MEMORANDUM

To: Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, City Manager
From: Matt Chasansky, Boulder Arts Commission Liaison
Cc: Chris Meschuk, Deputy City Manager
    David Farnan, Library and Arts Director
    Mandy Vink, Public Art Administrator
Date: October 25, 2021

Since 2017, the Public Art Implementation Plan has served as the work plan for the Public Art Program. On interim years, as this one, updates to the Implementation Plan are drafted including careful review of budgets, timelines updated, and new projects added. Please note that the process was delayed a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Art staff conducted community inquiry. And, worked with colleagues across all contributing departments to review and ensure accurate projects, budgets, and timelines for various public art projects. Finally, the updates were presented to the Arts Commission for their recommendation.

Attached is the current draft with changes reflected in blue font. Following the process in the Public Art Policy, this memo confirms that the City Manager approves of the updates to the 2020-2022 Public Art Implementation Plan.

BOULDER ARTS COMMISSION: The Boulder Arts Commission reviewed the proposed updates in the August and September meetings, with a final review and vote at the October 20, 2021 meeting. On a motion to recommend that the City Manager approves the updates to the 2020-2021 Public Art Implementation Plan, moved by E. Freeman and seconded by B. Borowsky, the Arts Commission voted unanimously in favor.

This memo confirms that the City Manager has reviewed and approves the updates to the Implementation Plan.

_________________________________________  __________________________________
CMO Approval Signature     Date
December 2, 2021
2020-2022
PUBLIC ART PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
UPDATES 10.20.21
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1.1 PUBLIC ART PROGRAM: General Program Information

Mission: The city of Boulder Public Art program and its relating policy support the commissioning of a wide variety of artworks representing the most innovative approaches to contemporary practice in the arts, works of enduring value, and projects that cultivate a diversity of artists and arts experiences within the city of Boulder.

Vision: The city will acquire works of art that encourage creativity, contribute to a sense of place, spark conversation, tell our shared stories and capture our moment in time, foster the enjoyment of diverse works of art, and are thoughtfully designed contributions to the urban environment of our vibrant city.

A public art program is a key strategy identified in the Community Cultural Plan (Cultural Plan) and strives to support the following community priority: Focus on the expression of culture and creativity in the public realm through public art, the urban landscape, culture in the neighborhoods, and serendipitous encounters with the arts. The full Community Cultural Plan can be found at https://boulderarts.org/about-us/community-cultural-plan/

This Public Art Program supports city-funded percent for art and urban design commissions, temporary projects, murals, community-initiated concepts, maintenance, and conservation. Additionally, the Creative Neighborhoods program resides under the Public Art Program’s umbrella. This Public Art Implementation Plan outlines the program’s focus from 2020 – 2022 and scheduling into 2026 based on the 2020-2026 Capital Improvement Program. It will be open for review and updates in 2022.

The Office of Arts and Culture and the Boulder Arts Commission are committed to working toward equitable access in all policies and practices related to city-funded efforts, such as events and grants, that support a vibrant and creative environment for arts and culture in the community. In 2021 and 2022, the Arts Commission are reviewing policies and practices specifically with an equity lens for race and gender, all ages and abilities, and climate resilience. As that work is underway, the Public Art Program will continue to: explore most equitable manners to involve our community in project selection panels, strive to include diversity of artists in short-lists and semifinalists; and review all opportunities against the following Acquisition Criteria. In 2016 the members of the Boulder Arts Commission unanimously adopted the “Statement on Cultural Equity” from Americans for the Arts, a tool currently used with the public art selection process and acquisition criteria to ensure public art opportunities are considered within an equitable, diverse, and inclusive framework.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant financial toll on our community and public art funding, in addition to its global health toll. Programs like Experiments in Public Art, Creative Neighborhoods, and community-initiated projects are paused in 2021 and possibly into the future. Responsible program stewardship and sustainable program funding remains a priority for the Public Art Program. The Cultural Plan calls for sustainable funding from diverse fund sources. The Public Art Program will explore new, flexible, and sustainable funding opportunities for various opportunities.

The city of Boulder Public Art Policy and additional program information can be found at https://boulderarts.org/public-art/

Acquisition Criteria

The following criteria shall be used by all review bodies when considering the acquisition of artwork by purchase, commission, or donation. Additional criteria may be established at the discretion of the Office of Arts and Culture to meet the needs of individual projects. The criteria include:

1. **Inherent Artistic Quality** – The assessed aesthetic merit of the piece as an artwork, independent of other considerations.

2. **Context** – The compatibility of the artwork in scale, material, form, and content with its surroundings. Consideration should be given to the architectural, historical, geographical, and social/cultural context of the site.

3. **Ability to Install and Maintain** – The anticipated ability of the artist to complete the artwork and considerations towards the city’s ability to provide maintenance and conservation to maintain the asset over time. Considerations shall also apply to temporary projects.

4. **Time Horizon of Artwork** – The anticipated lifespan of the project and/or its host site.
5. **Diversity** – The city is committed to commissioning and acquiring artworks that reflect diverse perspectives and approaches to art. To that end, the city shall seek opportunities accessible to a broad audience. The city shall seek artwork from artists of diverse racial, gender, and cultural identities, and strive for diversity of experiences through a variety of styles, scales, narratives, and media. The city shall also encourage both experimental and established art forms.

6. **Uniqueness** – To ensure that artwork will not be duplicated, the city shall require the artist to warrant that the work is unique and limited to an edition of one unless stated to the contrary in a contract.

7. **Collection** – The proposed artwork shall be reviewed regarding how it fits into the collection and the program’s mission (above).

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**1.2 PUBLIC ART PROGRAM: Community Participation and Involvement**

**Selection Panels** – Individual projects will have a unique selection panel featuring an artist, arts professional, Arts Commissioner, and community members. Additionally, some unique opportunities may arise, such as donations, maintenance, and temporary projects, that require a standing selection panel (SSP). Both community selection panels will be supported by a nonvoting, advisory Technical Review Committee (TRC) composed of city staff and project representatives. Selection panels will be presented to the Arts Commission prior to initiating the project. If you are interested in serving on a selection panel, please submit a one-page letter of interest and current resume or CV to publicart@bouldercolorado.gov.

**Public Art Opportunities** – Opportunities will be advertised through the Office of Arts and Culture. Open calls will include application criteria. To receive information for public art opportunities, please visit: [http://boulderarts.org/about-us/community-cultural-plan/join-up/](http://boulderarts.org/about-us/community-cultural-plan/join-up/).

**Community Engagement** – Community perspectives on project locations help inform artists’ proposals and assist in finding the best artist for each public art project. Each public art project and the Public Art Program will have scaled opportunities for the larger community to participate in the selection process through specific community engagement opportunities such as public forums, town hall meetings, public lectures and presentations, and digital engagement platforms.

**Arts Commission** – The Arts Commission plays an active role in the public art process.
The Arts Commission initially will review and recommend Public Art Implementation Plans to the City Manager. This serves as the work plan for Public Art Program staff.

Next, the Arts Commission will review individual city-initiated projects, donations, and non-temporary community-initiated projects to ensure the Public Art Policy and process was followed appropriately. This includes reviewing which artist(s) the project selection panel recommend, and advancing that recommendation to the city manager.

The Arts Commission reviews maintenance and conservation projects, which include recommendations of either removal (deaccession) and relocation.

At times, public art items may appear for discussion only on Arts Commission meeting agendas. Staff will also provide non-agenda updates in the Arts Commission packet, such as information on project initiation, confirmation of selection panel participants, project development and timelines, and budget tracking. Staff will email updates of standing selection panel reports to the Arts Commission. If Arts Commissioners have questions, they should email staff in advance of the meeting.

1.3 PUBLIC ART PROGRAM: Portfolio

1.3.1 Recent Accomplishments

* Implementation of Percent for Art policy
* 5 permanent installations:
  - *55 Degrees* by Adam Kuby, Civic Area
  - *Sun Fades to Moon on Water* by Michelle Sparks, Arapahoe Underpass
  - *Wheelhouse Arbor* by Eric Johnson, Elks Park
  - All-gender Boulder Public Library Restroom Renovation Murals
  - Foothills Underpass Urban Design by Carolyn Braaksma
* 15 temporary installations:
  - Experiments in Public Art
* 60+ temporary community-scale installations:
  - Creative Neighborhoods: COVID-19 Work Projects
* 40 city-initiated murals along with additional support for many community murals including:
  - 18 Creative Neighborhoods: Murals
  - 5 Boulder Community Health (BCH) Deconstruction Murals
  - 9 Underpass and Public Facility Murals
  - 3 Paint the Pavement projects
* 2 community donations installed
* 8 temporary/community projects
* 9 community engagement events

Status of Active Projects and Programs by October 2021

* 5 active Percent for Art projects underway: 30th and Colorado Underpass Urban Design, 19th and Upland Urban Design, Fire Station 3, North Boulder Branch Library, North Boulder Corridor Project; University Hill is on hold
* 4 Community-initiated and donated projects underway: Nobel Circle, Tim Eggert Sound Harp, Rotary, Los Seis de Boulder Memorial
1.3.2 2020 Community Feedback Snapshot

A public-feedback exhibition was installed in the Canyon Ramp of the Boulder Public Library from December 2019 to February 2020. The same opportunity to provide feedback is available through an online community engagement survey.

The community is encouraged to continue to contribute perspectives to help craft the Public Art Program:

https://boulderarts.org/public-art/public-art-survey/

The following is a brief snapshot of reoccurring feedback, highlighting many opportunities for ongoing program growth:

Desire for more projects in variety of mediums/places/experiences:

- Consistent desire for environmental/earthworks; more technology enabled/interactive art
- Lower votes for traditional public art projects: architecturally integrated; signature artworks; park projects
- “Are murals public art? Noticing a lot of those.”

Opportunities to keep growing:

- More diversity in artists/experiences/marginalized narratives and locations
• “Desire art works that invite you to figure out, learn, mentally/emotionally connect with”
• “Public art in Boulder is very safe”
• “Higher quality work to improve experience; more intellectually compelling”
• “Get beyond one-liners/lowest common denominator; “existing work is pretty safe, simple…”
• “Sophistication level in Boulder needs to come up: fewer pieces, bigger budgets”

Where do you want to see public art?

• More neighborhoods; public spaces; green space/parks; multi-use paths
• “Where is it currently?”

1.3.3 Program Project Types

Percent for Art Commissions
Percent for art projects are funded through a percentage of the overall construction budget of a qualifying city capital improvement program project, or parent project. Percent for art commissions are commonly tied to a particular location and have a narrative specific to the site and criteria that can be accomplished entirely through a work of art. Each percent for art commission will have a community selection panel unique to that project.

Staff is responsible for confirming budgets, collaborating with departments on project overview, initiating and managing selection process, and community engagement as identified in the Public Art Policy, and project management from contracting to installation.

Urban Design Commissions
Urban design commissions are slightly different from percent for art projects: These are projects hosted and funded by the city through a parent project construction budget, as an enhancement to base infrastructure with the goal of better addressing the criteria of the parent project through the tools of design and aesthetics. Each urban design commission will include a community selection panel unique to that project.

Similar to percent for art commissions, staff is responsible for confirming budgets and initiating and managing the selection process and community engagement, but responsibilities for project management, from contracting to installation, typically remain with the parent project.

Experiments in Public Art - Temporary Commissions
Experiments in Public Art is the umbrella name for city-initiated temporary projects, commissions, and/or the loan of existing artworks. This program helps support art forms that are temporary in nature and presented as public art experiences. The standing selection panel may be deployed for individual opportunities; a special selection panel may be used for a program of multiple commissions.

Staff is responsible for confirming budgets, initiating and managing the selection process and community engagement, and project management from contracting to installation to removal.

Murals
Murals are often 2D or relief artworks and quick to deploy. Murals may be either city-initiated or community-initiated, and funding sources vary with each project. Murals are considered temporary, typically with two-to-five-year duration agreements. Any murals that are hosted on city-maintained property or involve city funding will be reviewed by the standing selection panel.

Staff is responsible for confirming city funding, initiating and managing community engagement, the selection process, and some project management and project agreements. Staff must also notify mural artists of vandalism or mural removal.
**Community-Initiated Projects**

A successful Public Art Program requires an investment from the city and the community. Projects initiated by the community include temporary art in public places, donations, murals, and concepts. The Office of Arts and Culture supports community-initiated projects that ultimately involve city property and/or city funding. For an overview of the community-initiated donation process, please visit the Donations Policy at [https://boulderarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Donations.pdf](https://boulderarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Donations.pdf).

Most temporary community-initiated projects are reviewed by the standing selection panel. In 2017, the Arts Commission granted this authority to expedite goodwill and community spirit. This decision was reapproved by the Arts Commission in 2020. Donations and concepts with permanent intent will be reviewed by the standing selection panel and the Arts Commission.

**Concepts/Site-Specific Commissions:** These projects include concepts that are not yet realized but are seeking support and approval from the city of Boulder to ultimately be accepted into the public art collection. Public Art staff will often support logistics and determination of artist, artwork, location.

Staff is responsible for confirming project feasibility, providing updates to donors and impacted departments, supporting donors in the selection process, and conducting community engagement, as identified in the Public Art Policy. Staff is also responsible for project management from contracting to installation.

**Donations:** Donations are existing works of art that are offered to city by donors, with logistics to be determined.

Staff is responsible for confirming project feasibility, providing updates to donors and impacted departments, supporting donors with installation project management, and completing donation contracts.

**Temporary/Community Projects:** Temporary art in public places includes projects such as two-dimensional and wheat paste murals, installations, and sculptures. Temporary exhibitions are exempt from policy processes but still may require agreements with the city.

Staff is responsible for confirming project feasibility, providing updates to donors and impacted departments, supporting donors with installation project management, and completing temporary project agreements.

**Creative Neighborhoods Program**

**Murals:** The program facilitates a collaboration between homeowners and artists to create new artwork on residential properties throughout Boulder that are visible from public paths and streets. Using a first-come, first-served selection process, mural sites are identified for residential properties throughout Boulder’s subcommunities. Homeowners select regional artists to work with from the city-approved mural artist roster.

Staff is responsible for maintaining the mural artist roster, overseeing applications for program, facilitating partnerships between artists and property owners, and community engagement for the program.

**COVID-19 Work Projects:** These projects support artists and bolster the community’s “social infrastructure.” In the spirit of the Work Projects Administration of the 1930s, the program quickly delivers funding to artists who have been put in a vulnerable position due to restrictions for controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the projects leverage the talent of artists to unite and vitalize neighborhoods with the goal of either a) helping neighbors stay connected during the restrictions, or b) after restrictions are lifted, helping people to reconnect, recover, and adjust to new social conditions.

Staff is responsible for generating and publishing the application, reviewing and awarding project funding, and supporting and promoting projects.

**Maintenance and Conservation**

Artworks that are not considered temporary in nature and are officially within the city’s collection will inevitably require regular and technical maintenance. Some projects may require review for removal (deaccession) or relocation. This process is outlined in the Public Art Policy.
Staff is responsible for reviewing budget availability for maintenance and conservation, conducting biannual condition reports, and initiating maintenance projects. Projects identified for removal (deaccession) or relocation will be reviewed by the standing selection panel, technical review committee, Arts Commission, and city manager.

1.4 PUBLIC ART PROGRAM: PLANNING

1.4.1 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Engagement is a critical component of a successful public art program. Community events hosted from 2016-2020 included: Public Art Town Hall(s), Public Art Social(s), artist talks and 5x5’s, Public Art Soiree and Mural Tour, Experiments in Public Art events, public art dedications, collection tours, community surveys, and the Canyon Ramp Community Engagement exhibit.

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically limited public events and gatherings, bringing public art community events to a hold. As the city re-emerges from the pandemic and looks to host safe and fiscally-responsible events, the Boulder Arts Commission and Office of Arts and Culture will explore hosting events that can be shared safely with the community.

1.4.2 FUNDING

The Community Cultural Plan recommends the following fund mix over the course of the plan’s three phases to achieve a successful public art program. Additional information is found on page 88 of the Community Cultural Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Phase Annual Goal 2018-2021</th>
<th>Middle Phase Annual Goal 2021-2024</th>
<th>Final Phase Annual Goal 2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Art (Assigned Fund)</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Funds will be used for contracts with artists in the commissioning of public art only. In the first two years, this funding will be derived from the Community Culture and Safety Tax. By 2018, a permanent source of funding will be identified.</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>After the permanent sources of funding are in place, it is expected that the budget will fluctuate from year to year, with $300,000 being an expected average.</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming for Strategies</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Funds will be used for the programs, events, and materials to operate the strategies.</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A portion of this budget will be assigned to technical maintenance of the public art collection.</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In 2021, projected funding for the Public Art Program will not meet the annual allocations called for in the Community Cultural Plan, primarily because the program does not have consistent, ongoing, and sustainable sources and levels of funding. This is challenging for long-term planning and program development.
The following fund types have been used through 2021 for the Public Art Program. Each funding source functions in slightly different ways with varied uses.

Percent for Art

In 2018, the Public Art Policy was updated to include Percent for Art allocations. One (1) percent of construction budgets of qualifying new CIP, or capital improvement projects including new projects and enhancements, are allocated for the express purpose of commissioning works of art. Funds are commonly tied to a particular location and a particular timeline and cannot be reallocated without the consent of the parent department, the city’s finance department, and the city manager. Projects are often multi-year, and their schedules (and public art’s share of the funding) are dependent on many factors, including the city budget from year to year and master planning for collaborating city departments (Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Facilities and Fleet), and thus do not offer a consistent or reliable source of funds. For example, in years such as 2024 through 2027 (see chart below), no CIP projects have been scheduled yet, so public art cannot count on Percent for Art funding in advance. CIP projects typically emerge annually, and a more advanced understanding of the master plans and wish lists from each collaborating department would help the Public Art program schedule projects, anticipate budgets, and build sustainability. For the sake of a baseline measure, and using projections from the 2021-2027 Capital Improvements Program, the projected Percent for Art allocations will total approximately between $87,667 and $128,983 annually. Table F1 shows a history of Percent for Art funding. Table F2 shows funding projections for 2021-2027.

General Fund (GF)

General Fund allocations support strategy programming and temporary programs like Experiments in Public Art and the Creative Neighborhoods Program. These funds are most suitable for temporary projects. They must be used within the year they are allocated. Table F1 shows a history of General Fund (GF) allocations. Table F2 shows General Fund projections for 2022-2027.

Currently there is no General Fund allocations on the horizon for Murals, Community-Initiated and Donations, Creative Neighborhoods: Murals, and Programming for Strategies. In 2018, the city introduced a $30,000 annual allocation from the General Fund for the maintenance of public artwork, reflected in Table F1. Given the economic impact of the pandemic, maintenance was reduced to $4,900 in 2021. As of October 19, 2021, the full maintenance budget of $30,000 was approved for 2022.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funding will support recovery from COVID-19 and could support restoring funding to the following programs: Maintenance, Temporary/Experiments in Public Art, and Creative Neighborhoods: COVID-19 Work Projects. Table F2 has been updated with tbd for these programs. In September 2021, $25,100 in ARPA funds were restored to the public art maintenance fund, and as of October 2021, $25,000 in ARPA funds to expand the maintenance budget were approved for 2022.

Community, Culture, Safety Tax (CCS)

Funding for public art from the Community, Culture, and Safety (CCS) Tax was included in 2014 and 2017 ballot items passed by Boulder voters, resulting in a total investment of $1 million from 2015 through 2020, or an average of $167,000 annually. This tax is set to sunset in 2021 and is proposed for renewal, possibly providing 1 percent for art from construction budgets of qualifying New Capital and Capital Enhancement city projects funded through CCS. Table F2 currently shows tbd for future funding, which will be updated if it is the will of the voters.

Future Fund Opportunities – The following areas have been identified as areas to explore for future funding:

* Public Art in Private Development
* Donations
Table F1 shows the Public Art Program’s history of year-to-year funding (an annual average of approximately ~ $313,281), including each sub-program or project, with the funding sources identified from collaborating departments (Tr% = Transportation, BPR = Parks and Recreation, FAM = Facilities and Fleet). Subprograms and projects that did not receive funding in specific years are noted with zeros.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Program</th>
<th>2016 Funding</th>
<th>2017 Funding</th>
<th>2018 Funding</th>
<th>2019 Funding</th>
<th>2020 Funding</th>
<th>2021 Funding</th>
<th>Total Allocations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public Art</td>
<td>$545,000 CCSv1</td>
<td>$50,000 CCSv1</td>
<td>$125,000 Tr%</td>
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<td>$2,000 FAM%</td>
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<td>Experiments in Public Art</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>Community-Initiated and Donations</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>$30,000 GF</td>
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<td>Annual Total</td>
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<td>$64,000</td>
<td>$272,186</td>
<td>$270,000</td>
<td>$98,500</td>
<td>$1,879,686</td>
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*Creative Neighborhoods: COVID-19 Work Projects are funded within the Public Art Program, but because their scope varies slightly from programs identified in the Community Cultural Plan and the Public Art Policy, project funding is not included.

Table F2 shows the Public Art Program’s projected year-to-year funding (approximately ~ $105,250-138,583 annually), including each subprogram or project, with the funding sources identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Program</th>
<th>'22 Proposed Funding</th>
<th>'23 Proposed Funding</th>
<th>'24 Proposed Funding</th>
<th>'25 Proposed Funding</th>
<th>'26 Proposed Funding</th>
<th>'27 Proposed Funding</th>
<th>Total Proposed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public Art</td>
<td>$ tbd CCS</td>
<td>$67,000 Tr%</td>
<td>$ tbd CCS</td>
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<td>Experiments in Public Art</td>
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<td>Murals</td>
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<td>Community-Initiated and Donations</td>
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<td>Annual Proposed</td>
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<td>$509,500-709,500</td>
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<td>$631,500-831,500</td>
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1.4.3 PROGRAM PLANNING

As identified in the Cultural Plan, long-term planning, advocacy, and program opportunities must exist for a healthy public art program. In 2021, the city has begun work to enter into the final phase of the Cultural Plan, offering an opportunity to review the program and how it functions. Approaches to funding, project types, and commissioning will be reviewed and updated.
Capacity planning continues to be a critical component in the Public Art Program’s success. In 2021, staff will examine capacity needs: what is currently feasible and what is desired for a successful program over time. The Arts Commission has advised that no more than six projects, including donations, be assigned to any public art staff member at any time to ensure a high-quality program and projects. With a staff of one full-time public art administrator and one 30-hour-per-week public art assistant, staff will be able to manage no more than 10 projects of all types per year.

1.4.4 2020–2022 Public Art Programs and Project Schedules Snapshot
Anticipated Timeline

The following is an anticipated timeline for known projects for 2020-2022, and a summary of projects tracking for completion in 2020. All 2020 projects that continue into 2021 are included. For projects beyond 2022, please refer to department-specific project pages. Projects/Timelines have been updated as of October 2021, with additional changes based on 2022 City Council budget approval. Note: Alpine Balsam, which was tracking to start in 2021, is delayed; 19th/Upland and Fire Station 3 were added in 2021.

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<tr>
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<th>2020 Q1</th>
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<th>2020 Q3</th>
<th>2020 Q4</th>
<th>2021 Q1</th>
<th>2021 Q2</th>
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<th>2021 Q4</th>
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<th>2022 Q2</th>
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<td>CCS: Civic Area</td>
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<td>%4A: UD Foothills &amp; Colorado Ave.</td>
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<td>CCS: Creative Neighborhoods: Murals</td>
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Key:
- Funding earmarked but not deposited = will not be initiated until deposited
- Hold until funding/capacity allows = HOLD
- Parent project conditions result in delay; delays on projects due to capacity = DELAYED
- No funding identified
- Selection Process
- Design
- Fabrication
- Install
- Planning / Ongoing (Temporary)
- Study / Review (Donation)
- Coordination Support
2. PUBLIC ART PROGRAM: Project Abstracts

2022-2027 CIP Recommendations can be found here

2.1.1

2020-2026 CIP: Facilities Percent for Art Opportunities

In the city’s 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the following projects are eligible for a Percent for Art allocation. These budgets have been reviewed and confirmed collectively by the city’s Facilities and Office of Arts and Culture staff. The city recommended public art for this project be presented separately due to its large scope and budget. See 2021-2026 Recommended CIP pp 29-35.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated % for Art Allocation</th>
<th>Parent Project Timeline</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpine-Balsam/Western City Campus Redevelopment/Pooled</td>
<td>~$300,000 – $500,000</td>
<td>2023-2026</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Reynolds Branch Library Remodel</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Mural in story time area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ESTIMATED TOTAL ~$302,000 - $502,000

Alpine-Balsam/Western City Campus Public Art Opportunities

Project Introduction – The Boulder City Council adopted the Alpine-Balsam Area Plan in the fall of 2019. The plan’s intent is to renovate the Medical Office Pavilion for city services and redevelop the eastern portion of the site as a new consolidated Western City Campus. Design work began in 2020 to advance development of the site and to prepare the remainder of the site for future housing development. Early design work included development of a citywide master consolidation program to inform an approach for delivery of city services now and into the future, as well as flood mitigation design and other horizontal infrastructure analysis needed to complete the project. The Western City Campus construction is planned for completion in 2025-2026.

The new civic campus will provide an opportunity to commission both temporary projects and a permanent integrated artwork. The temporary projects will help serve “research and engagement” towards the permanent integrated project. Although this is not the standard way of commissioning, it is appropriate for this site and aligns with the scope of the project. This public art opportunity will focus on the project’s sustainable approach to reuse and will recycle as many materials as possible.

Project Budget – Commission Budget: **$300,000 - $500,000** (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: Government Capital Fund/Facilities Renovation and Replacement; Project Type: CIP-CAPITAL ENHANCEMENT

*Hard costs for this project have not been determined. This estimate will be finalized and updated prior to beginning the public art selection process.

This project has a few possible tracts:

- Honorarium budget allocations could take two routes:
  - Allocate up-to $15,000 each for a standard process; OR
  - Allocate $100,000 to Experiments in Public Art projects to inform further planning for the campus
- Advertised RFQ Budget: ~$300,000
- Contingency: Approximately 20% of final budget

Artwork Location – To be reviewed and determined in Q1 of 2021 and included in the selection process in Q3 of 2021. An overview of the site/area recommendations can be found at [https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/AB_Area_Plan_-_Final_-_1-202001211144.pdf](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/AB_Area_Plan_-_Final_-_1-202001211144.pdf)
**Anticipated Timeline** – The project will begin in Q3 of 2022, integrating the schedule of the anticipated Experiments of Public Art project to align with the final research and design phases, which are currently tracking for 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Q1</th>
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<th>Q4</th>
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If the city determines this project will proceed with the standard commissioning process, the timeline could align with the parent project construction schedule:

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
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<th>Q1</th>
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<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
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**Context and Theme** – The project planning process in Q3 of 2022 will determine the context and theme of the commissioned art projects, including the potential opportunity to integrate Experiments in Public Art commissioning of temporary projects as part of the research and engagement for a permanent integrated project. Although this is not a routine commissioning process, it is appropriate for this site and aligns with the large scope of the project.
Community Engagement – A public art community engagement plan will be developed in Q3 of 2022. Community engagement could occur through the Experiments in Public Art temporary projects, with coordinated outreach through the Western City Campus planning outreach. Please email questions or comments on this project to publicart@bouldercolorado.gov with the subject line “Western City Campus Public Art.”

Selection Participants – In Q3 of 2022, the city will begin to assemble a community selection panel and a technical review committee. The community selection panel will include:

> Arts Commissioner
> Artist
> Arts Professional
> Community Member
> Community Member

The technical review committee will include:

> BCH Deconstruction Project Management Team
> Park Operations
> Transportation Representative (if applicable)
> East Boulder Planning (if applicable)
> Community Cultural Plan Representative
> Project Design Team
> Risk Management
> City Attorney’s Office
> Development Services

Boulder Public Library - George Reynolds Branch Remodel Public Art Opportunity

Project Introduction – The George Reynolds Branch (GRB) is in the midst of a small remodel in the fall of 2021, with $2,000 allocated towards a mural in the children’s story time area. The opportunity will solicit an artist from the Mural Artist Roster, seeking someone with aesthetics appropriate to the updated children’s area of the library (see proposed wall below in existing context, before renovation).

Project Budget – Commission Budget: $2,000 (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: Library Renovation

Artwork Location – See image at left for proposed wall

Anticipated Timeline – The project will begin in Q4 of 2021, complete by the end of 2021. The mural will be installed after the renovation.

Context and Theme – Working closely with the GRB Design Advisory Group, the project will run through the Standing Selection Panel to select an artist based on budget, interest, and response to the GRB remodel goals and finishes.

2.1.2

2020-2026 CIP: Parks and Recreation Percent for Art Opportunities

In the 2020 CIP, the following projects are eligible for percent for art allocations. These budgets have been reviewed and confirmed collectively by Parks and Recreation and the Office of Arts and Culture staff. Due to small funding amounts for each project, these funds will be pooled for one project at Valmont City Park. See 2021-2026 Recommended CIP pp 59-66.
Valmont City Park - Phase II Public Art Opportunity

**Project Introduction** – This project provides for the development of the next major phase of Valmont City Park, south of Valmont Road. Potential amenities to be built include:

- adventure playground elements
- community garden space
- a splash pad
- skate elements
- an event pavilion
- additional parking

Final plans, including park amenities and the public art selection process will be completed in 2023. Final design and permitting will occur in 2024 with construction to begin in 2026. This project increases park services for the surrounding areas of East Boulder and the entire Boulder community.

**Project Budget** – Commission Budget: **$180,000** (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: Parks and Recreation (0.25 Cent Sales Tax or Permanent Parks Fund). This budget is pooled from 2021-2025 Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) CIP qualifying projects.

- Advertised RFQ Budget: $135,000
- Honorarium Allocations: Up-to $10,000
- Contingency: $35,000 to support design/review needs
Artwork Location – To be reviewed Q4 of 2022 and included in the selection process in 2023.

Anticipated Timeline – The project will begin in Q1 of 2023, with anticipated public art installation to align with park construction, which is currently tracking for completion in 2026.

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<tr>
<th>Planning</th>
<th>2022 Q1</th>
<th>2023 Q1</th>
<th>2024 Q1</th>
<th>2025 Q1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Selection</td>
<td>Q2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design</td>
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<td>Fabrication</td>
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<td>Installation</td>
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Context and Theme – Information anticipated in Q4 of 2022.

Community Engagement – The community engagement Plan for Valmont City Park public art will be coordinated with BPR outreach and engagement in Q4 of 2022. Please email questions or comments on this project to publicart@bouldercolorado.gov with the subject line “Valmont Phase II Public Art.”

Selection Participants – In Q4 of 2022, the city will begin to assemble a community selection panel and a technical review committee. The community selection panel will consist of:

> Arts Commissioner
> Artist
> Arts Professional
> Community Member
The technical review committee will consist of:

- Valmont Phase II Project Management Team
- Transportation Representative (if applicable)
- Community Cultural Plan Representative
- Risk Management
- City Attorney’s Office
- Project Design Team
- Park Operations
- East Boulder Planning (if applicable)

2.1.3

2020-2026 CIP: Transportation Percent for Art Opportunities

In the 2020 CIP, the following projects are eligible for a Percent for Art allocation. These budgets have been reviewed and confirmed collectively by Transportation and Office of Arts and Culture staff. Due to small funding amounts for each project, these funds will be pooled for one project, which will be determined depending on final budget and site opportunities. See 2021-2026 Recommended CIP pp 69-74.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated % for Art Allocation</th>
<th>Parent Project Timeline</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28th St Valmont to Iris (Baseline)</td>
<td>~$47,000</td>
<td>2019-2022</td>
<td>Tough footprint for public art (highway); consider adjacent park?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downtown Boulder Transit Station</td>
<td>~$7,000</td>
<td>2021-2023</td>
<td>Tough footprint for public art; pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arapahoe Multi-Use Path/Transit Enhancement</td>
<td>~$13,000</td>
<td>2021-2023</td>
<td>Tough footprint for public art (highway); pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th / Colorado Intersection</td>
<td>~$20,000</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Pool with 30th and Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th St Protected Bike Lane</td>
<td>~$45,000</td>
<td>2025-2026</td>
<td>Pool with 30th and Colorado</td>
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<td>19th and Upland</td>
<td>~$51,000</td>
<td>2021-2023</td>
<td>Underpass 2021</td>
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<td><strong>ESTIMATED TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>~$183,000</strong></td>
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The Public Art Program and the Department of Transportation recommend pooling adjacent projects (28th and Colorado, 30th St. Protected Bike Lane) to fund the design proposed for the 30th and Colorado Urban Design project.

Considerations of site and project timelines for public art integration are also recommended before moving forward with a project. Staff additionally recommends pooling Transportation Percent for Art funds until they reach a minimum total of $100,000 and can be sited within an appropriate location. This recommendation takes into account generating budgets to meet scale of project site(s), project longevity, and expanded opportunities with collaborative potential.

30th and Colorado Underpass

**Project Introduction** – The city of Boulder has initiated planning and design for a new underpass at 30th Street and Colorado Avenue. These projects will provide safer, more accessible, and uninterrupted traffic flow. The urban design opportunities will support permanent design treatments, encompass various art types and media, and include innovative approaches in the ways artists can address these overlooked places in the urban environment of Boulder.

**Artwork Location(s)** – Design for new underpass at 30th and Colorado

**Project Status**

- 30th and Colorado – Design
20th and Colorado Underpass

Project Introduction – The Department of Public Works: Transportation and Utilities/Greenways approached the Public Art Program in April 2021 with the desire to integrate an artist onto the design team for a new underpass at 20th and Colorado by the end of 60% Design. In May 2021, the Arts Commission approved a direct commission for artist Anthony Garcia, Sr. to extend a contract initiated for the two new street murals he completed as part of the city’s Vision Zero Innovation Program and a CDOT Can Do Challenge Grant. The Arts Commission specifically asked Garcia to engage with local artists and youth of the community in the 20th and Colorado Underpass mural.

Artwork Location(s) – Design for new underpass at 20th and Colorado

Project Status
Parent Project Design Process

Anticipated Timeline –

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Vision Zero Innovation Program – Collaborative Projects

Vision Zero is the city’s program aimed at reducing the number of traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries to zero. At its core, this goal is inspired by the belief that traffic collisions are preventable, and even one fatality is too many. The Vision Zero program has determined specific intersections and crosswalks that are ideal for artist-designed treatments and has allocated a portion of the program budget for mural opportunities. The Standing Selection Panel and the project’s technical review committee will select artists from the Mural Artist Roster.

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<th>Project</th>
<th>Estimated % for Art Allocation</th>
<th>Parent Project Timeline</th>
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<td>26th and Spruce</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>COMPLETED by gnueral</td>
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<td>$2,500</td>
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<td>9th: Balsam and Cedar</td>
<td>~$4,000</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Community Survey open; tracking to complete 10/2021</td>
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<td>Grove: 17th and 18th</td>
<td>~$4,000</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Neighborhood feedback underway; tracking to complete 10/2021</td>
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2.2 **Previously Approved Public Art Projects**

Reviewed and approved by Arts Commission and City Manager from 2017 to 2019

2.2.1 **Civic Area 11th Street Spine Signature Artwork: Adam Kuby**

**Project Introduction** – The Civic Area is a civic and cultural hub that invites the community to engage, learn, contemplate, converse, and play. The public art opportunities will be both temporary and permanent, all working together to create an “ever vibrant,” alive and constantly changing artistic environment that is exciting and engaging for all ages.

The Civic Area already serves as a destination for many cultural amenities:
- Performing arts, including concerts, theater, and dance
- Outdoor cinema
- Street performers
- A cultural destinations for BMoCA, the Dushanbe Teahouse, and the Boulder County Farmer’s Market
- Programming by the Main Library, including concerts, cinema, and the maker space
- Cultural festivals
- Permanent and temporary public art.

The Civic Area will be enhanced with additional investments in cultural activities, including destinations, events, and visual experiences. Through phased public art and programming, the goal is to create a highly-programmed setting in which visitors can expect to have an enlightening visit. Visitors will know that wonderful things will be happening when they visit the Civic Area without first checking a calendar or website.

**Future Phasing** – The Civic Area will be a feature destination for the city of Boulder, with a vision as a “place for community activity and arts.” When fully realized, this vision will include diverse experiences, including many serendipitous encounters with the arts. Opportunities for ongoing public art commissions within the site will grow with related user-experience projects the Office of Arts and Culture will remain involved in planning for the Civic Area’s East Bookend. ¹

**11th Street Bridge and Lawn Public Art Opportunity**

**Artwork Location** – **11th Street Bridge and Lawn Signature Artwork** at Canyon Boulevard and 11th Avenue: Public art will be incorporated into the final design of the new park in Boulder’s Civic Area. Artwork will be located at the north end of the park along the newly aligned 11th Street pedestrian trail. An additional location to consider is a threshold system, or “gateways” to announce arrival in this special place, along the newly aligned 11th Street. The artist selected for this project will have flexibility to identify a precise site. The location will be highly visible, and signature artwork will help create a destination and meeting place on a civic scale. It will be seen from across the campus and will visually connect to Canyon Boulevard and Pearl Street.

More information can be found at [https://boulderarts.org/public-art/in-progress/civic-area](https://boulderarts.org/public-art/in-progress/civic-area).

**Project Budget** – Commission Budget: **$430,000** (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: Community, Culture and Safety Tax V1

**Selected Artist** – **Adam Kuby** (Portland, OR) [http://www.adamkuby.com/](http://www.adamkuby.com/)
Semifinalists included: Patrick Marold (Denver, CO); Adam Frank (Brooklyn, NY); Mark Reigelman (Brooklyn, NY); and Ball-Nogues Studio (Los Angeles, CA)

Adam Kuby’s concept, *55 degrees*, will create a series of frames within the Civic Area that abstractly reference the Flatirons while creating interactive elements within the park.

![Rendering of 55 Degrees by Adam Kuby](image)

**Anticipated Timeline** –

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**Project Status** – Installation (September – November 2020)

- Fabrication
- Final Design: 2019 – 2020
  - Obtained Floodplain Permit
  - Obtained Building Permit
  - Obtained Grading Permit
  - Obtained Right of Way Permit
- Preliminary Design: Spring 2018
  - Project on hold until FEMA approval of Civic Area park
- Contracting: Fall 2017
- Selection Process: August 2017

**Context and Theme** – In the Civic Area Masterplan, this site is acknowledged as a cultural destination. This public art commission will reflect priorities contained within the Cultural Plan. Additional community suggestions include: outdoor adaptive space or architectural pavilion, performance/educational/contemplative space, and interactive space.
Community Selection Panel
> Yumi Roth, Associate Professor of Sculpture & Post-Studio Practice, CU Boulder (Community Member/ Artist)
> David Dadone, Executive Director/Chief Curator, BMoCA (Community Member/Arts Professional)
> Rachel Lee, Architect, Mosaic Architects (Community Member/Arts Professional)
> Zoe Larkins, Curatorial Assistant, MCA Denver (Community Member/Arts Professional)
> Ann Moss (Community Member)
> Felicia Furman (Boulder Arts Commissioner)

Technical Review Committee
> Civic Area Project Management Team: Jeff Haley and Doug Godfrey, Project Leads
> Park Operations: Callie Hayden and Josh Benedict
> Transportation Representative: Noreen Walsh (Canyon Complete Streets Representative)
> Go Boulder: Appointed by Kathleen Bracke
> Library and Arts: David Farnan
> Project Design Team: Erik Prince, Tom Leader Studio
> Risk Management
> City Attorney’s Office
> Development Services

2.2.2 North Boulder Arts District Corridor Project: Sharon Dowell

Project Introduction – North Boulder is an arts destination, featuring the NoBo Art District. This public art opportunity will complement reconstruction of the North Broadway corridor and visually acknowledge the NoBo Art District. The project’s location parameters—approximately .8 miles from Violet to US-36 – boasts the city’s only official arts district, it serves as a gateway to Boulder, and it contains a mix in densities, with both residential and commercial uses. Possible locations and themes for the North Boulder Art Project have been identified, and the project must be sited within the public right-of-way. The artist will be integrated early in the design process to help identify locations. The project shall contribute to the artistic and eclectic character of the NoBo Art District.

Artwork Location – The specific location will be determined with the artist and selection panel.

Project Budget – $175,000 total (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: Community, Culture and Safety Tax V1

Selected Artist – Sharon Dowell (Charlotte, NC); http://sharondowell.com/

Semifinalists include: DeWitt Godfrey (Earville, NY); Joe O’Connell/Creative Machines (Tucson, AZ); Luke Crawley /Owens + Crawley (Indianapolis, IN); Jodie Bliss (Monument, CO)
(Images: Artist Sharon Dowell’s proposed renderings for NoBo)

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Project Status – Preliminary Design
- Preliminary Design: 2018 - 2020
  - Project on hold intermittently to sync with North Boulder area construction delays
- Contracting: 2018
- Selection Process: Spring 2018

Context and Theme – North Boulder and NoBo Art District have long been creative destinations. This public art opportunity is an additional aspect of the formalization of NoBo as an official Creative District.

North Boulder Context:
> NoBo Art District; high concentration of artists
> Geography/location: NoBo is a gateway to Boulder with natural and built landscape. The Broadway Corridor is evidence of the growing city. The corridor’s northeast area shows evidence of recent mixed-use and residential development; an eclectic concentration of commercial and warehouse facilities are found along the west side of Broadway. The physical landscape contains access to creeks and the foothills.
> History of the site
> North Boulder Subcommunity Plan
> Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)
Additional community comments about public art along this corridor includes:

- Limited physical footprint for stand-alone artwork
- Interactive: narratives that engage the public
- “Scavenger hunt” installation
- Activate the user experience
- Strengthen integration with art spaces across city
- Urban design improvements
- Future development

Resources:
https://bouldercolorado.gov/transportation/north-broadway
https://bouldercolorado.gov/planning/north-boulder-subcommunity-plan

Community Selection Panel
> Ana Maria Hernando (Artist, Community Member)
> Lisa Nesmith, NoBo Art District (Arts Professional)
> Bryan Bowen, Caddis Architecture (Community Member)
> Tom Sunderland, Owner, Native Edge (Community Member)
> Kathleen McCormick, Boulder Arts Commissioner

Technical Review Committee
> Project Management Team: Brian Wiltshire, Transportation Project Manager
> Project Outreach: Melanie Sloan
> Go Boulder: Natalie Stiffler
> North Boulder Subcommunity Plan: Lesli Ellis
> North Boulder Art District/Community Cultural Plan: Matt Chasansky

2.2.3 North Boulder (NoBo) Branch Library: Daily tous les jours

Project Introduction – A new branch library is being built in North Boulder, in the NoBo Art District, through the Community, Culture, and Safety Tax and the Boulder Library Foundation. This new facility will replace the area’s current 570-square-foot corner library, and is being built with the following goals:

1. The library will have iconic and unique architecture, and should be designed to become an icon in North Boulder.
2. The library will serve the North Boulder community’s library needs through community-oriented design, flexible, multi-functional spaces, including a maker space, and integration of local art.
3. The library will be a showcase facility for meeting Boulder’s Climate Commitment.
4. The library will provide exceptional civic and community space.

This public art opportunity or opportunities will complement library goals, and the process will run in tandem with the library’s design and construction timeline.

Artwork Location – The library will be built at 4540 Broadway, at Broadway and Rosewood Avenue. Public art proposals are encouraged on the exterior of the building and on surrounding land. Selected artist Daily tous les jours will focus on the walkway to the second-floor main entrance.
Project Budget – $260,000 total (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: Community, Culture and Safety Tax V2 $200,000; 1% Capital Project $60,000  **The project budget may be adjusted once the construction budget is formally determined.**

Selected Artist – Daily tous les jours (Montreal, Quebec) https://www.dailytouslesjours.com/en

Semifinalists include: Patrick Marold (Nederland, CO); Joel Swanson (Denver, CO); Sam Falls (Los Angeles, CA); Kimberly Garza (Sacramento, CA)

Anticipated Timeline –

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*Anticipated 2021 Installation

Project Status – Preliminary Design
- Preliminary Design: Q2-4 of 2020
- Contracting: Fall 2019
- Selection Process: May 2019

Context and Theme – North Boulder and NoBo Art District have long been creative destinations. This public art opportunity is an additional aspect of the formalization of NoBo as an official Creative District.

North Boulder Context:
- NoBo Art District, with high concentration of artists
- History of the site
- North Boulder Subcommunity Plan

Resources:
https://boulderlibrary.org/nobo-branch/
2.2.4 **Arapahoe Underpass: Michelle Sparks**

**Project Introduction** – The city of Boulder has initiated planning and design for a public art project in the Boulder Creek and Arapahoe Underpass at Arapahoe and 13th Street. The project goal is intended to provide a safer, more accessible, and less flood-prone underpass along the Boulder Creek Path. The public art opportunities will be both temporary and permanent, encompass a variety of art types and media, and include innovative approaches in the ways artists can address these overlooked places in the urban environment of Boulder. Additional project information can be found at [https://bouldercolorado.gov/pages/boulder-creek-arapahoe-and-13th-underpass](https://bouldercolorado.gov/pages/boulder-creek-arapahoe-and-13th-underpass).

**Artwork Location** – The rendering below within the underpass and treatment to the retaining wall has been identified as a potential location for artwork:
Project Budget – $62,000 (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: 1% Capital Project

Selected Artist – Michelle Sparks (Boulder, CO)
Semifinalists included: Jeanine Centuori and Russell Rock of Urban Rock Design (Los Angeles, CA); Andy Yoder (Falls Church, VA); Erin O’Brien/Audio Pixel (Pinecliffe, CO); Mike Juarez and Mike Cody of Mike Squared Mosaics (Westminster, CO)

Sparks’ concept will highlight the natural “caustic” patterns of sunlight on the creek as they reflect back onto the walls. Sparks is working with the project management team to incorporate her concept into the project construction.

Anticipated Timeline

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Project Status – Final Design

- Present to Greenways Advisory Committee (GAC) in June 2018 for preliminary approval
- Obtained a wetlands variance, received in February 2019
- Finalized Design Review (2019)
- Electric permit process (Mar-Nov 2020)

Context and Theme – The Arapahoe Underpass is an ideal location for a mosaic/ceramic/tile/light application similar to subway applications. This material is durable, easily cleaned, and can host various creative content elements, including photo transfers, murals and paintings, digital work, and traditional mosaic work. Additional comments from the Public Art Town Hall held on January 10, 2017 are listed below and may be incorporated as the Community Selection Panel sees fit:

- An arts destination like the High Line Canal
- Inviting, permanent, illuminated, light or sensor-activated
• Enhance feelings of safety
• Poet wall with additional line completion
• Live performances on or near site; pop-up community events (dance, theater, poetry, music)
• Gateways, residential, cheerful
• Dynamic, changes over time

Community Selection Panel
> Matthew Smith, CU MFA Candidate (Artist)
> Virginia Schick, Boulder High Art Teacher (Community Member/Arts Professional)
> Lily Geer, Boulder High Graduate (Community Member)
> Brian Coppom, Director, Boulder County Farmers Market (Community Member)
> Nicole Dial-Kay, Arts, Museum, and Community Outreach Professional (Community Member/Arts Professional)
> Mark Villarreal (Boulder Arts Commissioner)

Technical Review Committee
> Arapahoe Underpass Project Management Team
> Park Operations
> Transportation (Maintenance)
> City Attorney’s Office
> Development Services

**2.2.5 30th and Colorado Underpass/Foothills Underpass Urban Design**

*Project Introduction* – The city of Boulder has initiated planning and design for a new underpass at 30th Street and Colorado Avenue. These projects will provide safer, more accessible, and uninterrupted traffic flow. The urban design opportunities will support permanent design treatments, encompass various art types and media, and include innovative approaches in the ways artists can address these overlooked places in the urban environment of Boulder.

*Artwork Location(s)* – Two simultaneous projects include one at 30th and Colorado (left) and one at Foothills just south of Colorado Avenue (right).
Project Budget – For design work to be integrated through construction contractors
30th and Colorado: $39,764.02 (all-inclusive)  |  Budget Source: 30th and Colorado 1% Capital Project)
Foothills: $35,000 (all-inclusive)  |  Budget Source: Foothills 1% Capital Project

Selected Artists –
30th and Colorado: Y Rosemary Fivian and Ransom Beegles (Denver/Boulder, CO)
Foothills: Carolyn Braaksma (Denver, CO)

Anticipated Timeline – Foothills

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Project Status
30th and Colorado – Design

Foothills – PROJECT COMPLETED

Context and Theme – The community has expressed familiarity with underpass projects and would like to broaden the opportunity and reach of these projects. Additional community comments include:
- An arts destination like the High Line Canal
- Inviting, performative, illuminated, light or sensor-activated
- Enhance feelings of safety
- Poet wall with additional line completion
- Live performances on or near site; pop-up community events (dance, theater, poetry, music)
- Gateways, residential, cheerful

Community Selection Panel
> Richelle Reilly, CU Facilities Planner and Campus Landscape Architect (Community Member)
> Juana Gomez, Architect (Community Member)
> Mark Villarreal (Arts Commissioner)

Technical Review Committee
> Project Management Team
> Project Design Team
2.3 PROJECTS ON HOLD

2.3.1 HOLD University Hill

Project Introduction – University Hill is a destination for both college students and the entire Boulder community. The commercial district includes many cultural icons, a vibrant music scene, varied dining options, and an eclectic housing mix. The neighborhood district is a mix of students living off-campus and Boulder residents and families living in the area as well. It is one of Boulder’s more historic neighborhoods. University Hill is a dynamic community. For the purposes of this project, the boundaries of this community are 9th Street on the west, Broadway on the east, Baseline Road on the south and Marine Street on the north.

The University Hill Public Art Project is an opportunity to bridge the various communities of University Hill. The city has partnered with CU’s Environmental Design Program for all aspects of this project including community engagement, concept development, and fabrication and installation. The project may be a series of components or a singular, stand-alone piece but must have a minimum life span of five years. A location for the project(s) has not yet been determined, although locations to consider must include a safe public right-of-way including park land, city-owned or university-owned locations. Private lands are currently exempt from consideration.

This project was earmarked as a unique opportunity from the onset, with the intent to pilot alternative selection processes: identifying the artist/fabricator so that they may be included during a unique community engagement process and help shape the timeline and location.

Artwork Location – Beach Park (highlight) has been the recommended location within the entire University Hill neighborhood and has initial support from Boulder Parks and Recreation. (Background: As this project is funded through the Community, Culture, and Safety (CCS) Tax, siting the work on city property or Right of Way is a significant goal. Project stakeholders did a walkthrough of locations and met with Development Services and Parks and Recreation to understand outdoor spaces on the Hill and found Beach Park to be the most viable location.)
Project Budget – $95,000 TOTAL (all-inclusive) | Budget Source: Community, Culture and Safety Tax

Selected Artist – University of Colorado Environmental Design – 2019-2020 Design Studies Students

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Project Status – HOLD
• March 2020: Project indefinitely on hold by project team and the Arts Commission due to COVID/student safety; budget limitations preventing project outsourcing
• December 2019: Permitting conflicts on project size; various issues
• November 27, 2019: TRC initial reviewing potential sites and expectations (reduced to Beach Park as main contender)
• January 9, 2019: TRC follow-up regarding gBeach Park
• February 1, 2019: University Hill Community Engagement Findings and Design Concepts Public Open House
• February 6, 2019: TRC Meeting re: permitting with DSP/P&R
• February 13, 2019: Presentation to Community Stakeholders and Selection Panel
• February 20, 2019: Presentation to Community Stakeholders and Selection Panel
• March 1, 2019: Presentation to Community Stakeholders and Selection Panel
• March 8, 2019: Presentation to Community Stakeholders and Selection Panel
• March 20, 2019: Update to Boulder Arts Commission
• March 25, 2019: Update to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
• April 17, 2019: Final design presented to Boulder Arts Commission
• April 22, 2019: Staff update to PRAB
• April 25, 2019: Final design update presented to University Hill Neighborhood Association

Context and Theme – University Hill is a location with particular interest from the CU population and University Hill Neighborhood, and has overall support from the community. Additional community comments include:
• Semi-permanent opportunities to avoid maintenance expenses (five-year minimum lifespan required)
• Permanent opportunities to anchor community
• Cross-pollinate student and community populations through project
• Bring invisible/erased stories of area to light

Community Selection Process
This project was earmarked as a unique opportunity from the onset, with the intent to pilot alternative selection processes to support a broader community engagement process. A community vote will inform the final artwork, with review from the Standing Selection Panel and additional stakeholders as a vetting body prior to the final concept reaching the Boulder Arts Commission.

Community Selection Panel
  > Brian Fouhy, Designer (Arts Professional)
  > Marcel de Lange, CU Faculty/Artist (Artist)
  > David Hemsi, Hill resident and sculpture production studio manager (Community Member)

Standing Selection Panel
  > Mark Villarreal, Commissioner - Boulder Arts Commissioner
  > Charlotte LaSasso, Arts Professional - Boulder County Arts Alliance
  > Jerry Shapins, Community Member and Urban Planner
  > Gabrielle Schuller, Community Member and Architect
  > Catherine Cartwright, Artist, Arts Professional, Community Member

Technical Review Committee
  > University Hill Development Coordinator: Sarah Wiebenson
  > CEDaR Faculty Director/ University of Colorado Environmental Design Program: Brian Muller
  > Parks and Recreation Representatives, including advisory review by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
  > Risk Management
  > City Attorney’s Office
  > Development Services
2.3.2 HOLD CAGID Art in Parking Garages Program

Project Introduction – The Central Area General Improvement District (CAGID) Garage Public Art Plan is a collaboration between Community Vitality and the Office of Arts and Culture to redefine art that addresses visitors the moment they enter Boulder’s downtown through compelling temporary and permanent creative commissions in public-access parking garages.

This phased project starts with temporary and integrated commissions and encompasses various art types and media. The resulting projects will also address the city’s Community Priorities for Culture and other recommendations for public art found in the Community Cultural Plan.

2017-2018 temporary projects include: 1. Randolph Center mural; 2. Regional Transportation District (RTD) mural; 3. temporary/performance-based projects in multiple locations; and 4. temporary exhibition in partnership with local cultural organizations.

2018-2019 integrated projects include: 1. 15th and Pearl stairwell replacement integrated project; 2. 11th and Spruce stairwell replacement integrated project; and 3. St. Julien light-based project.

Artwork Locations

Project Budget – Budget Source: Central Area General Improvement District (CAGID) Revenues

2017-2019 Temporary Projects: ($25,000)

Murals: (funding to be determined)
  Randolph Center Mural (funding to be determined)
  RTD Mural (funding to be determined)
  Temporary/Performance-based: (funding to be determined)
  Temporary Exhibition(s): (funding to be determined)

2018-2019 Integrated Commissions: (funding to be determined)

  15th and Pearl (Community Vitality) Stairwell Replacement: (funding to be determined)
  11th and Spruce Stairwell Replacement: (funding to be determined)
  St. Julien Artistic Lighting: (funding to be determined)

Selected Artist – To be determined

Staff – The CAGID Garage Art Program will be a collaboration between Community Vitality and Office of Arts and Culture. The Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Coordinator will oversee the implementation of this program.
Anticipated Timeline –

- Temporary projects will begin in mid-2019.
- Integrated commissions RFQ for permanent works is anticipated for mid-2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
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</table>

Project Status – HOLD

Context and Theme – This program has a unique opportunity to enhance and support the overall economy of Boulder’s downtown. Additional community comments include:

- Place artwork where it can be enjoyed by the most viewers/participants.
- Help garages to feel safer; introduce creative experiences while keeping flow through garage spaces.
- Consider air-purifying billboards like the University of Engineering and Technology (UTEC) in Peru.
- Ensure safety is the top priority.
- Projects that are compelling from different users and vantage points that do not compete with the functionality of the structures, instead engage with the whole site including integrated transit stops and pedestrian access points.

2018 CAGID Art in Parking Garages Core Committee Selection Panel – A CAGID-specific selection panel will serve for 1-2 years, and advise on art-related opportunities within CAGID’s parking garage portfolio.

- tbd (Artist)
- Anna Salim (Arts Professional)
- Peter Waters (Community Member/DMC)
- Mark Strynar (Community Member)
- (Arts Commissioner)
- Additional community members as appropriate to the projects need it/community interest
- Additional community members as appropriate to the projects need it/community interest

Technical Review Committee

- Community Vitality: appointed by Molly Winter
- Community Vitality: Pat Judd
- Community Vitality: Melissa Yates
About Central Area General Improvement District – CAGID is a general improvement district formed pursuant to Chapter 8-4, BRC 1981 for the sole purpose of parking and parking related improvements within the CAGID boundaries in the downtown area. Other general improvement districts within Boulder include: the University Hill General Improvement District, the Boulder Junction Access Districts, and the Forest Glen Eco Pass District. The city council serves as the board of directors of CAGID and the other GIDs. All general improvement districts levy an additional tax on properties within their boundaries for specific purposes. Within CAGID, there are five parking structures and one surface lot that are owned and operated by CAGID to fulfill CAGID’s purpose.

The revenues for CAGID are derived from the property tax levied and the revenues generated from the parking operations, including long-term permits and short-term parking. CAGID expenditures are directly related to the existing parking facilities – debt payments; operations and capital improvements and replacement; constructing or acquiring additional parking improvements; as well as funding a portion of the downtown employee Eco Pass program to the extent the program reduces parking demand for CAGID; the balance of the Eco Pass program is funded by the city’s general fund. The on-street parking kiosks and meters and the Neighborhood Parking Permit program are general fund programs, not CAGID programs, as they are located on city of Boulder property, rather than in CAGID facilities. These different parking revenues and expenditures (CAGID and general funds) are separated through bifurcation within the Community Vitality budget to ensure the integrity of the funds and in compliance with city ordinances. Enhancements to the CAGID parking structures, such as public art, are paid by CAGID revenues that are funds dedicated to CAGID purposes only.

As a practical matter for the public, the parking and access system is operated as a whole integrated system – the on-street kiosks, the Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP) and the off-street CAGID facilities - to provide variety of options to the community for seamless access to the city’s commercial areas and neighborhoods.
2.3.3 **HOLD Experiments in Public Art**

**Project Introduction** – The Public Art Program manages an ongoing series of temporary artworks through the Experiments in Public Art program, which serves as a citywide laboratory to expand the potential of public art. Unlike a traditional public art commission, Experiments in Public Art projects are as much an experiment for the community as they are opportunities for artists to work within unconventional parameters. Participating artists are selected, in part, by incorporating concepts and materials that extend beyond the notion of traditional public art.

This is the most diverse program within the Public Art Program. It is designed to have layers of outcomes built into its framework and emphasize collaborations across communities and disciplines. This program creates a tool for artists and the community to respond to challenging community events and can be linked to other arts and culture events. Experiments in Public Art also can provide opportunities to explore and inform race equity, all ages and abilities access, and climate justice and resilience goals, as well as the Cultural Plan, Percent for Art projects, and the existing collection. [https://boulderarts.org/public-art/temporary/](https://boulderarts.org/public-art/temporary/)

**Artwork Locations** – To be determined

**Project Budget** – No funding has been identified for 2020 to 2026.

**Roster of Participating Artists (2016-2018)** –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dispersion (Boulder, CO)</th>
<th>Spires ($36,200)</th>
<th>March 2018 - Fall 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Jackson (Questa, NM)</td>
<td>Atmo and Cubicle ($20,000)</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Shlon (Baltimore, MD)</td>
<td>Trees Harp and Wind Harps, Too ($10,000)</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helanius Wilkins (Boulder, CO)</td>
<td>laissez les bon temps rouler ($15,000)</td>
<td>September 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parisa Tashakori (Boulder, CO)</td>
<td>Hello Boulder ($10,000)</td>
<td>October 2018 – Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Collin Parson (Denver, CO)</td>
<td>Stele and Ostium ($7,000)</td>
<td>October 2018 – Spring 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Theodore (Denver, CO)</td>
<td>are you me ($20,000)</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Mattingly (USA)</td>
<td>Everything At Once ($20,000)</td>
<td>Fall 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ana Maria Hernando (Boulder, CO)</td>
<td>Boulder Ballet ($10,000)</td>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca DiDomenico (Boulder, CO)</td>
<td>Constellatory ($20,000)</td>
<td>2017 – 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Art Guys (Houston, TX)</td>
<td>The Urban Preserve of Boulder ($20,000)</td>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Mazzotta (Canton, NY)</td>
<td>Harm to Table ($50,000)</td>
<td>Summer 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Markus Dorninger (Vienna, Austria)</td>
<td>Mapping Stories ($10,000)</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Hardy (Jamestown, CO)</td>
<td>Boulder Beetles ($10,000)</td>
<td>Summer 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anticipated Timeline – HOLD

Project Status – HOLD; to be determined contingent on funding

Selection Participants – to be determined

(Images clockwise from top: Harm to Table by Matthew Mazzotta; Boulder Beetles by Emma Hardy; Trees Harp and Wind Harps by Katie Shlon)

2.3.4 HOLD Murals and Street Art

Project Introduction – Murals and street art are incredible tools to communicate the personality and pulse of a community. These artworks bring together an array of communities, are quick to deploy, and have lasting impact with minimal upkeep. 2018 is an opportunity to collectively promote disparate commissions from public, private, and communities. A mural process for the city of Boulder and its communities will be explored in 2018, including the Creative Neighborhoods Mural Program. This program will create an artist roster and match private residential property owners with muralists and supporting funds. For more information visit: https://boulderarts.org/public-art/murals/creative-neighborhoods-mural-program/

Artwork Location(s) – Future locations to be determined

Partial Roster of Projects commissioned by the Office of Arts and Culture (2016-2020) –
Detour (Aurora, CO) | Penfield Tate, Boulder Public Library | September 2020
Mister Mario (Longmont, CO) | San Juan Del Centro Paint the Pavement | September 2020
Robert Martin (Boulder, CO) | Covids of Colorado, Boulder Creek Path 9th Street Underpass | September 2020
Julia Williams (Gunbarrel, CO) | Howl, Gunbarrel Underpass | September 2020
7 new residential murals funded through 2020 Creative Neighborhoods: Murals | August – November 2020
7 neighborhood-level murals funded through 2020 Creative Neighborhoods: COVID-19 Work Projects | March – August 2020
Lindee Zimmer (Denver, CO) | Boulder Creek Underpass at 30th and Arapahoe | November 2019
10 new residential murals funded through 2018 Creative Neighborhoods: Murals | August – November 2018
Sandra Fettingis (Denver, CO) and Lauren Napolitano | Into the Blue, Boulder Creek Underpass at Arapahoe | May 2018
Anna Charney (Denver, CO) | Boulder Creek Underpass at 6th ($3,600) | November 2016

Project Budget – No funding has been identified for 2020 to 2026. Previous project budgets include:

- Creative Neighborhoods 2020: ~$25,000 | Fund Source: Community Culture and Safety Tax V2
- Creative Neighborhoods 2020: ~$15,000 | Fund Source: General Fund
- 2019 Murals: ~$15,000 | Fund Source: General Fund
- Creative Neighborhoods 2018: ~$25,000 | Fund Source: Community Culture and Safety Tax V1
- 2018 Murals: ~$9,000 | Fund Source: General Fund
- 2017 Murals: ~$12,000 | Fund Source: General Fund and Boulder Parks and Recreation
**Anticipated Timeline** – Murals are considered ad hoc and temporary artworks. The mural roster open call will be published every April, with applications accepted through the month.

**Selection Process** – The Standing Selection Panel and Technical Review Committee will select and/or approve artists for projects.

![Image: Lauren Napolitano at work on Into the Blue Arapahoe Underpass Mural, photo by Ladd Forde]

### 2.4 DELAYED Community-Initiated Concepts

**Criteria for Community-Initiated Concepts (Proposals and/or Donations)** – Community-initiated concept proposals and/or works of art may be presented to the city of Boulder. All proposals and/or donations must be submitted to the Office of Arts and Culture by the proposing party. Any works proposed for exhibition exceeding two years will be considered a donation and will adhere to the donation process identified in the Public Art Policy.

Community-initiated concept proposals shall contain all aspects of a project abstract: Project Introduction, Preferred Location, Anticipated Timeline, Community Feedback, and Context and Themes. In addition, project concepts must be reviewed and endorsed by all affected departments and/or site/facility owners before inclusion in the final Public Art Implementation Plan. The inclusion of a community-initiated concept in the draft or final implementation plan does not guarantee that a project will be funded or proceed to the selection phase.

**Community Feedback** – Applications for proposed concepts and/or donations must include community feedback about the proposed donation. If a site is proposed, the community feedback must represent the views of adjacent residents or other stakeholders for the site.

**PROPOSED CONCEPTS** – The following projects have been proposed by the community and are underway. They will not be formally accepted by the city until a formal “Transfer of Ownership” upon installation.

#### 2.4.1 Nobel Circle Monument

**Project Introduction** – The Nobel Circle Monument is a proposed landmark artwork to inspire all walks of life, including Boulder’s youth, to high achievement using Boulder’s five Nobel Prize winners as role models. This proposed monument will be privately funded and donated to the city. The Nobel Circle Monument Community Stakeholder Team has selected artist Larry Kirkland for their concept. The team hopes to build out the project timeline and budget after a site has been approved by the city.

**Proposed Artwork Location** – Plaza at Boulder Public Library Main Entrance
Proposed Project Budget – The budget will be determined as contextually appropriate; some private contributions may be available.

Selected Artist – Larry Kirkland

Anticipated Timeline – The timeline will be determined with review from the Library Commission, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), and the Arts Commission by Spring 2022.

Project Status – Community outreach and fundraising by Nobel Circle Monument Team

2.4.2 Tim Eggert Soundpiece

Project Introduction – The Tim Eggert Soundpiece sources its inspiration from a community of long-standing Boulder citizens who have the commonality of having been close friends with Tim Eggert, a 25-year local resident who passed on 6.21.18. Tim was a very accomplished musician, and music and community emerged quickly amongst his friends after his passing as a way to not only remember him, but more importantly as an idea to make something beautiful and lasting emerge in his absence.

Proposed Artwork Location – Seating area near plaza entrance to Boulder Public Library Main

Project Budget – The budget will be contextually appropriate and privately funded.

Selected Artist – TJ McIntyre, Todd Reed, and the Tim Eggert Memorial Foundation

Anticipated Timeline – Installation 2021 (presented to PRAB and Arts Commission for initial approval February 2020)

Project Status – Community outreach and fundraising, and project design and permitting by project team are underway

2.4.3 Boulder Rotary Club Donation: *Pilot and Navigator* by Charles Sturrock

Project Introduction – The Boulder Rotary Club is proposing to donate *Pilot and Navigator*, by Charles Sturrock (Golden, CO), which is currently owned by Gordon Gamm. This is an existing kinetic artwork proposed to serve as an anchor point for the “Infinite Walk of Peace” within Boulder’s Civic Area.

Proposed Artwork Location – Sister Cities Plaza at Broadway and Canyon, immediately east of the Municipal Building

Project Budget – The project budget will be contextually appropriate and privately funded.

Selected Artist – Charles Sturrock (existing artwork)

Anticipated Timeline – Installation 2021 (presented to PRAB and Arts Commission for initial approval February 2020)

Project Status – Community outreach and fundraising, and project design and permitting by project team are underway.
2.4.4  *Los Seis de Boulder* Memorial Project by Jasmine Baetz

**Project Introduction** – Los Seis de Boulder sculpture at 28th Street (north of Canyon Boulevard), commemorates the Chicano student activists who were killed in a car bomb in this location in 1974. [http://www.losseisdeboulder.com/](http://www.losseisdeboulder.com/)

**Proposed Artwork Location** – East side of 28th Street, just north of Canyon and sited in the city right of way.

**Project Budget** – The project budget will be determined as contextually appropriate and privately funded.

**Selected Artist** – Jasmine Baetz with support from Colorado Hardscapes

**Anticipated Timeline** – Installation Fall 2020/ early 2021 (presented to Arts Commission for initial approval February 2020)

**Project Status** – Permitting by project team is underway

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3. MAINTENANCE

**Introduction** – The Public Art Program maintains a functional asset management system for the permanent collection of public artworks and record of temporary artworks, ensuring these commissions are an enduring legacy for future generations. Proper stewardship of the collection is a responsibility of the Office of Arts and Culture.

**Anticipated Maintenance Budget** –

**2021**: $30,000 | Budget Source: $4,900 General Fund; $25,100 ARPA

**2022**: $55,000 anticipated | Budget Source: $30,000 General Fund; $25,000 ARPA

**Condition Survey** – A comprehensive survey of the collection, including 2D and portable works, permanent and traditional works, and an archive survey of temporary projects will identify permanent projects in need of conservation and build a comprehensive report of the collection in its entirety. This scope of work will be conducted by a contractor. A comprehensive condition report was last completed in 2019. Regular updates and review is ongoing through the support of interns, contractors, and cross-departmental collaboration. A condition report will be due 2024. The anticipated budget for this report is $30,000.

**Treatment Priorities** – Maintenance priorities will be determined based on findings from the Condition Survey and budget availability. Outreach will be conducted to determine the condition and locations for the works. Funded projects may include immediate technical maintenance on select works not safe for public display, with budgets ranging from $1,250 to $30,000. These include conservation on works within the 2D collection for permanent installation at the forthcoming NoBo library, works associated with Transportation projects, and small works within the Civic Area, Haertling Sculpture Park, and Boulder Public Library-Main’s edible garden.

**Accessible Signage** – In 2021, an Accessible Signage Plan for the public art collection was created. It recommends a uniform approach to signage and makes it easier for viewers to access works of public art in Boulder by identifying pieces as part of the community’s collection,
providing consistent fundamental information, and including storytelling to heighten the meaning and relevancy of works. This guidance document will be useful across departments as new works of art are installed and to improve the look and utility of labels, small didactic panels, story-telling signs, and online content. The summary Accessible Signage Plan is included in Chapter 4: Resource Links and Attachments. The plan recommends phased funding from $50,000–$300,000 to implement varying levels of recommendations.

Ongoing Rebuild of Collection Database, Public-facing Website Database – Using the existing Condition Survey as a foundation, a streamlined collection database will be developed. This data will build back-end development for the boulderarts.org/public-art site. A priority will be to review contracts and other project-related data.

Support for Community-Initiated Projects – Community-initiated projects and donations require support from the Public Art Program beyond staff time. This category allocation is discretionary and will be assigned as-needed.

4. RESOURCE LINKS and ATTACHMENTS

Community Cultural Plan –

Public Art Policy –

Accessible Signage Framework (abbreviated) –

Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program: Accessible Signage Framework Abbreviated Summary

The City of Boulder Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program’s Accessible Signage Framework is rooted in the Community Cultural Plan, which calls for “Interpretation, Communications, and Legacy Initiatives – a set of tools for staff to promote the public art collection as an important part of daily life in Boulder that includes tours, signs, online programs, and continuing relationships with artists” (p.22).

Overall Recommendations for the Accessible Signage Framework:

- A uniform approach to signage makes it easier for viewers to access works of public art in Boulder by identifying pieces as part of the community’s collection, providing consistent fundamental information, and including storytelling to heighten the meaning and relevancy of works.
- Accessibility, Equity, and Inclusion: Public Art Signage needs to be physically and conceptually accessible. People with differing abilities must be able to tangibly approach and use it. They should find content relevant to their own lives and experiences that will resonate and make their encounter with public art memorable.
- The environmental and graphic design of signage will meet (and often exceed) Americans with Disabilities Act minimal requirements for visibility and readability; people approaching on foot and in wheelchairs, for example, will be able to easily find and view signage. Graphic considerations—font size, style, and contrast—prioritize legibility.
- Signage for the overall, city-wide collection will be considered in addition to specific informational signs at individual artworks.
The Framework offers recommendations for levels of written interpretation—a classification of signage types—and general storytelling-approach ideas, including:

- Specific strategies to make overall messaging as consistent, recognizable, and engaging as possible, yet flexible to apply to a variety of works and settings;
- Standardization of minimal content, options for additional information, and variations on storytelling techniques to share details and invite involvement with public art; and
- Options for increased accessibility including consideration of ways to further interpret permanent works through platforms and resources other than physical signage.

Fundamental Elements of Accessible Signage
All signs will include standard, always-available identifying content. Potential languages for physical signage and audio descriptions include the major languages used for communication in Boulder—English, Spanish, Nepali, and/or the artist’s preferred language. Additional communications options, including audio, tactile, and Braille, are encouraged. Physical placement for accessibility encourages installing signs at 48 inches height at a 20-degree angle to best serve people with differing mobilities.

The signage should include the following information:

**Title/Título**

**Artist Name/Nombre del Artista**

**Material [Optional], Year/Año**

**Narrative/Narrativa** [Optional—appears on Short Story and Extended-level signs (see layered content categories below)]

**Credit/Crédito** [Optional; for example, “Sponsored by…” or ‘In memory of…”]

[logo] City of Boulder    [logo] City of Boulder Office of Arts and Culture    [QR code—Optional]  
www.boulderarts.org/public-art

**Short Story**

In addition to the fundamental information, narrative content may include:

- Short Story A—Brief to Middling: one or two copy blocks, usually 15–70 words
- Short Story B—Longer: two copy blocks, not more than 120 words total

The following are considerations for Short Story content:

- Include relevant story content that relates to a work’s physical setting and the experience people have there;
- An invitation to the public to interact with the work;
- Temporary signage may be appropriate at times. For permanent works, temporary signage can be used for research (to gather data on what resonates with viewers) or to share a theme throughout the public art collection that may be implemented throughout the city for a season.
What we’re borrowing from other communities:

- “Use jargon-free language. Be clear, concise, and direct.” - Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council’s Public Art Signage
- “Encourage signs in English and a designated language of the artist’s choice (this can be their mother language), …with the artist providing the translation materials.” – Arts and Culture Program Art on the Atlanta Beltline
- Build relevance, relationships among individuals, communities, and works of public art through signage systems, as a layer of interpretation. Methods for creating meaningful messages and connecting to users can be found in the realm of heritage interpretation and the original principles developed by Freeman Tilden for nature interpretation widely used by national and state parks.
- “Consider alternative means of telling histories that have been missing from the conventional histories of the dominant culture—document, record, and share stories told by a range of people whose experiences contribute to the development of a community but which may be concealed by a dominant culture narrative.” (p.17) – Monumental Considerations: Addressing Problematic* Artworks, Memorials, and Monuments, Suggestions for Public Art Programs
- Create a “planning-centered community” in three ways: “by listening deeply in early planning, by testing interpretation with visitors and iterating based on their feedback throughout the process, and by integrating community voices as expertise that enriches and expands art historical content.” - Delaware Art Museum