



Staff Report

File #: 24-53

Version: 1

Date: 2/12/2024

Item #: 5.b.

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilor Linda Nishioka, Ward 2

SUBJECT:

Motion from Councilor Linda Nishioka concerning allowing the display of temporary public art in conjunction with the City's public art program.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

MOTION:

I move to direct staff to provide a staff report to Council outlining the requirements and process to modify the City's public art regulations to allow the temporary display of public art.

DISCUSSION:

The proposal seeks to increase the public display of art in the community. Currently, murals and other artworks are considered "signs" under the sign code, and are subject to limitations in the number, size, and location. The City's public art code, allows the permanent display of art and is exempt from the sign code. [CHAPTER 15. - PUBLIC ART | Code of Ordinances | Salem, OR | Municode Library](https://library.municode.com/or/salem/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_TITIGO_CH15PUAR) <https://library.municode.com/or/salem/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_TITIGO_CH15PUAR> In order for the art to qualify under the City's program, it must be approved by the Public Art Commission and the City must own the artwork.

This motion directs staff to investigate potential changes to the City's public art program, including amendments to the City Code, to allow the temporary display of art, approved through the Public Art Commission.

Art displayed publicly meets the definition of a "sign," under the City's sign code. [CHAPTER 900. - SIGN CODE | Code of Ordinances | Salem, OR | Municode Library](https://library.municode.com/or/salem/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TITXUNDECO_UDC_CH900SICO) <https://library.municode.com/or/salem/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TITXUNDECO_UDC_CH900SICO> "Sign" is defined as a thing that is designed, used, or intended to attract the attention of the public. SRC 900.015(f) exempts public art and murals that are owned by the City. For murals, the City obtains an easement agreement for a seven-year period.

This motion directs staff to investigate ways to allow for a shorter time period to allow murals and other artworks to be publicly displayed.

There are grant opportunities for temporary art projects. Temporary art projects will increase cultural and community involvement in art projects within our neighborhoods and parks. A thriving arts scene can stimulate economic growth by attracting tourists, supporting local businesses, and creating job opportunities. Community art projects provide opportunities for relaxation, stress relief, and emotional expression, contributing to overall wellness and quality of life.

In summary, temporary and community art is a powerful social, cultural, and economic enrichment tool. It brings people together, beautifies spaces, and empowers individuals to create positive change within their communities.

Attachments:
None.