

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



<p>Date: March 24, 2025</p> <p>To: Mayor and Members of Council</p> <p>From: Nadia Paladino, Acting Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p> <hr/> <p>Meeting date: April 23, 2025</p>
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Subject

Public Art Plan (2025)

Recommendation

That the "Public Art Plan" and associated recommendations attached as Appendix 1 to the Corporate Report entitled "Public Art Plan (2025)" dated March 24, 2025 from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.

Executive Summary

- The City's second Public Art Plan builds upon and renews the Council-endorsed Public Art Master Plan (2016), Framework for a Public Art Program (2010), and Corporate Policy and Procedure 05-02-07 City Art Collection.
- The goal of the Public Art Plan is to establish a unified experience for public art in Mississauga, through a cohesive and inclusive curatorial approach.
- As a result of stakeholder feedback and priorities set out in various City planning documents, five priority zones have been identified for future public art locations.
- The Public Art Plan provides 14 recommendations designed to direct the implementation of a continued successful Public Art Program over the next five years.
- The Public Art Plan supports the City's existing planning vision, development and revitalization initiatives as well as various related strategies, and will commence in consultation with staff, key stakeholders and the community.

Background

Public art is visual art by professional artists, located in the public realm and free for all residents and visitors to enjoy. These artworks provide memorable experiences for children and adults alike. By fostering exploration, discovery, neighbourhood vitality, democratic engagement

and artistic expression, public art strengthens the City's commitment to achieve a thriving cultural scene, where culture is at the heart of the city and embedded everywhere.

Formally established through the Council-endorsed Framework for a Public Art Program (the "Framework") in 2010, Mississauga's Public Art Program is the City program that acquires, commissions, purchases, loans and leases public art, accepts donations as public art, and manages the City Art Collection on behalf of the City. It is administered by the Culture Planning business unit in the Parks, Forestry and Environment Division. Public art is exempt from the City's Purchasing Policy; its procurement procedures are governed by [Corporate Policy & Procedure 05-02-07 City Art Collection](#) (the "Policy").

In 2016, Mississauga's first ever [Public Art Master Plan](#) was approved by City Council, establishing a transparent and accountable scope of work to guide the City's acquisition and conservation of public art. It included artwork themes selected by community members and established five priority locations aligned with Mississauga's Official Plan and other City-wide plans and strategies.

Today, the City's public art collections include 29 permanent artworks on publicly owned lands and the City has commissioned more than 60 artworks for temporary exhibition. The Public Art Plan (2025) is the first refresh of the Public Art Master Plan.

Present Status

As the Public Art Program enters its 15th year, it faces new opportunities and challenges, such as increasing demand for diverse public artworks, new planning legislation for developers, and the emergence of new technologies like artificial intelligence. Additionally, as the permanent public art collection ages, the program faces growing asset management requirements and financial pressures related to care and conservation.

The Public Art Plan (2025) ensures that the program is responding to new developments in dynamic, responsible and sustainable ways, while also continuing to build our program's emerging national reputation for innovation and artistic excellence.

Engagement and Consultation

The Public Art Plan was developed by the City's Public Art Program, based on an extensive documentary review of City-wide plans and strategies and consultation with stakeholders, community members, and industry research. Engagement work included:

- Soliciting resident feedback on public art opportunities, locations, and themes, through an online public survey;
- Seeking feedback from previously commissioned artists, to evaluate program operations and systemic barriers related to equitable commissioning practices;
- Reviewing City-wide engagement efforts related to the Future Directions Culture Plan;

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- Consulting with municipal public art programs across Canada, to measure current processes against precedents and industry standards; and,
- Conducting a detailed review of the draft Public Art Plan with business units across the Corporation and through the Public Art Working Group (an internal and interdepartmental working group), including Strategic Communications and Initiatives (CMO), Legal Services (CMO), Corporate Business Services (CPS), Facilities Planning and Development (CPS), Development and Design (P&B), Mississauga Tourism (P&B), Infrastructure Planning and Engineering (T&W), Traffic Management and Municipal Parking (T&W), Works Operations and Maintenance (T&W), Mississauga Library (CMS), Recreation and Culture (CMS), and Parks, Forestry and Environment (CMS).

The resulting Public Art Plan complies with Mississauga's Official Plan, Future Directions Culture Plan, and Future Directions Parks, Forestry & Environment Plan.

Comments

The Public Art Plan (2025) is community-informed and forward-thinking, aimed at delivering a unified experience for public art in Mississauga through a cohesive and inclusive planning approach.

The Public Art Plan renews and builds upon the five Priority Zones recommended by the Public Art Master Plan (2016). Priority Zones are locations for future public art projects, incorporating themes and ideas selected by residents. Although public art should continue to be considered for all neighbourhoods and communities throughout the city, the Priority Zones assist in prioritizing budgets and allocating resources by providing clear rationale for locating public art. Aligning with the Mississauga Official Plan and other City-wide plans and strategies, the five Priority Zones include:

1. Infrastructure Projects
2. Heritage Sites
3. Cultural Districts and Pedestrian Spaces within Intensification Areas
4. Waterfront
5. Major Transit Hubs, Corridors and Active Transportation Routes

The Public Art Plan (2025) renews six recommendations from the Public Art Master Plan (2016) and identifies eight new recommendations. The Key Recommendations identify specific public art project, policy and funding opportunities that can be realized in the next five years. The Key Recommendations include:

1. Commission permanent public art for destination parks, working towards reaching a target goal of at least one permanent public art piece in all new and redeveloped destination parks.

2. Create more public art opportunities that are inclusive of artists from equity-deserving groups, such as racialized individuals, Indigenous people, women, persons with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ persons.
3. Work towards transforming the permanent public art collection into a fully accessible and multi-sensorial arts experience.
4. Commission and encourage public art that explores and better represents the diverse history and cultures of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat and Wyandot Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, especially within the Waterfront Zone. Public art within the Waterfront Zone should build upon the natural and environmental heritage and incorporate a storytelling element that reflects the history of the land.
5. Support and encourage the integration of public art along active transportation routes, particularly the Burnhamthorpe Multi-use Trail, to further support the Cycling Master Plan and Climate Action Plan.
6. Support placemaking and wayfinding initiatives within Cultural Districts through the inclusion of various public art elements.
7. Archive and catalogue existing and future public art projects and artworks in the City Art Collection.
8. Review acquisition processes for Memorial Art, on an ongoing basis, to ensure alignment with the Public Art Program's Guiding Principles and the City's Asset Naming Policies. Memorial Art should be compatible with the diverse spectrum of perspectives, cultural heritage, traditions, and moral values of the City's residents. Community engagement should be a core component when commissioning memorial art.
9. When commissioning artwork intended to represent Indigenous people or when the artwork is a Reconciliation initiative, ensure that juries are Indigenous-led and/or Indigenous-majority.
10. Explore beautification guidelines for private development, such as a dedicated program for public art on construction hoarding.
11. Encourage a public art contribution from private developments with greater than 10,000m² (100,000 sq. ft.) in gross floor area with certain exceptions.
12. Develop a municipal Percent for Public Art funding strategy to mandate that a minimum percentage of construction budgets from relevant City-owned capital projects (such as new builds and major re-developments) be set aside for the Public Art Program.
13. Competitively compensate artists, arts professionals, and art selection jury members for their copyright and professional services on public art projects, according to exceeding the current CARFAC Public Art Minimum Recommended Fee Schedule.
14. Ensure that Indigenous communities and consultants are compensated appropriately for their consultation on public art projects. Compensation should follow rates recommended by the City's Indigenous Relations unit.

Public art will continue to be developed across Mississauga by the City's Public Art Program as well as other public sector and private partners. The Public Art Plan advocates for the City to continue fostering conditions for private property owners and local arts organizations to

commission public art in areas that the City's Public Art Program is currently unable to reach. For example, local arts organizations can commission public art on private property in the public realm. The Public Art Plan advocates for the City's Public Art Program to contribute tailored capacity and sector building opportunities to ensure this work can continue (e.g. learning opportunities, mentorship, advisory support, and partnerships).

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the Recommendations in this report.

Conclusion

The City of Mississauga is committed to supporting and investing in the arts community. Since its launch in 2010, the Public Art Program has experienced remarkable success in promoting Mississauga's culture scene, growing a collection of over 92 public artworks, and developing an emergent national reputation for artistic excellence. The approval of the attached Public Art Plan is necessary to continue furthering this work in ways that are dynamic, innovative, sustainable, and reflective of our unique city identity.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Draft Public Art Plan



Nadia Paladino, Acting Commissioner of Community Services

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