



City of San Marcos

City Council Work Session

May 5, 2026



Presentation Item 1

Hold a discussion regarding the creation of new Public Arts Policy and provide direction to City Manager.

Public Arts Policy



Arts Master Plan

- In 2022, the City Council adopted a new Arts Master Plan which incorporated elements from the 2012 plan as well as input from the public, City Council, Arts Commissioners, arts organizations, and individual artists.
- A top recommendation of the 2022 Arts Master Plan was to update the public art policy.
- Creating a new standard commissioning process will ensure consistency across all Arts Commission and City Department projects.

Public Arts Policy



Art Policy History

- The City's existing Art in Public Places Policy and Procedural Guidelines was initially adopted April 5, 2005, which focuses on the administrative process of applications for placement of permanent or temporary art on City property.
- The Arts Commission was tasked with developing a public art policy after a 2003 donation highlighted the absence of formal guidelines for accepting public art to be displayed on city property.

Public Arts Policy



Public Art Program

- The City of San Marcos' Public Art Program is administered by the Destination Services Department's Arts Division and advised by the San Marcos Arts Commission.
- The Public Art Program commissions, acquires, and presents permanent and temporary public art, acts as stewards of the City's public art collection, and engages the public in the collection.
- The Program has expanded significantly since 2018, now boasting a diverse collection of over 80 pieces and 28 traffic box mini murals.



Public Arts Policy

Seeking Council Consensus for Feedback to Incorporate in a Draft Policy

Key Input Opportunities (examples):

- Define roles, responsibilities, funding, and eligibility
- Define approval processes, including areas where Council desires an approval role
- Provide guiding principles
- Streamline the application, review, and approval processes
- Expand the process to include the commissioning of art, acquisition, gifts, loans, solicitation, mural art program, de-accession, and relocation
- Identify potential art opportunities with other City Departments
- Establish a collection management and stewardship policy

Public Arts Policy



Next Steps

- Staff will incorporate Council feedback into a draft policy.
- Staff will provide an initial draft to the Arts Commission for input.
- Does Council desire to have other City Boards or Commissions provide input on an initial draft?
- Bring a draft to City Council for consideration.