

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-5468, FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
REPEALING METRO'S ONE PERCENT FOR ART GUIDELINES AND ADOPTING NEW  
ONE PERCENT FOR ART GUIDELINES

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Date: February 18, 2025  
Department: Capital Asset Management  
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Prepared by: Kristin Hennings  
Kristin.hennings@oregonmetro.gov

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**ISSUE STATEMENT**

The Percent for Art policy was developed in 1987 “to provide a process for selecting, purchasing, commissioning, placing and maintaining the Art purchased with art set-aside funds”. It was updated in 2007 to reflect Metro Council as the governing body. Today, changes are proposed to right-size projects to ensure art can be developed and installed for an appropriate sum, clarify roles and responsibilities, and ensure that projects reflect the needs of each department.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve the proposed Percent for Art policy updates.

**IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

- Flexibility to address the specific needs of each department.
- Develop a plan for maintenance of the art over time.
- Right size allotted funds.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Support effective implementation.

**POLICY QUESTION(S)**

1. What are the core values of the updated policy?
2. Are there areas in which the Council wishes staff to advance as part of the policy’s completion and implementation?

## **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

- Approve the resolution to adopt the updated Percent for Art Policy as included in Exhibit A
- Maintain current policy

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The revised policy creates efficiency by right-sizing funds, ensures accountability by clarifying roles and responsibilities, and accounts for maintenance costs to support the preservation of artwork over time. The policy also reflects the needs of each department by providing flexibility and support through funding. Staff recommends the Council adopt the updated policy.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Since 1987 the Percent for Art policy has aimed to install art of redeeming quality, advance the public's understanding of art, and display art which represents the best in artistic skills to encourage a public dialogue and understanding of Works of Art. Over time however, the program has developed many challenges which make it difficult to implement. The policy revisions that are proposed strive to address these challenges and provide solutions so that art is more easily implemented, and each department has a more prominent role in its design and installation.

Challenges with the current policy include:

- The policy is not right-sized to reflect current project budgets and costs. There are no options for a programmatic approach, so each project with a construction cost of over \$100,000 is required to design and install art. Since 1% of a small project would have an allotment of just \$1,000 to spend on design, construction, and installation of the Art, the policy is not being implemented.
- Art criteria may or may not currently align with each Department's goals and vision, and the policy doesn't reflect Metro's Strategic Framework with the guiding principles of racial justice, climate justice, and shared prosperity.
- Deaccession is not accounted for in the current policy, even when necessary to update a facility or move to a different location to allow for construction.

- Lastly, Maintenance costs are not currently considered, which could have significant impacts over time, putting each venue at risk with a lack of budget for ongoing maintenance costs over the lifetime of the artwork.

### **Proposed updates:**

This Policy update introduces a programmatic approach for projects over \$200,000 and less than \$2M. The threshold is raised from \$100,000 to account for inflation since 1987. Projects over \$2M must follow the project-by-project approach, ensuring that major construction projects have associated art projects. Both these changes right-size projects to ensure art can be developed and installed for an appropriate sum.

The policy is updated to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clear. It gives authority to the department Director to make sure that each venue has an appropriate review committee and each department's Finance Manager will manage the pooled funds. It also designates roles to the Project Sponsor and Project Manager which accurately reflects the way projects are run at Metro. The role of the Public Art Coordinator is added to lead the Art Committee, and the CAM Director is introduced as a key decision-maker. Committee membership will be offered to a Metro Councilor; however, their participation is optional. The Public Art Coordinator will work with Council Office staff to facilitate the selection of a Councilor.

A percentage for maintenance costs is also included to ensure that funds are set aside for the future maintenance and care of each project. The option for deaccession and disposal (upon approval of CAM Director and department Director) is also added to enable flexibility for development of each department over time.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Percent for Art policy was originally developed in 1987 "to provide a process for selecting, purchasing, commissioning, placing and maintaining the Art purchased with art set-aside funds". It was updated in 2007 to reflect Metro Council as the governing body.

Since 2007 different departments have created their own policies that better address their specific needs. In 2011 the Zoo passed Resolution 11-4282 which allowed for a programmatic approach across their portfolio rather than a project-by-project approach. One percent of direct construction costs were allocated into a general bond program percent-for-art pool and funds were distributed to select projects as determined by the Zoo Public Art Advisory Committee.

In 2014 Parks and Nature passed Resolution 14-4523 so art could be implemented at a programmatic level, similar to the zoo's approach. Additional considerations were also included that were specific to parks, such as excluding the cost of plantings in the construction budget and ensuring that the art does not impair natural resources or wildlife.

Both the resolutions highlight that the current policy is antiquated and needs an update.

Now, in 2025, revisions are being proposed to better serve the agency and ensure that art is included in projects. The goal of this updated policy is to make it more accessible and better serve each department.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

None