



PUBLIC ART

Streets are public spaces and important opportunities for civic display of art, design, and place-making. Public art adds interest to the street, celebrates identity of a place or a local community, and can function as a wayfinding tool by orienting users of the street to where they are within the city. Public art has the ability to unify a district or serve as a transition between neighborhoods. Public art increases cultural awareness, stimulates imagination, and provokes creative dialog.

Ideally, public art is integrated into the overall street environment and is an organic part of the public space rather than a foreign presence dropped incoherently into the place.

USE

- Public art adds interest to the street and can create more walkable places and unique experiences in the city.
- Public art should not introduce distraction or hazards and should not present an obstacle to mobility.

DESIGN

- Public art in the street will be experienced by people moving at different speeds and designs should consider how the installation will be experienced by people using different modes of transportation, in different locations in the right-of-way, and at different times of the day.
- Public art can take multiple different forms. It can be two dimensional on flat surfaces such as murals, mosaics, or printing on walls, streets, or sidewalks. It may be three dimensional such as sculptures. It may be integrated into street furnishings such as seating, bicycle hoops, or light poles. It can be visual, tactile, or audible.

- The placement and design of public art should not block any portion of the roadway or pedestrian through zone, should not impede mobility, and should not distract drivers focused on the road.
- The location, installation, and design of public art should be considered early in the project development process and support the goals and objectives of the street.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Community involvement is an integral piece of the public art process. Residents, business owners, and patrons should be given the opportunity to provide input on the installation of public art projects.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- Public art pieces that are owned by the City of Grand Rapids will be maintained by the City, and a maintenance plan must be developed prior to installation of the art in the public space. Any specific maintenance requirements, such as preservation, landscaping, or repairs should be discussed with the artist in advance.
- For art that is not publicly owned, the sponsoring organization must have an agreed-upon maintenance plan that details maintenance responsibilities. This is typically determined during the permit process. The City reserves the right to remove any public art installation that is poorly maintained or introduces any hazard to the public.