



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 25

**Agenda Date:** April 6, 2023

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Arts and Culture

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Krystal Jones

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Public Art Policy Amendments

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes the amendment of the City of San Antonio Public Art Policy to update names and roles of the Department of Arts & Culture, Public Art Program, San Antonio Arts Commission, and Public Art Committee and include canvassing requirements for public art donations.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Over the past several years, the City has seen an increase in public art requests and donations and the 2022-2027 Bond Program included \$15.7 million for public art. As a result of the increase in demand, donations, and funding, the Department of Arts & Culture worked with community stakeholders, the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art Committee, and City Council to develop a Public Art Strategy that enhances the implementation of public art for capital projects that are in the City's Capital Budget and reviews the Public Art Policy.

The Public Art Policy, adopted by City Council in 2011, establishes roles, responsibilities, and processes for the development of Public Art and the acceptance of Public Art donated to the City

by private citizens. The Policy refers to the Department of Arts & Culture as the Office of Cultural Affairs, the department's previous name, and does not mention the San Antonio Arts Commission or Public Art Committee, as they were not yet formed at this time. In addition, the policy does not require any feedback or support from residents or businesses in a location where a Public Art donation is proposed and does not require the formal review by a commission or committee of temporary Public Art installations by private organizations or nonprofits on City property.

## **ISSUE:**

With the increased requests from community members to donate Public Art to the City for display on public property as well as the installation of temporary public art, like murals, on City property, the Department of Arts & Culture worked with the Public Art Committee, San Antonio Arts Commission, community stakeholders and City Council to develop the following amendments to the Public Art Policy. These amendments were approved by the Public Art Committee on March 7, 2023, the San Antonio Arts Commission on March 14, 2023, and the City Council Community, Health, Environment, and Culture Committee on March 15, 2023.

1. Update the names and roles of departments, commissions, and committees.
2. Include a requirement for canvassing as part of the process for private individuals and businesses to donate public art to City owned property
3. Include the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art Committee in the review of temporary public art projects proposed for City property or right-of-way by community groups or individuals.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

If City Council chooses not to approve the amendments to the Public Art Policy, the department would continue to operate under its current policy guidelines following a policy that does not address the formal review of temporary art on City property, require feedback from community members on donated public art, and explicitly name the Department of Arts & Culture, Arts Commission and Public Art Committee as administrators of the Public Art Program.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes the amendment of the City of San Antonio Public Art Policy to update names and roles of the Department of Arts & Culture, Public Art Program, San Antonio Arts Commission, and Public Art Committee and include canvassing requirements for public art donations. This ordinance does not have any fiscal impact to the City's budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff, the San Antonio Arts Commission and its Public Art Committee, the City Council Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee recommend the approval of the amendments to the Public Art Policy.