



Civic Arts Commission  
Office of Economic Development

## STAFF REPORT

Date: May 17, 2023

To: Members of the Public Art Subcommittee

From: Zoe Taleporos, Public Art Program Lead

RE: Administrative Priorities for FY 24-26

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The Public Art Program currently has 32 projects that have previously been approved by the Civic Arts Commission as part of the annual work plan. 22 are actively being worked on by Civic Arts Staff (18 of which are managed by the Program Lead). 10 projects have yet to be started up. The average timeframe for a public art project to be completed is 1-4 years.

Many of these projects were allocated funds prior to the increase in materials costs across the US. As a result, many projects need extra funding to be realized as designed.

Due to the high volume of new projects, Civic Arts Staff lacks capacity to attend to the ongoing maintenance of the existing Public Art Collection. There are a number of installed projects that are in urgent need of conservation.

In the last year, there has also been a high demand for use of the Private Percent for Art Fund from outside groups seeking to implement public art projects in Berkeley. We currently do not have a general framework for how public art projects are developed within the Civic Arts Commission. And we currently do not have a competitive funding mechanism for community-initiated public art projects.

Taking these factors into consideration, Civic Arts Staff recommends the following actions:

1. Institute a moratorium on new public art projects for implementation by Civic Arts Staff for FY 24-26.
2. Allocate FY 24-26 revenue from the Private Percent for Art Fund towards existing projects to compensate for previous budget shortcomings.

3. Remove the following project from the Annual Work Plan and Budget due to lack of feasibility: Berkeley Marina's Circle at Spinnaker Way.
4. Develop a Public Art Master Plan for the City of Berkeley to create a framework for developing and funding new projects.
5. Hire two consultants to assist with current project list and artwork conservation projects, allowing Civic Arts Staff time to devote to the Public Art Master Plan.