

# **PUBLIC ART PLAN**

## **I. PURPOSE**

In recognition of the value that public art can bring to the cultural, aesthetic, and economic vitality of the community, the Cities of Lewiston and Auburn successfully sought a grant from the Maine Arts Commission to support the development of a Public Art Plan as one piece of “Cultural Plan LA”. A Public Art Working Group comprised of citizens of Lewiston and Auburn, including mayoral appointments, artists, educators, and business people, was established to develop this master plan in consultation with City staff from Lewiston and Auburn. The resulting plan outlines recommendations for a basic administrative structure for public art initiatives in L/A.

## **II. MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The mission of the Public Art Plan is to foster and oversee the commissioning and acquisition of permanent and temporary public art, act as a steward of the City’s public art collection, and engage the public in the collection. Public art projects will be accomplished through the direct commissioning of artwork, acquisitions, community partnerships, gifts, and by encouraging public art in private development.

### **Guiding Principles**

1. When the City, on its own or through a partnership, builds or makes a significant renovation or addition to a community facility or park, public art should, whenever possible, be part of the project.
2. Public art should grow out of the richness of the community and, in most cases, be commissioned. Artists should be invited to work in the community and with the community to ensure that the work has meaning and resonance.
3. Public art projects should be commissioned through a transparent, competitive process that values both artistic expertise and community input. The policies and procedures adopted by the City will result in the selection of highly qualified artists and will support them in creating their best work. It will follow professional standards in the field.
4. Public art should be of high artistic quality and integrity. The City, developers, and cultural institutions must pay careful attention to the design of new buildings and public spaces downtown and throughout the community, bringing in fresh design thinking as well as complementing the historic fabric of the community. New public art should be of the same design quality as other aspects of the City’s built environment and should support the cultural fabric of the community.

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5. Public art should be for everyone: the people who live and work in the City; the people who visit for entertainment, culture, shopping, and dining; and even the people who are just passing through. All should have an opportunity to experience art in public places. Art should invite interaction, contemplation, and discussion.

## III. DEFINITIONS

### **Public Art**

Public art includes a variety of accessible, original cultural experiences and/or physical works of art located within a public place that enrich the City by contributing to its uniqueness and stimulating learning, reflection, and conversation. Public art may include permanent or temporary works. Public art should engage the site, its context, and audience. Public art may possess functional as well as aesthetic qualities.

### **Artwork**

Artwork shall mean works in any style, expression, genre, and media created by an artist as defined herein that may be permanent, temporary, and/or functional. Artwork may be stand-alone and integrated into architecture, landscaping, or other site development if designed by an artist as defined herein. Excluded are gifts of state by foreign governments or by other political jurisdictions of the United States.

### **Public Place**

- a) A public place is a publicly accessible landscape, structure, or infrastructure-- typically owned or under the jurisdiction of the City. Public places include, but are not limited to, public parks, plazas, streets and boulevards (right-of-way), bridges, stairways, buildings, and water features.
- b) Art within public places contributes to the unique identity of a location and can stimulate discussion and imagination.
- c) Privately owned places can also include public art insofar as the artwork is public facing and designed to engage the public.

### **Artist**

An artist is an individual who creates original works of art and is typically recognized by professional peers and critics as a professional practitioner of the visual, craft, literary, musical, conceptual, or performing arts, as judged by the quality of that practitioner's body of work and experience. This recognition is demonstrated in the artist resume through credentials such as professional training, an exhibition record, past public art commissions, published work, previous performances, reviews, and recommendations.

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## IV. ADMINISTRATION

### **Public Art Committee (PAC)**

To support the Cities of Auburn and Lewiston in managing inquiries about public art and the vetting, creation, installation, and maintenance of public artworks, a Public Art Committee (PAC) shall be established. The PAC shall ordinarily be comprised of ten members: 2 mayoral appointments--one from each City--and the following to be appointed in accordance with procedures established by the body or organization making the appointments: 2 public school appointments--one from each school district; 2 appointments from Arts and Culture LA; 2 appointments from L/A Arts; and 2 appointments from the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce. The PAC shall convene semi-annually or as needed to consider updates to the Public Art Plan as well as inquiries or requests related to public art. During the Maine Arts Commission implementation grant period (2019-2021), the Public Art Working Group (PAWG) shall function as the PAC.

The PAC shall provide expert advice to the Cities in the following areas:

- a) Public Art Plan policies and procedures
- b) Artist selection review panels and processes for art associated with municipal development projects on City-owned property
- c) Artwork review and approval recommendations for municipal development projects on City-owned property
- d) Artwork review and recommendations for murals on City-owned property
- e) Maintenance and conservation of artwork on City-owned property
- f) Review and recommendations on proposed deaccession of artwork on City-owned property
- g) The incorporation of public-facing, public-engaging artwork in private development, should advice on such artwork be in order