of the City's endeavor to make Auburn a vital place to live, work and visit.

City of Auburn also programs a rotating [Downtown Sculpture Gallery](#). A tour of the City of Auburn Public Art Collection through your smart phone is available through the [Stgry.com](#) application.

Auburn is proud to be part of the [Public Art Archive™](#) which is a growing database of completed public artworks from around the world. Search. Explore. Learn. Share. Grow.

Auburn's downtown core is home to several artworks.



Children Playing Train at the Switch

Right in the heart of downtown Auburn in the City Hall Plaza (25 W Main St) is Wenatchee artist Richard Beyer's bronze, "Children Playing Train at the Switch." In honor of the City of Auburn's Centennial, the sculpture celebrates the City's past as a railroad town and what lies ahead, down the track. View more information about [Richard Beyer](#).



Civic Lanterns

Also located in City Hall Plaza (25 W Main Street) are "Civic Lanterns" created by [Sheila Klein](#) in 2011 for the remodel of the Plaza. The form of the traditional bell street lighting is made in a large scale and lines of fiber-optics thread through the lantern, creating a drawing in light. Functional plaza lighting is hidden in the sculptural civic symbol. A custom stainless steel finial and base complete the piece. The crafted "Civic Lanterns" provide both functional and atmospheric lighting as well as being sculptural.

- Create brochure of the arts with following options:
 - Map with pins or small photo of artwork/location
 - Limited information & QR codes
 - List of cultural experiences & links

DEFINITION OF PUBLIC ART from the original arts commissioners

The City and Public Arts Commission define “public arts” as:

Art is part of the cultural thread that ties generations of citizens together, creating opportunities for expression, reflection, participation, understanding, and education. Art in public places draws people together, creates vibrant neighborhoods, and stimulates thought and engagement. Public arts enhance the built and natural environments that are unique to Maple Valley. Expanding the public’s awareness of and experience with the arts is vital to preserving our cultural heritage, improving contemporary life, enhancing the community’s identity, and supporting the growth of the local economy.