



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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20 JUL 28 PM 1:47

TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Roberto C. Treviño  
COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina Flores, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Assistant to City Council  
SUBJECT: Creating a Comprehensive Art WORKS Program in San Antonio  
DATE: July 22, 2020

**Issue Proposed for Consideration**

Public Art not only enhances the community in which it is located and provides citizens with a better quality of life, it is an economic generator that can spark development while contributing to the creative economy.

Given the benefits of public art investment to our culture, our economy, and the lives of our citizens, this proposal asks the City of San Antonio (CoSA) to develop, codify and implement the following policies. I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item(s) on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

1. Public Art Funding

CoSA should increase its investment from one percent (1%) to two percent (2%) of all capital improvement projects contained in the City's capital improvement program to be used for public art for any eligible project appropriation paid for wholly or in part by monies appropriated by the City to design, construct, improve, or renovate a building, including its appurtenant facilities, a decorative or commemorative structure, a park, a street, a sidewalk, a parking facility, a utility, or any portion thereof, within the City limits or under the jurisdiction of the City. This shall apply to a city capital improvement project financed with proceeds from:

- General obligation bonds authorized and approved by the voters on or after January 1, 2021 or
- Revenue bonds, certificates, notes, or other obligations authorized and approved by the city council on or after January 1, 2021.
- Projects that are associated and funded through entities such as, but not limited to, the CoSA General Fund, Public Facility Corporation, and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones.

2. Design Enhancement

The Public Works Department should coordinate with the Department of Arts & Culture to implement a Design Enhancement program that results in elements of projects



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designed by an artist/craftsman or an artist/craftsman in collaboration with the project architect, landscape architect or engineer. Artists would be hired from the Public Works Project budget (outside the percent for Public Art) to inform and help guide the design of a capital project with the purpose of making ordinary components of the capital project more beautiful, artistic and culturally significant.

The Design Enhancement program would apply to all new and existing infrastructure that is designed, constructed, and/or maintained using CoSA funding (as listed in the previous section). To ensure the goals of this policy are met as well as to facilitate a strong partnership between the Department of Arts & Culture and the Public Works Department, an inventory of all existing, in-progress, in-design, or pending infrastructure projects should be made available.

**3. Art in Private Development**

The Department of Arts & Culture and the Development Services Department should work together with Developers on a project-by-project basis to determine a percentage of the building permit value (BPV) that can be used by the Developer for design enhancements or the creation of art on-site. Developers that are unable to identify a suitable on-site art opportunity, may at their discretion, choose to contribute to fund an off-site project by making an In-Lieu Contribution to a newly created Public Art Development Fund. Any contribution made by a given development to the Public Art Development Fund should be invested near the site of the development. Boundaries related to regional centers, cultural districts, and census tracts can help guide usage of contributions to the Fund.

The goal of the Art in Private Development Policy is to provide enhanced property values, and an improved appearance of the community through creative and properly maintained public art and provide more economic opportunity for artists. Given the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, this portion of the policy should include ample stakeholder input and only go into effect only after the emergency orders are lifted.

**Brief Background**

For over twenty years, the City of San Antonio has allocated public art funding as part of its capital improvement program's strategy and to take consideration when art and cultural opportunities can enhance our city's infrastructure projects, such as streets, drainage, parks, libraries, community facilities, and many more significant capital projects throughout all council districts. In 2011, the Mayor and City Council adopted a public art requirement to set aside 1% to be used to commission artworks on public projects. Across the US there are 350 public art programs that have been adopted, and they continue to prove the success of policies to include





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public art as an integral part of design and construction. The results are increased public interest and participation in new development, as well as achieving a sense of civic pride and faith in revitalization. Whether in the form of murals, sculpture or functional art, there existence in public places adds vibrancy to cities and strengthens community bonds.

In 2020, it's critical for the public and a private sector to work collaboratively to meet the needs of San Antonio's growing population and economy. Innovative approaches are vital to sustain this growth while maintaining a high quality of life and we preserve our unique culture while building for tomorrow. Public art is proven to be an important tool in mitigating some of the challenges that new development brings to older neighborhoods, provides marginalized communities with access to fine art, and helps to maintain the quality and character of our architecture, parks and cultural and historic districts. Public Art also provides jobs.

A study of 8 peer Cities (Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Ft. Worth, Phoenix & San Diego) indicates that all have a percent for art program which allocates between 1-2% for Public Art from the City's Capital Improvement Program. Of these peer cities, 2 have *Art in Private Development* Programs. Additionally, 5 other cities (Alexandra, VA; Los Angeles, CA; Oakland, CA; Santa Monica, CA; Sarasota FL; Tampa FL) were also studied for their *Art in Private Development* Programs.

Also, it is critical to take into context the Americans for the Arts reports which found that of more than 10,000 artists and creative worker responses so far to the new COVID-19 Impact Survey for Artists and Creative Workers, 62% have become fully unemployed because of COVID-19 and 95% have experienced income loss from COVID-19. The average decline in estimated total annual income per creative worker for 2020 is \$27,103. Local San Antonio artists contribute to our economy and society. The most recent economic impact study, conducted last year by Steve Nivin, Ph.D., Chief Economist at the Saber Institute, found that San Antonio's Creative Economy is a \$4.8 Billion industry, with total employment measured at 26,684 positions generating \$1.3 billion in income. COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the arts with required closures and social distancing as well as the decimation of the Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilman Roberto C. Treviño



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Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

1.

*[Signature]*

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2.

*[Signature]*

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3.

*Jason Andrew Sullivan*

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*[Signature]*

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