



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE

SEATTLE

Seattle Office of Arts & Culture Municipal Art Plan 2026

A Better 31s, Damon Brown, 2025,
Commissioned with Department of
Finance and Administrative Services
1% for Art funds

Municipal Art Plan

The methodology behind the plan

Each year, our City partners contribute 1% of eligible capital construction funds to the Municipal Art Fund (MAF). Each department has its own fund (some, like SPU and SDOT, have multiple funds) where these 1% for Art dollars are collected to support future public art projects. Our capital partners are:

- Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS)
- Seattle Center (SC)
- Seattle City Light (SCL)
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
- Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR)
- Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

The Municipal Art Plan (MAP) is a public document that shows how we plan to use the funds in the MAF.

Throughout the year, we meet with liaisons from our partner departments and the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) of the Seattle Arts Commission (SAC) to set goals and decide where and how to implement public art projects. The MAP also lists all the active public art projects we're working on.

When deciding where to implement public art projects, we consider several factors:

Visibility and Impact

We prioritize projects with high visibility and broad community impact, like large roadway projects or community centers.

Equity

We focus on areas that have had little to no public art investment or are in need of more resources, based on our partners' upcoming projects.

Project Themes

We look for projects that align with City missions, such as environmental stewardship or pedestrian safety, to support those goals through public art.

Community Interest

When City partners meet with community stakeholders, project themes that resonate with community are used as opportunities for integrating public art projects.

Artist Growth Opportunity

As part of our equity and training programs, we identify capital projects as training opportunities for artists who are trying to enter the public art field.



Artworks clock-wise from top left:

Family, Qwalsius-Shaun Peterson. Central Waterfront. Commissioned with SDOT 1% for Art funds. Photo: Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

Cambia, Morgan Madison. Seattle Center Sculpture Walk. Commissioned with Seattle Center 1% for Art funds. Photo: Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

Bloomsbury, Jeffry Mitchell. Seattle City Light Ship Canal Substation. Commissioned with Seattle City Light 1% for Art funds. Photo: Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

Through, Kalina Chung. Hoa Mai Park. Commissioned with Seattle Parks and Recreation 1% for Art funds. Photo: Matt Lindberg



Artist Selection Process and Public Artist Roster

Our Public Art division is committed to fair and equitable selection processes for all 1% for Art funded commissions. Artists are selected through a variety of processes that follow national best practices and are reviewed by the PAAC.

Local and national artists interested in public art commissions with the City of Seattle can apply to join our pre-approved Public Artist Roster. We open applications every three years, with a mid-term opportunity for new artists to apply. Our current roster includes 421 artists, 236 of whom are from Washington state.

Once a project scope is developed, we use the roster to identify artists based on their stated interests and experience. A selection panel then reviews candidates, interviews finalists, and recommends an artist to us. The roster is also publicly available on our website, so community organizations, developers, and others can access this pool of talent.

The Public Artist Roster acts as an ongoing application pool for selection panels to match artists with specific projects. These panels include paid consultants with expertise in art, design, community knowledge and experience.

For projects requiring a specific medium not covered by the roster, or when appropriate, we hold open calls for artists. We also host open calls for our Public Art Boot Camp.

Community Engagement Process

We work closely with the community at every stage of a new project. From identifying the project and securing funding, to celebrating its completion with a dedication, community is integral to the public art process.

To strengthen this connection, we've adopted several ways to ensure community isn't just involved, but has a lasting voice throughout the entire development of a public art project.

Community Planning Artist

When we commission artists for public art projects, we require them to connect with the community as they develop their ideas and concepts.

For larger projects, longer timelines, or those with strong community interest—especially in communities with a history of being marginalized—our Public Art division commissions Community Planning Artists. These artists work closely with the community, shaping every part of art programming. Together, they assess community needs, explore potential locations and themes, and even serve on the selection panel. This collaboration ensures that community voices are heard and valued every step of the way.

We're committed to building long-term relationships with the communities we serve. The planning artists we commission are experts in creative community engagement, turning community goals and ideas into lasting public art.

Recently, our Public Art division worked with SPU and SPR on the Bitter Lake Reservoir Project, where the community directly shaped the public art plans, as well as the landscape and facility features developed by SPU. This process received high praise from community members and our City partners. Building on that success, we've continued this approach by commissioning planning artists for SPU's South Park Pump Station and California Culvert Project.

Civic Art Collection and Collections Management

Our Public Art division's Collections Management team takes care of the Civic Art Collection, which includes over 400 publicly sited artworks and more than 4,000 portable pieces displayed in City offices. In 2025, we've focused on conserving public art in the downtown core to prepare for the 2026 World Cup festivities and showcase our collection to the world.

Funding for this work comes from OAC's Arts and Culture Fund, which is supported by the Admission Tax. Each year, we receive funding for one full-time and one part-time staff member to manage and maintain the collection. Additional funds cover materials and contractor services for specialized work.

Our team also collects and manages data for every artwork, ensuring accurate records throughout each piece's lifecycle. This information is stored in a database and the public can explore the collection through our online portal, Emuseum.

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Collections Management also oversees two City galleries. The Seattle Municipal Tower Gallery features quarterly exhibitions, often highlighting new acquisitions. The Anne Focke Gallery at Seattle City Hall showcases work from City partners like the City Clerk's Office, SPU, and SCL, as well as community arts groups like Path with Art, Youth in Focus, and Creative Justice.

In addition to these galleries, we support installations, programming, and curatorial efforts at ARTS at King Street Station and the Ethnic Heritage Art Gallery, a volunteer-run organization at the Seattle Municipal Tower.

Our team regularly rotates artworks throughout City offices, refreshing spaces like entire floors of the Seattle Municipal Tower for SPU, SCL, and SDOT, as well as City Hall offices. Art from the collection is displayed at the Justice Center, City

Hall, neighborhood community centers, and even satellite locations like SPU's Cedar River Watershed and SCL's salmon hatchery in Usk, WA. Each year, we move hundreds of artworks across the City to keep the collection fresh and accessible.



*Petrel Guards the Water, Raven Steals the Water, Preston Singletary and David Franklin. Ship Canal (Queen Anne side). Commissioned with Seattle Public Utilities 1% for Art funds.
Photo: Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.*

2026 1% for Art Allocations

The chart below indicates 1% for Art allocations from each capital department partner, and in the case of SPU, lines of business, and for SDOT, levies and special projects. OAC charges 20% overhead that covers expenses for OAC leadership, communications, finance, operations and administration, office rent, and equipment. The remaining balance goes towards the commissioning of public art projects which includes project management fees, and project administrative costs.

Agency	Allocation	Overhead 20%	1% Projects
FAS	\$0	\$0	\$0
SC	\$14,000	\$2,800	\$11,200
SCL*	\$284,811	\$56,962	\$227,849
SDOT			
General	\$357,260	\$71,452	\$285,808
Move Seattle	\$223,441	\$44,688	\$178,753
2024 Transportation Levy	\$856,252	\$171,250	\$685,002
SPR	\$291,601	\$58,320	\$233,281
SPU*			
Water	\$279,589	\$55,918	\$223,671
Drainage and Wastewater	\$989,939	\$197,988	\$791,951
Solid Waste	\$97,351	\$19,470	\$77,881
Total	\$3,394,244	\$678,849	\$2,715,395

**SCL and SPU listed allocations are estimates based on annual projections. Figures are based on 75% accomplishment rate. OAC invoices SCL and SPU for quarterly actuals.*

Finance and Administrative Services

In 2025, the Public Art division and FAS will complete the new Fire Station 31 in the Northgate neighborhood. It will include a new large tile mural that celebrates the women and men who work to protect the lives and safety of the people in Seattle.

Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Fire Station 31	\$435,000			\$0	\$435,000

New Projects 2026	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Bakun Building				\$250,000

Seattle Center

We are working closely with Seattle Center to develop artwork for the redevelopment of Memorial Stadium. The new stadium allows the Seattle Center to reimagine the space in and around the stadium and includes campus improvements that will enhance visitors' experiences directly to the south and west of the new stadium. Our office continues to work with Seattle Center staff to present the annual Seattle Center Sculpture Walk, an annual exhibit of three to four temporary art installations where artists enhance spaces on the campus that offers moments of surprise and introspection.

Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Seattle Center Sculpture Walk 2025	\$38,000		\$10,205	\$48,205	\$50,000
New Projects 2026		Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Seattle Center Sculpture Walk 2026	\$28,000		\$14,000	\$42,000	\$48,000
Seattle Center Memorial Stadium					\$325,000

Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.

Seattle City Light

In 2025, our office and SCL completed the Seattle City Light Art Plan. Started in 2023, it offers a broad range of strategies and opportunities for our two departments to consider new public art projects that will run through 2033. With the completion of the new art plan, our two departments have begun implementing projects at the Boundary Dam and the Usk Hatchery.

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Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Essentially Seattle Portable Works Purchase	\$300,000		\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
Seattle City Light Artist-in-Residence	\$155,000		\$0	\$155,000	\$155,000
EV Charging Lots (KoP)	\$110,000		\$0	\$110,000	\$110,000
Digital Data Mapping	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
Fresh Perspectives	\$300,000		\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
Chief Sealth Trail	\$200,000		\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Tiny Homes Village	\$250,000		\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
Ballard Sculpture garden	\$200,000		\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Boundary Dam Vista Point/Lookout	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
Boundary Dam - Office Artwork Purchase	\$15,000		\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
Usk Hatchery	\$100,000		\$50,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Temporary Fencing - Inactive Substations	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
New 2026 Projects					
City Hall Gallery Exhibit (Pilot)			\$10,000		\$10,000
Portable Works Purchases			\$40,000		\$40,000
City Light Community Engagement Teaching Artist			\$65,000		\$65,000

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Seattle Department of Transportation

In the fall of 2025, the city will celebrate the completion of the Central Waterfront and Seawall. This once-in-a-lifetime project will bring to a close one of the largest projects the City has undertaken, which will include nine new publicly sited artworks into the Civic Art Collection.

We continue to partner with SDOT on numerous projects throughout the city that enhance the public right-of-way and helps make our streets safer and more friendly to all modes of transportation. With the voter approved 2024 Seattle Transportation Levy, we will work with SDOT to develop projects over the next eight years outlined in the newly passed measure, including comprehensive Community Planning strategies for the Aurora North Project and the Rainier Ave S and S Henderson projects.

SDOT General Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
SDOT Art Plan Implementation: Sidewalk Stamping	\$5,000		\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Spokane Street Viduct	\$524,675		\$0	\$524,675	\$524,675
Shoreline Street Ends	\$59,446		\$1,451	\$60,897	\$60,897
Center City Connector - Streetcar Project	\$179,668		\$0	\$179,668	\$300,000
Sidewalk Development Program - replacement	\$15,000		\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
Fauntleroy SW Green Boulevard	\$115,300		\$0	\$115,300	\$175,300
SDOT Burke-Gilman Trail Missing Link	\$61,000	-\$61,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Lander St	\$104,000		\$0	\$104,000	\$104,000
Capitol Hill Black Lives Matter Mural	\$120,000		\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
Safe Routed to School - Video, Youth Engagement - Program	\$30,000		\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Duwamish Longhouse Crosswalk	\$40,000		\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
Pickleball Court 2024	\$12,000		\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
130th St Transit Corridor	\$350,000		\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000
Healing within Historic Alleyways	\$100,000		\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Fremont Bridge Artist-in-Residence 2025	\$20,000		\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
University Bridge Artist -in-Residency 2025	\$20,000		\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000

Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.

SDOT General New Projects for 2026	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Portable Works Purchase Fund			\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Art Interruptions 2026 - 2027		\$61,000	\$99,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
Pickleball Courts 2026			\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Central Waterfront Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current funding	Est. Project Funding
Central Waterfront Design Team Artist (AWV) VA8082 (Pooled)	\$188,916		\$0	\$188,916	\$188,916
Central Waterfront AVW Union Street East/West Connections	\$593,000		\$0	\$593,000	\$593,000
Central Waterfront (2013 funding onwards) PM VA80823	\$339,463		\$0	\$339,463	\$339,463
Central Waterfront Play	\$0		\$0	\$0	\$0
Central Waterfront Tribal	\$495,000		\$0	\$495,000	\$495,000
Central Waterfront Promenade Commission	\$751,500		\$0	\$751,500	\$751,500
CENWF Pgm Support - Consultants	\$260,000		\$0	\$260,000	\$260,000
CENWF Art Install - Construction	\$671,000		\$0	\$671,000	\$671,000
Overlook Walk Indigenous Commission	\$425,000		\$0	\$425,000	\$425,000
Pike-Pine Corridor, New for 2019	\$600,000		\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
CENWF Waterfront Fountains	\$40,000			\$40,000	\$40,000
SDOT Seawall Bond Measure Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Seawall Bond Measure (project management and contingency)	\$222,472		\$0	\$222,472	\$222,472
Seawall Habitat Beach	\$492,000		\$0	\$492,000	\$492,000
Seawall Sound Project	\$295,000		\$0	\$295,000	\$295,000
Seawall Piers Project	\$1,250,000		\$0	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000

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Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.

Seattle Department of Transportation

SDOT Move Seattle Levy Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
New Sidewalks - Move	\$78,000		\$0	\$78,000	\$78,000
East Marginal Way	\$250,000		\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
Rapid Ride J Line	\$380,000		\$0	\$380,000	\$380,000
Alaskan Way Protected Bike Lane	\$218,000		\$0	\$218,000	\$218,000
Delridge Pedestrian Bridge	\$250,000		\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000

SDOT Move New Projects for 2026	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Slurp	\$0		\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000

SDOT 2024 Transportation Levy New Projects for 2026	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Aurora North - Planning			\$100,000	\$100,000	\$250,000
Major Street Modernization - Kit of Parts - AiR			\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
SDOT: Beacon Ave South - Pedestrian			\$100,000	\$100,000	\$350,000
SDOT: Henderson and Rainier			\$100,000	\$100,000	\$250,000
Fortsen Square	\$60,000		\$60,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
Paving AAC Project - Roosevelt and Pinehurst Way			\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Occidental Promenade			\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.

Seattle Parks and Recreation

We are working closely with SPR to plan for new public art commissions that will integrate new artworks in developing parks and community center projects. Projects will include the Bitter Lake Reservoir in partnership with SPU, the Green Lake and Lake City Community Center projects.

Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Ernst Park Redesign	\$20,000		\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Little Saigon - Landbanked Parks	\$200,000		\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
South Lake Union Community Center	\$90,000	-\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$90,000
Discovery Park Visitor's Center	\$20,858		\$0	\$20,858	\$20,858
Bitter Lake Reservoir	\$109,109	-\$109,109	\$0	\$0	\$109,109
Lake City Community Center Re-build	\$110,000	\$140,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
Marra Desimone Play Area Addition	\$93,205	\$70,000	\$6,795	\$93,205	\$170,000
Carkeek Park (Tribal Artwork)	\$50,000	-\$50,000	\$0		\$0
Westlake Park WC Temporary Artwork	\$50,000	-\$50,000	\$0		\$0

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Proposed 2026 Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Green Lake Community Center		\$89,109	\$10,891		\$250,000
Loyal Heights Community Center			\$100,000		\$250,000
Judkins Park Play Area			\$100,000		\$100,000

Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.

Seattle Public Utilities

We work closely with SPU to develop comprehensive art project planning that speaks to the core mission of the utility’s three lines of business: Water, Drainage and Wastewater, and Solid Waste. SPU values its relationship with the 1% for Art program as each project tells the story of providing essential services to the city while protecting the waterways that we cherish.

In 2025, our program and SPU welcomed the first publicly sited artworks into the collection from the Ship Canal Water Quality Program by artists Preston Singletary and David Franklin, and RYAN! Feddersen. Nearly ten years in the making, these works along with Vaughn Bell’s *Connective Thread* artworks and multiple temporary projects were born out of Bell’s art plan published in 2017. We are working closely with SPU and SDOT to develop a comprehensive community engagement plan for the Aurora North Project.

Water

Ongoing Projects	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Essentially Seattle Portable Works Purchase	\$30,000		\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Bitter Lake Reservoir - Park Gateways	\$43,250		\$0	\$43,250	\$200,000
Bitter Lake Reservoir - Pathways	\$43,250		\$0	\$43,250	\$120,000
Bitter Lake Reservoir - Lookout Point	\$43,250		\$0	\$43,250	\$100,000
Bitter Lake Reservoir - Bioretention	\$43,250		\$0	\$43,250	\$100,000
World Cup Digital Project	\$50,000		\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
New 2026 Projects					
Fresh Perspectives			\$45,000		\$45,000
Fresh Perspectives Purchase			\$25,000		\$25,000

Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.

Seattle Public Utilities

Drainage and Wastewater

Ongoing Projects

	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
North Delridge	\$228,748		\$0	\$228,748	\$250,000
SPU Drainage Artist in Residence plus projects	\$300,000		\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
Ship Canal Water Quality Project - Connective Thread	\$250,000		\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
Ship Canal Water Quality Project - FLOW	\$290,000		\$0	\$460,000	\$460,000
Ship Canal Water Quality Project - Ballard Site	\$250,000		\$0	\$325,000	\$325,000
Taylor Creek	\$192,000		\$0	\$192,000	\$192,000
Ship Canal Water Quality Project - Fremont/Queen Anne	\$305,000		\$0	\$305,000	\$305,000
Ship Canal Water Quality Project - Wallingford Site	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
Longfellow Creek - (Community Engagement)	\$232,000		\$0	\$232,000	\$232,000
Bioretention/Natural Drainage System Kit of Parts	\$250,000		\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
Essentially Seattle Portable Works Purchase	\$75,000		\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
Chief Sealth Trail	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
Lake City Flood Plane Park	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
Bitter Lake GSI	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
SPU South Park Water Quality Project - Temp Fencing	\$160,000		\$0	\$160,000	\$160,000
Air Vent Monsters (30,000)	\$100,000		\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
World Cup - Digital Project	\$50,000		\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
SMT Office Stairwell Project	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
California Ave Culvert Replacement	\$200,000		\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Bitter Lake Reservoir DWW	\$150,000		\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000
SCWQP Documentary Project	\$80,000		\$40,000	\$120,000	\$120,000

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Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.

Seattle Public Utilities

Drainage and Wastewater

New 2026 Projects

	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
Aurora North			\$100,000		\$100,000
Fresh Perspectives			\$90,000		\$90,000
Fresh Perspectives Purchase			\$75,000		\$75,000

Solid Waste

Ongoing Projects

	Prior Funding	Reallocation	2026 Allocations	Current Funding	Est. Project Funding
South Transfer Phase II	\$390,000		\$0	\$390,000	\$390,000
Essentially Seattle Portable Works Purchase	\$45,000		\$0	\$45,000	\$45,000
Waste Free Artwork Solutions	\$50,000	-\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Clear Alleyways	\$170,000		\$0	\$170,000	\$170,000
World Cup Digital Project	\$50,000		\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000

Any remaining allocation funds are reserved in an unprogrammed fund for future planning.