

City of San Antonio

# Department of Arts & Culture

## Public Art Strategy

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Presented by  
Debbie Racca-Sittre,  
**Director**

February 20, 2018



**CulTÚArt**

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The Future of San Antonio Arts  
& Culture is in **YOUR** hands!

# Cul-TÚ-Art Plan

- A coordinated planning document that identifies strategies for 6 focus areas:



October 2016 - Film

February 2017 - Centro de Artes



February 2018 – Arts Funding Guidelines

Spring 2018 – Public Art Strategy and Plan



June 2018 – Downtown Cultural Plan  
2018 – Music





## Public Art Strategic Vision:

“We open the landscape to diverse voices and narratives to create engaging public art.”



# Public Art Policy



**1% of eligible capital  
improvement funds  
designated for public art**

**District 7**

# 5 Year PASA Results

## 2012 Bond Program Capital Projects

- 1st to include full 1% policy
- Added 58 artworks  
(4 times more than 2007 Bond)

## Non-Bond Capital Projects

- Added 59 artworks



# Observations

1. Art must be intentional and curated
2. Maintenance must be considered
3. Engage the community early and often
4. Local Artists must have opportunities
5. Celebrate Art

District 4

# Community & Stakeholders Input

City Council Arts Culture & Heritage  
Committee

San Antonio Arts Commission & Curatorial  
Committee

Community  
Feedback

District  
Meetings

Resident &  
Visitor Survey



# Survey Results

- 93% of those surveyed consider seeing and experiencing art in San Antonio is “important.”
- Overall, 96% of all survey respondents say they have seen public art in at least one location.
- About half of all survey participants would like to see more 3-D sculptural as well as environmental art .



# Survey Results

- 91% of respondents would like to see more public art in San Antonio.
  - The most mentioned locations where they would like to see more Public Art are Downtown, Along the River and in Neighborhood Parks and Greenway Trails.
- About half of all survey participants would like to see pop-up and short-term public art.

# Survey Comments

			<b>Positive and Supportive</b>
			<i>We have visited San Antonio often, always staying close to the Riverwalk. It's a wonderful place for cultural events and activities.</i>
			<i>Dare I just say, the improvement over the past 18 years is EXCELLENT! Keep it up!</i>
			<i>There is already so much to do I can barely keep up!</i>
			<i>The city does a good job of bringing a diverse range of arts and events to San Antonio.</i>
			<i>I think that San Antonio offers a lot of artwork and events. I love everything about the art and culture San Antonio already offers and I don't think I would change or add anything different. They are doing a great job!</i>
			<i>I'm very happy with what is offered, and glad I live in San Antonio!</i>
			<i>I believe the City of San Antonio offers something for everyone throughout the year.</i>
			<i>I feel San Antonio is very diversified in its arts and cultural events.</i>



# Benchmarking Comparison

Municipality	Policy Adopted	Funding Percent	Pre-Qualifies Artist List	Maintenance Funds
Austin	1985/2002	2%	Yes	No Dedicated Funds
Chicago	1978/2007	1.33%	No	Up to 20% of Project Funds
Dallas	1988	.75% to 1.5%	Yes	No Dedicated Funds
Houston	1999/2006	1.75%	Yes	No Dedicated Funds
Phoenix	1986	1%	Yes	Annual General Funds
<b>San Antonio</b>	<b>1996/2011</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>HOT Funds</b>
San Diego	1992/2004	2%	No	No Dedicated Funds

# Consultant Recommendations



- Update policies to consider art maintenance and murals
- Don't limit artist selection to open calls, engage curators
- Create signature projects, like the "T"





# Proposed Public Art Strategies



1. Enhances existing policies regarding the maintenance of art.
2. Expands the artist selection process to provide more flexibility.
3. Prioritizes community engagements.
4. Incorporates a placement plan for art.

# Enhance Existing Policy

- Municipal Mural Protection
- Art Maintenance Plan
- Facilitate design review and approval process





# Artist Selection

- Enhance Artist Selection Process
  - Included curated artists as part of pre-qualified list
  - Annual “open call” process is a tool not a limitation,
    - Allows SA artist access to opportunities and mentorship



# Mentorship Program

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the program
- 12 emerging artists added to the 2018 list



Airport CONRAC Mural

# Community Engagement

- Build relationships between community and art
  - Develop sense of neighborhood identity, project interest, transparency
  - Cultivates new artists and advocacy





# Placement Planning

- Identifies appropriate locations in all districts to place public art, such as greenway trails, parks and community facilities
- Creates a temporary location for art to be displayed while awaiting construction completion of the infrastructure in its final placement



# Next Steps

- Requesting input from the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Committee on the proposed Public Art Strategy.
- Return to the Committee in March with the final Public Art Strategy and the preliminary Project Plan for review.
- Council consideration is proposed for March or April 2018.

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