

## Alexandria Commission for the Arts - Meeting

Regular Meeting - Tuesday, July 21, 2026

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Virtual, on Zoom

- I. Call to Order (*Chair Brian Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm*)
- II. Roll Call (*Attachment 1*)
- III. Public Comment (*no public comment*)
- IV. Approval of Minutes (*motion by Trena Raines, second by Chris Kurowski*)
  - a. Tuesday, June 17, Regular Meeting
- V. Chair Report (*Attachment 2*)
- VI. Committee and Liaison Updates (*oral updates*)
  - a. Arts Alliance Liaison – Stacey Becker
  - b. Waterfront Commission Liaison – Robin Jordan
  - c. Program Grants Feedback – Stacey Becker
  - d. Art in Every Place – Robin Jordan
- VII. City Hall Public Art Task Force (*Attachment 3*)
  - a. Approval of Artists Selection
- VIII. Ramsay Mural (*Attachment 4*)
  - a. Approval of Artist Selection, Concept, Project Plan
- IX. Proposal to Recess in August (*discussion*)
- X. Office of the Arts Staff Updates (*Attachment 5*)
- XI. New Business
  - a. Call for Submissions to Annual Report
- XII. Good of the Order and Announcements
- XIII. Adjournment (*the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm*)

**ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN SHEET**

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Meeting: Regular

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Virtual

| <b>COMMISSION MEMBERS:</b>               | <b>Present/Not Present</b> |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Brian Kelley, Chair                      | Virtual                    |
| Trena Raines, Vice Chair                 | Virtual                    |
| Catherine Dehoney, Secretary             | Virtual                    |
|                                          |                            |
| Scott Abeles                             | Virtual                    |
| Anila Angjeli                            | Virtual                    |
| Alvah Beander                            | Virtual                    |
| Stacey Becker                            | Virtual                    |
| Anne Evenhaugen                          | Virtual                    |
| Robin Jordan                             | Virtual                    |
| Chris Kurowski                           | Virtual                    |
| Jason Longfellow                         | Virtual                    |
| Lauren Miller                            | Virtual                    |
| Tia Norris                               | Virtual                    |
| Jillian Organek                          | Virtual                    |
| David Pritzker                           | Virtual                    |
| Dawn Rogala                              | Not present                |
|                                          |                            |
|                                          |                            |
|                                          |                            |
| <b>CITY STAFF</b>                        |                            |
| Hashim Taylor, Director, RPCA            |                            |
| Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Dir., RPCA - Arts | Virtual                    |
| Cheryl Anne Colton, Program Director     |                            |
| Meika Daus, Public Art Manager           | Virtual                    |
|                                          |                            |
|                                          |                            |
|                                          |                            |

# Chair Report

## July 2026

### Introduction

We have a short meeting this July and please do remember that we are meeting virtually, not in person. In order to ensure that the City Hall and Ramsay Mural projects are able to proceed without delay, we are forgoing the usual July recess. I also expect this to be a shorter meeting, so I do hope that the reduced time and remote option will mean that Commissioners will still be more than able to attend the meeting, even should they be out of town.

### Updates

Some small changes to updates this month. First, Dawn Rogala will not be present, and so her update item for the City Council Committee will not be happening this month. Stacey Becker will be presenting an update item the Program Grants Feedback Session and Robin Jordan will give us an update item on developments with Art in Every Place. Thank you in advance to both Stacey and Robin as you take turns presenting multiple update items this month.

### Task Forces

Staff will be presenting an artist selection for the City Hall Public Art Task Force. For the Ramsay Mural, recall that this is a project that is working on a fast timeline. We will be reviewing the artist selection, concept, and project plan at the same time for Ramsay.

### August Recess

With these July task force action items wrapped up, we anticipate the ability to call for a recess in August, taking one month off this summer as usual. In order to do so, we will need to formally move to cancel the August meeting.

### Call for Submissions to the Annual Report

Finally, please share with the Executive Committee anything you have for the Annual Report. Most especially we want written committee updates from the committee chairs. We also welcome any photographs you have of Commissioners at parades, openings, festivals, receptions, etc. Please send all such materials to either me or Stacey Becker ([Kenstace@comcast.net](mailto:Kenstace@comcast.net)). Please send these items to us whenever you can in the next few weeks.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Brian Kelley

Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

Attachment 3

**DATE:** JULY 21, 2026

**TO:** ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

**FROM:** MEIKA DAUS, PUBLIC ART SENIOR MANAGER, OFFICE OF THE ARTS

MD

**RE:** ARTIST SELECTION FOR CITY HALL (SUSPENDED WORK)

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### **Request:**

The City of Alexandria Public Art Program is requesting the approval of the Project Task Force's selected artist for the City Hall suspended artwork opportunity.

### **Background:**

The City of Alexandria Public Art Program is commissioning a suspended artwork that will be integrated into a major, once-in-a-generation, renovation to Alexandria's historic City Hall. The suspended artwork is planned for the building's atrium.

The current City Hall, built in 1871, is a great source of community pride and serves as a workplace for more than 300 City employees. After many years of service, major updates are planned throughout City Hall to repair aging building components and improve its circulation and functionality as a civic center. The renovation will provide more modern workspaces for City staff to serve residents and visitors, and improve common spaces.

Specifically, as a part of the renovation, the ground floor of the building will be re-envisioned as a community-centered space. A new atrium will allow for natural light and new views to historic architectural elements that are being carefully exposed. As a part of the vision for the atrium, Alexandria's Public Art Program will be commissioning a suspended work of art to celebrate Alexandria's future and inspire those entering into the newly renovated building.

The construction project is managed by the City's Department of General Services (DGS) and the design team includes the international design firm LEO A DALY, who is taking the lead on the renovation of the 153-year-old City Hall building.

### **Public Art Project Benchmarks**

- February 2025: Public Art Task Force Members appointed by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.
- April 2025: Development of public art project goals.
- June 2025: Approval of the [Public Art Project Plan](#) by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.
- Fall and Winter 2025: Coordination with the project team regarding preferred public art opportunities.
- February 2026: Invitational public art call opens.
- May and June 2026: Finalists selected.
- July 2026: Artist Interviews.

The Public Art Task Force includes:

#### **Art Commissioners**

Scott Abeles and Alvah Beander

#### **Community Stakeholders**

Laurie Axelrod and Candace Edgerley

#### **Project Stakeholders**

Jeanine Kotob and Irena Savakova with LEO A DALY

**Discussion:**

The program goals of the public art project are to:

- Foster a welcoming and inclusive civic space that invites all Alexandrians—longtime residents, newcomers, and visitors—to engage in civic life and feel a sense of belonging and ownership.
- Inspire, delight, and engage the public and create memorable experiences.
- Honor Alexandria’s rich and layered past while celebrating its future.
- Respond meaningfully to the physical and environmental context of City Hall and Market Square.
- Amplify Alexandria’s reputation as a vibrant arts destination.

In accordance with the Project Plan, an invitational call for artists was posted and 50 artists with experience creating suspended works were invited to apply. In response to the call, 22 applications were submitted. After reviewing and scoring these applications, the Project Task Force interviewed two finalists on July 1, 2026, and later finalized its recommendation. The Task Force recommends [Benjamin Ball](#) for the project.

**About Benjamin Ball**

*Benjamin Ball is an architect, designer, and artist. In 2004 with Gaston Nogues, he founded Ball-Nogues Studio, a design and fabrication practice based in Los Angeles, California, where he explores an intersection of public art and architecture. His aim is to make environments that enhance sensation and invite physical engagement by way of craft and new materials. He employs custom digital tools and uses architectural techniques in unorthodox ways.*

*Ball grew up in Iowa and Colorado, where he studied environmental design at CU, Boulder. He studied architecture at SCI-Arc. Growing up around theatre led him to later work as an art director in the film industry. As an architect, he logged stints at Gehry Partners and several small boutique firms.*

*Ball-Nogues Studio has received three American Institute of Architects Design Awards, United States Artists Target Fellowship and a grant from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. In 2007, the Studio was the winner of the Museum of Modern Art PS1 Young Architects Program Competition. Their work is part of the permanent collections of both MoMA and LACMA. In 2011, they were one of the Architectural League of New York’s Emerging Voices and, in 2014, they were finalists for the Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture’s Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize.*

*Benjamin and Gaston have taught in the graduate architecture programs at SCI-Arc, UCLA, and USC. Their work has appeared in a variety of publications including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, The Guardian, Architectural Record, Artforum, Icon, Log, Architectural Digest, Mark and Sculpture.*

**Recommendation**

The Task Force recommends [Benjamin Ball](#) for the project. If for any reason Benjamin Ball is unable to proceed with the project, Cao Perrot Studio should be selected.

**Attachments**

Work Samples from Application. (All photos courtesy of Benjamin Ball.)



**Above the Ploughman's Highest Line**

Stainless steel ball-chain, enamel paint

22.5' x 36' x 16'

Artwork for Sale: Yes

\$250,000.00

2020

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Davis Technical College Allied Health Building, Kaysville, UT

Public Art Program:

*Inspired by the mesmerizing landscapes of Utah, for this work I began with an aerial image of the shore of the Great Salt Lake, and then abstracted it three-dimensionally, to become a stack of horizontal bands that permeate the suspension.*



**Weaver's Knot, Sheet Bend**

316 Stainless Steel Spheres & Cables, Steel Poles

28' x 12' x 27'

Artwork for Sale: No

\$320,000.00

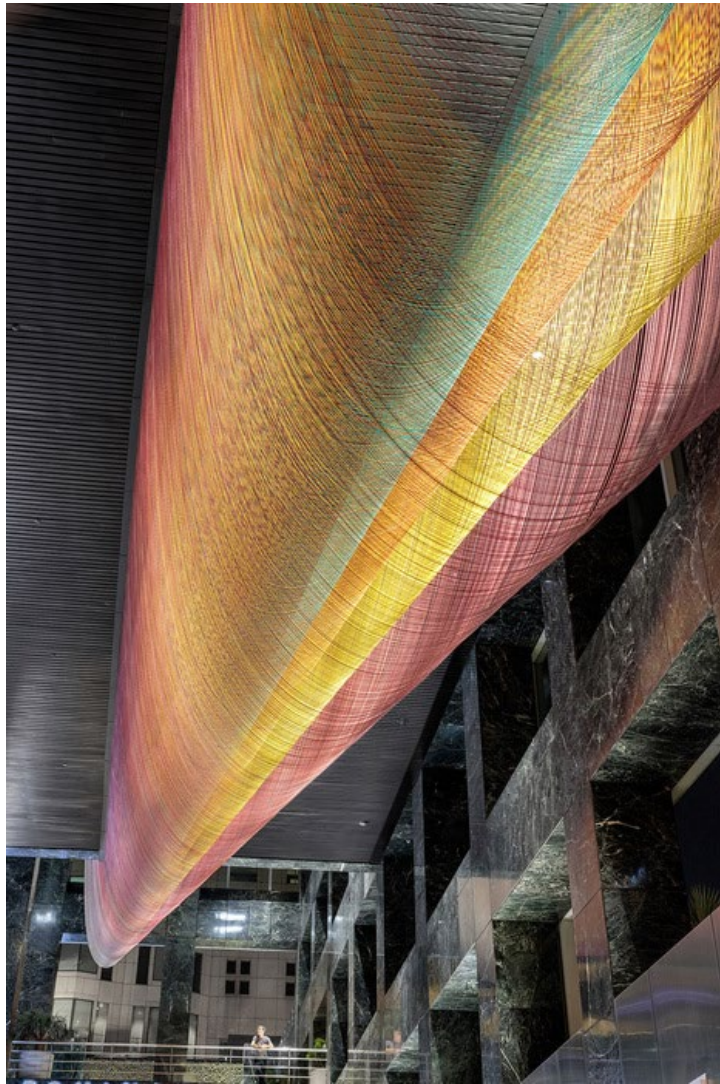
2022

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Delaware River Trail (at Benjamin Franklin Bridge), Philadelphia, PA

Public Art Program: City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

*This artwork recalls the histories of the textile industry and cargo shipping that dominated the region for hundreds of years. The material reflects the surrounding landscape as well as the viewer's own image; visitors will see themselves reflected within dozens of spheres.*



**Breath Catcher**

Enameled Stainless Steel Bead Chain

20' x 18' x 121'

Artwork for Sale: Yes

\$500,000.00

2019

Sculpture

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: 444 South Flower Street Atrium, Los Angeles, CA

Public Art Program:

*By way of thousands of segments of chain precisely arranged in a single gesture that cuts through the entry hall, this is a monumental art installation suggestive of a bream of brightly colored light. It actively undulates in the wind while its colors transform with changing lighting conditions.*



### **HEALING PAVILION**

Three-dimensionally-bent metal pipe

30' x 20' x 15'

Artwork for Sale: Yes

\$1,100,000.00

2017

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

Public Art Program:

*Located in the new garden of an urban hospital, the work provides shade and seating. Its most important function is creating a place that momentarily transports the visitor's mind away from illness; the intricate patterns formed by its tubes and their shadows are meant to captivate the imagination.*



**The Sea Knows More Than Us**

Stainless steel ball-chain, enamel paint

45' x 21.5' x 8.5'

Artwork for Sale: Yes

\$244,000.00

2020

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Commercial Bay Tower (PWC Tower/15 Customs Street West), Auckland Central, New Zealand

Public Art Program:

*The intricacy of so many segments relating in pattern yield a visual complexity reminiscent of fluid dynamic systems. The work changes in appearance in response to the visitor's movement and trajectory; from below it may resemble a solid disk, or from the exterior a gaseous or liquid form.*



**Shady Lane**

Steel structure, aluminum plate, 3form Acrylic, hardware

12' x 125' x 5"

Artwork for Sale: Yes

\$240,000.00

2021

Installation

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: LSU Health New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

Public Art Program:

*The panoramic format of the work spans across a children's play space, transforming a banal fence into a 2-sided mural. Functioning like the colored pegs of a Lite Brite toy, thousands of transparent acrylic squares form a pointillist image of southern live oaks, honoring the storybook history of NO*



**Gravity's Loom**

Nylon twine, ink, hardware

38' x 92' x 59'

Artwork for Sale: Yes

\$78,000.00

2010

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN

Public Art Program:

*An array of vibrantly colored hanging strings that spanned the entire lobby and generated the appearance of a softly spiraling gossamer surface, it's surface spiraled downward through the atrium, transforming the space and re-choreographing the flow of visitors to encourage new interactions.*



**The Best Way Out is Always Through (Image of 1 of 3 sections)**

Fiberglass Rods, fiberglass tape, epoxy resin adhesive

22' x 18' x 175'

Artwork for Sale: Yes

\$905,000.00

2019

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Parking Plaza Terminal 2, San Diego International Airport, San Diego, CA

Public Art Program: Commissioning Entity: San Diego County Regional Airport Authority

*This three-part work is distributed among 3 passage ways. The branching is inspired by palm fronds and fractal patterns seen in nature such as coral. Its intricate patterning and shadows create a contemplative experience that changes over time.*

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 21, 2026  
**TO:** ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS  
**FROM:** MEIKA DAUS, PUBLIC ART SENIOR MANAGER, OFFICE OF THE ARTS   
**RE:** PUBLIC ART AT WILLIAM RAMSAY RECREATION CENTER (CFMP) (**EXPEDITED REQUEST**)  
 PROJECT PLAN, ARTIST SELECTION AND MURAL CONCEPT

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**Request:**

The City of Alexandria Public Art Program is requesting the approval of a public art project plan, artist, and mural concept for the William Ramsay Recreation Center, which is the process of scheduling maintenance upgrades. Public art staff has received an expedited request to commission a mural for the interior of the recreation center upon completion of renovations, including repainting, planned for August 2026.

**Background:**

The Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) Consolidated Facilities Maintenance Plan (CFMP) is a pool of capital funding that is used by RPCA for small-scale capital and maintenance projects throughout the city's park system, including recreation centers. The planning and implementation of these projects is done on a short-term basis. Sometimes these small-scale improvements provide an opportunity for an associated public art project. The approved FY26-FY28 Public Art Annual Work Plan identified that the Public Art Program should coordinate with future CFMP projects and be able to respond rapidly to public art opportunities if they arise.

Within William Ramsay Recreation Center, located at 5650 Sanger Avenue in the West End, facility staff is looking for opportunities to enhance and refresh the interior of the facility. While a major capital improvement is not planned, interior repainting and entryway improvements are expected during Summer 2026. RPCA leadership has requested that a mural be commissioned for the interior atrium space as a part of the renovation.

**Public Art Project Benchmarks**

- June 16, 2026: Public Art Task Force Members appointed by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.
- June 29, 2026: Site Visit to William Ramsay Recreation Center and discussion of public art project goals and strategy.
- July 7, 2026: Task Force Meeting #1 to recommend the project plan and artist selection approach.
- July 8, 2026: Artists provided a project summary and invited to submit proposals for the Ramsay mural project.
- July 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>: Artist site visits to Ramsay.
- July 14, 2026: Artists Concepts Due.
- July 15, 2026: Task Force Meeting #2 to recommend the artist and concept.

**Ramsay Mural Project Plan**

**Address:** 5650 Sanger Avenue, Alexandria VA 22311

**Location:** Lobby mural with 2<sup>nd</sup> mural in a dance studio

**Background:** The City's Department of Parks Recreation and Cultural Activities has plans to renovate the William Ramsay Recreation Center in August 2026 and would like to incorporate new interior murals as a key feature of the renovation. The lobby will be painted in neutral colors (white) by the first week in August, removing some current wall paintings in the space.

## Task Force Members

Lauren Miller, Arts Commissioner  
Tia Norris, Arts Commissioner  
Dan Altman, Nova Raft, Community Stakeholder  
Shawnta Driver, Community Stakeholder  
Ismenia Molina, Community Stakeholder  
Laura Durham, Project Stakeholder, Deputy Director of the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities  
Lucresha C. Murphy-Tate, Recreation Manager, William Ramsay Recreation Center

## Recommended Project Goals:

- **Celebrate art** in the renovation of William Ramsay Recreation Center that embraces cultural diversity, celebrates this community, **is inviting**, and makes visitors feel welcome.
- Incorporate the recreation center theme **“friends from all places”**.
- **Engage** the recreation center participants in the art process.
- **Improve the visual identity** of Ramsay and **unify the spaces**.
- Incorporate artwork that is **timeless** and **ages well**.

## Budget:

- \$500 to each artist to prepare concepts (up to 3 artists)
- \$1,000 for community engagement
- \$10,000 for murals in the lobby
- Additional \$8,000 for mural in the dance studio

Total project budget = \$20,000

## Timeline:

|                                                                                                        | Timeframe<br>(no later than)  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Artist submits proposal (project approach incorporating the rec center theme: Friends from All Places) | July 14                       |
| Arts Commission approves artist selection                                                              | July 21                       |
| Artist begins community engagement                                                                     | July 25 12pm-3pm (event date) |
| Artist submits final mural designs for staff review                                                    | August 10, 2026               |
| Artist installs work in lobby                                                                          | August 15-August 21, 2026     |
| Artist attends recreation center ribbon cutting event                                                  | August 22, 2026 (event date)  |
| Artist completes lobby mural and dance studio mural                                                    | September 2026                |

## Project Stakeholders

Recreation Center Camps and Participants  
NOVA RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together)  
Parents and Families  
William Ramsay Elementary School (Summer School Participants)

## Community Engagement Concepts

Attendance at Live at the Top of the Hill at William Ramsay on Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 12pm-3pm to engage with the public about the concept

Day at the recreation center to engage with program participants for both indoor and outdoor activities.

Attend ribbon cutting event.

## Artist Selection

Utilize applications from the Mural Artist Roster call for artists and invite artists who have worked at similar scales.

- Prioritize DMV area artists (in consideration of the expedited project schedule, travel times, and familiarity with the City)
- Prioritize artists with experience in community engagement
- Prioritize experienced artists

Invite artists to develop concepts and describe how they might approach the project and address the theme, “Friends from All Places”.

Community engagement strategies should also be addressed.

## Discussion of Artist Selection and Concept

In response to the invitation from staff to three applicants who applied to the Mural Artist Roster call for artists, two artists indicated that they were able to meet the project timeline and were invited to William Ramsay Recreation Center to review the space and prepare design concepts.

The two design concepts were forwarded to the full project task force for review on July 14<sup>th</sup>. On July 15, 2026, the Task Force met, discussed the concepts in relationship to the overall project goals, and recommended Tammy Barnes of Washington, D.C. for the project.

Below are descriptions of the mural and art activation concepts provided by the artist:

**Recreation Center Open Lobby Concept– Friends from All Places:** *This design is representational of the groups of people who frequent Ramsay Recreation Center; people who have backgrounds of Afghan, African American, and Latina/o/x decent. As a way to make this theme universal to any human, the mural design is influenced by the traditional textile patterns of these cultures. Circles of textile patterns with Latin-inspired patterns, African-prints, and possibly of textile patterns of Afghan traditional rug making would overlay a continuous wave, or through-line, that wraps the entire space. This through-line would be painted as a gradient of purple, orange, and yellow and is a symbol of the interconnectedness of our human existence. When the textile pattern overlays the through-line, the pattern turns into a silhouette, as a subtle way of demonstrating each of us are influenced by our heritages.*

**Dance Studio Concept– Dance Your Heart Out, Kid!:** *The theme of the dance studio would center around the colloquial phrase, “Dance your heart out, kid!” and the similar phrase in Spanish, “Baila con el alma!” (translates to ‘dancing with all your soul’). Because the Dance studio is an exercise space for all ages (young to older adults), the theme of ‘Dance your heart out, kid!’ is a way to connect these generations. For older adults who may be dancing for exercise, dancing can be a way to connect to the freedom of their inner child. For young people who may be dancing for a team sport, the turn of phrase encourages them to keep going as they learn new techniques. The theme should illicit joy across all genders and ages.*

**Collaborative Art Activation— Friends from All Places:** *Utilizing the empty, modular office wall at the entrance of Ramsay Rec. Center, an 8ft tall x 12ft wide canvas would be constructed with three (3) ¼" plywood sheets. The plywood sheets would hang from the modular wall's top beam and be at a height that both adults and young people could reach the canvas. Prior to installation of the sheets, the Lead Artist would paint different circles/ovals, some would be colors representing differences in melanin, other circles would be non-traditional colors. Community participants would be encouraged to select any circle and draw a self-portrait and write their name.*

#### **Recommendation**

Approval of the public art task force's project plan, the artist recommendation of Tammy Barnes, and the mural concepts for the William Ramsay Mural Project. The artist's concepts will be further refined by the artist through the community engagement process, prior to painting the murals.

#### **Attachments**

Work Samples from Tammy Barnes (all images courtesy of the Artist)



Large scale, 3-sided exterior mural using latex paint on faux wood siding of trailer. Client is the construction and building management company facilitating the development of DC's newest named neighborhood, "Bridge District" in Ward 8. The design reflects the requested theme of how humans interact with biophilic architectural design, featuring native plants, insects, and wildlife. A third side of the trailer features their corporate branding.



### Biophilic DC

Latex exterior paint on siding

14.5' x 213' x 0'

Artwork for Sale: No

\$16,000.00

2025

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: 623 Howard Rd SE, Washington, DC

Public Art Program: Bridge District c/o Indie Walls

*A large-scale, 3-sided exterior mural that beautifies the construction management company trailer of a new neighborhood development called Bridge District. The design reflects how humans interact with biophilic architectural design, featuring native plants, insects, and wildlife; plus, corp. logo.*

Public art is a powerful medium for storytelling and community transformation. The mural, titled Ever-Present, painted for the 2025 NoMa in Color Murals Festival, honors the Nacotchtank (Anacostans) and Piscataway Peoples, the original stewards of the lands along the Anacostia and Potomac rivers that make up the southern borders of modern-day Washington, DC. At the mural's center, a stylized Nacotchtank woman emerges from the riverbanks, surrounded by imagery that bridges past and present. Her upward gaze embodies continuity, reverence, and renewal—echoing how the Nacotchtank lived in relationship with the land and its ecosystems.

Modern symbolism shown in the American Shad, DC's state fish, and the Wood Thrush, DC's state bird, offers movement to the piece in the skies and waterways, while the blossom of a Paw Paw tree, a regional species known for its custard-like fruit, anchors the mural to land. Known as a "town of traders," the Nacotchtank figure features a fox fur pelt resting across their shoulder. The "three sisters" crops—corn, squash, and beans—present in the lower portion of the mural, reference the Nacotchtank's agriculture, while the leaves of the Paw Paw blossom carry an added layer of meaning: they reference DC's Roosevelt Island—then known as Analostan or Anacostine Island—the last place the Nacotchtank are recorded as having taken refuge.

Truth and acknowledgment are vital to building respect across heritage and difference. This mural is created in that spirit—honoring their legacy, acknowledging the histories of displacement and violence, and remembering the resilience of all who came before us. We invite you to pause and reflect on the many legacies that connect us across time and community.



### "Ever-Present"

Exterior latex paint on concrete

11.25' x 25' x 0'

2025

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Metropolitan Branch Trail at Alethia Tanner Park, 227 Harry Thomas Way NE, Washington, DC 20002

Public Art Program: NoMa in Color Mural Festival

*Painted for the 10th Annual NoMa in Color Mural Festival, "Ever-Present," is a mural that honors the indigenous people of Washington, DC. This mural, deeply researched, includes images that tell the story of the original stewards of our lands and it honors the violence they endured.*

I served as Lead Muralist on a \$30,000 grant award from the DC Commission on Arts & Humanities for the program Color the Curb: Traffic Calming Ground Murals. I, with a team of two other muralists, created a 3-class, tiered curriculum about murals and public art. We taught this in the partnering DC Public School, Maury Elementary, to gather ideas for the mural images from the students. Our team then created design plans inspired by the students for two intersections, painted as curb extensions to calm traffic near the school. Select photos below show classroom activity and final mural installation.



### Color the Curb 2025: Maury Elementary Traffic Calming Murals

StreetBond Epoxy Paint on Pavement

200' x 400' x 0'

\$30,000.00

2025

Public Art

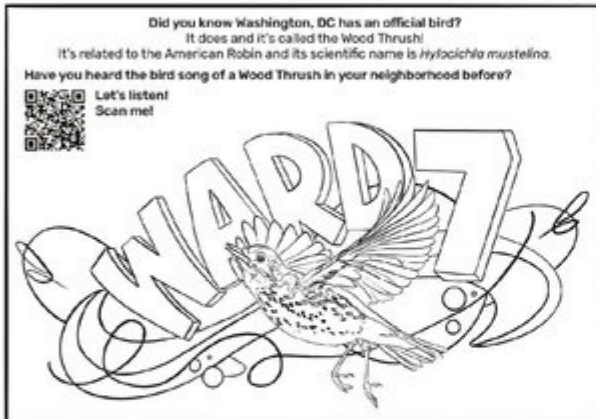
Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: 13th & C Sts. NE, Washington, DC and C St. & Tennessee Ave NE, Washington, DC

Public Art Program: Color the Curb Grant through DC Commission on Arts and Humanities with DDOT and DCPS

*Funded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities through the Color the Curb: School Safety Program, a \$30,000 grant award. A partnership with the District Department of Transportation and DC Public Schools to support artists creating community-engaged safety murals near select DCPS schools.*

"Ward 7 Soars" is a mural completed for the Anacostia Murals Fest '26. The design features the official bird of DC, the Wood Thrush. In the design, a Wood Thrush flies upward across the "Ward 7" lettering, symbolizing the ability to rise above storms, obstacles, and difficult paths. The bird represents hope, strength, and perseverance, reflecting the people of Ward 7 and a resilient community that continues to grow and rise together. I created a coloring page where the creative can scan a QR code and hear a Wood Thrush's bird song. Lastly, I painted "Big D" logo along side the mural, per the owners request.



### Ward 7 Soars

Latex exterior paint on brick

10" x 14" x 0"

\$5,000.00

2026

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: 4169 Minnesota Ave NE, Washington, DC, Big D Liquor

Public Art Program: Anacostia Murals Fest '26

*"Ward 7 Soars," created for Anacostia Murals Fest '26, features a Wood Thrush flying above the Ward 7 lettering, symbolizing hope, strength, and resilience. A QR-linked coloring page lets viewers hear the bird's song. The owner's requested "Big D" logo was also painted alongside the mural*

I designed and facilitated a Family Crafts arts activation for the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts at the Alexandria Jazz Festival 2025. I created a custom coloring sheet for a coloring table, and two tables where any age could make their own musical instruments out of everyday objects.



### Alexandria Jazz Festival 2025 Family Crafts Table

upcycled, every day objects

8" x 6" x 3"

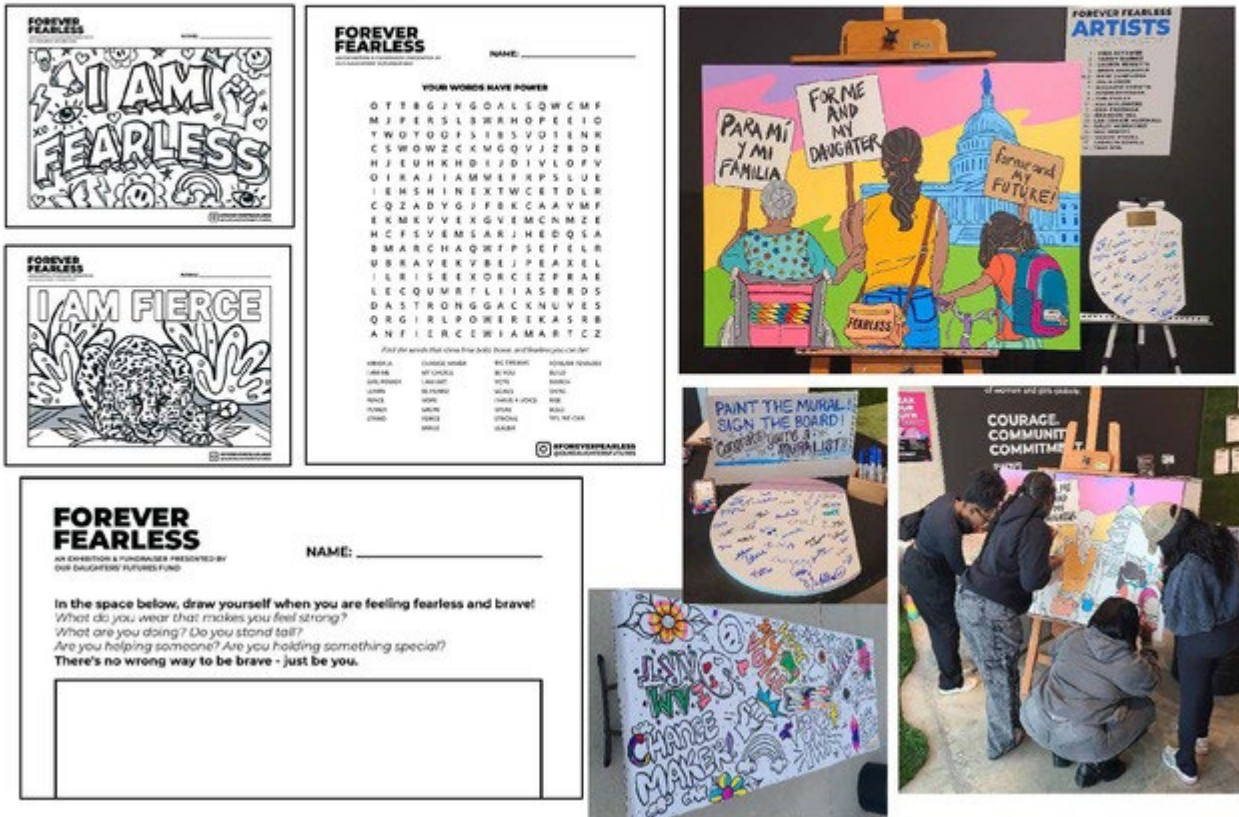
2025

Craft

Art in Public Places: No

*I designed and facilitated a Family Crafts arts activation for the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts at the Alexandria Jazz Festival 2025. I created a custom coloring sheet for a coloring table, and two tables where any age could make their own musical instruments out of everyday objects.*

Community Mural for the Forever Fearless Exhibition by Our Daughters' Futures Fund. Custom activity sheets for the exhibition space and community coloring table for an exhibition reception. These were all provided pro-bono to enhance community engagement for this public art exhibition in support of the rights of women and girls.



## "Fearless Generations"

Acrylics on Canvas

36" x 48" x 1.5"

2025

Visual Arts

Art in Public Places: No

Community mural, custom activity sheets, and a community coloring table created for the Forever Fearless exhibition by Our Daughters' Futures Fund. All were provided pro bono to support community engagement and the rights of women and girls.



Community Mural MLK JR Service Day Sasha Bruce Youthwork  
 Role: Tammy Barnes, Lead Muralist  
 Medium: Acrylics on canvas Dimensions: 6ft x 10ft

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined by Sasha Bruce Youth Advisory Council, Sasha Bruce Staff, HHS Political Appointees, and volunteers paint walls and a mural in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Sasha Bruce Youth work Inc. Drop-In Center Monday, January 15, 2024 in Hyattsville, MD. (Official HHS Photo by Amy Rossetti)*



### **Brighter Days**

Acrylics on canvas

6' x 11' x 3"

2024

Mural

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Bruce Empowerment Zone, Sasha Bruce Youthwork, 7723 Barlowe Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20785

Public Art Program: non-profit organization commission

*Community Mural MLK JR Service Day Sasha Bruce Youthwork with guest U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra joined by Sasha Bruce Youth Advisory Council, Sasha Bruce Staff, HHS staff.*



### SWDC Street Light Banners

Digital Art on Vinyl

74" x 36" x 0.25"

\$5,000.00

2025

Public Art

Art in Public Places: Yes

Location: Streets throughout Southwest DC

Public Art Program: SWBID Public Art Program

*These six designs of street light banners celebrate the unique history and culture of Southwest DC.*

## OFFICE OF THE ARTS DIVISION SUMMARY

This summary is a brief narrative of activities and actions that have been taken since the previous Division Update. The Office of the Arts ACA Update is also shared with other Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities commissions and staff and becomes part of the monthly minutes for the Arts Commission. If you have any questions or require additional information/clarification, please review the following section(s) of this report or contact the appropriate staff in the Office of the Arts.

### Highlights

- The relocation of *Brio* to Wythe Street Plaza was completed on time to coordinate with the Alexandria Birthday Celebration on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The fabrication team completed the installation of the steel steles and fence topper at Colasanto Spray Park. The park is scheduled to open in late summer/early fall.

### Public Art At-A-Glance:

| Public Art Project                   | Status                                           |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Colasanto Spray Park                 | Completed!                                       |
| North Potomac Yard Park              | Approving the Contract                           |
| City Hall                            | Developing the Artist Pool                       |
| Ewald Park                           | Approving the Contract                           |
| Powhatan Park                        | Approving the Contract                           |
| City-wide Murals                     | Developing the Artist Pool                       |
| Ramsey Rec Center Mural              | Developing the Artist Pool/Approving the Concept |
| Site See 202?                        | Approving the Contract                           |
| Market Square                        | Setting Project Goals & Parameters               |
| North Circle Park                    | On Hold (artist concept completed)               |
| West End Transitway                  | On Hold (artist concepts completed)              |
| Wilkes Street Park                   | On Hold                                          |
| Del Pepper Community Resource Center | On Hold                                          |

### **Staff Contact Info:**

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## PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

### Colasanto Spray Park

**Lead Agency**

City of Alexandria Park Planning

**Artist**

Béatrice Coron

**Project Scope**

Commission a permanent artwork for redesigned park space and gateway

**Task Force Members**

Beth Znidersic, Amol Deshpande, Bernard Johnson, Gayle Reuter

**Current Status (per project development process)**

Completed!

**Anticipated Completion**

Completed!



### North Potomac Yard Park

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

Jim Benedict & Lily Kuonen

**Project Scope**

Commission permanent public art for the new park in Alexandria's section of National Landing adjacent to Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus

**Task Force Members**

Stacey Becker, David Pritzker, Ben Knapp, Sarah Pascual, Carly Snyder, Christopher Potter, and Daniel Unkel

**Current Status (per project development process)**

Approving the Contract

**Next Steps**

The contract has been routed for signature by the City Manager.

**Anticipated Completion**

TBD





## PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd

### Powhatan Park

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

Davide Prete

**Project Scope**

Commission new, permanent public art to be integrated into the park improvements.

**Task Force Members**

Catherine Dehoney, Alvah Beander, Sara Kohn, Debi Steinbacher, and Daniel Unkel

**Current Status (per project development process)**

Approving the Contract

**Next Steps**

Staff is working with the artists to develop the contract.

**Anticipated Completion**

TBD



### City-wide Murals

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

TBD

**Project Scope**

Develop a roster of mural artists to be considered for various projects over the next three years.

**Task Force Members**

David Pritzker, Brian Kelley, Saya Behnam, Dereth Bush, and Allison Nance

**Current Status (per project development process)**

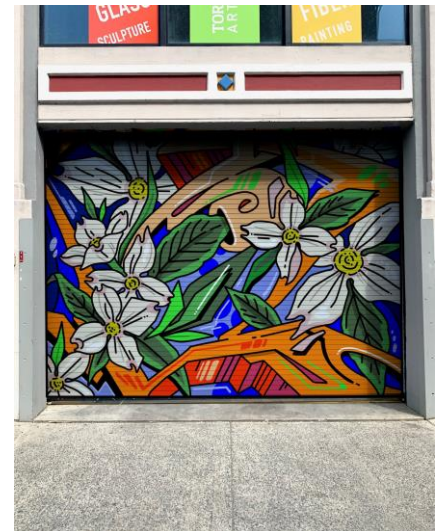
Setting Project Goals and Parameters

**Next Steps**

The task force is reviewing the submitted applications and will bring their recommendation to the Commission in September.

**Anticipated Completion**

Fall, 2026



## **PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd**

### **Ramsey Rec Center Mural**

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

TBD

**Project Scope**

Create and install a new mural at the Ramsey Recreation Center.

**Task Force Members**

Tia Norris, Lauren Miller, Lucresha Murphy-Tate, Laura Durham, Dan Altman, Shawnta Driver, and Ismenia Molina

**Current Status (per project development process)**

Selecting the Artist

**Next Steps**

The task force reviewed the submitted concepts by the selected artists and will bring their recommendation to the Arts Commission in July.

**Anticipated Completion**

September, 2026

### **Site/See: New Views in Old Town 202?**

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

TBD

**Project Scope**

Commission new, temporary, site-specific public art for Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street for a future date to be determined by the flood mitigation construction schedule.

**Task Force Members**

Claire Mouledoux, Clint Mansell, Jack Browand, Chris Kurowski, Nicole McGrew, and Dawn Rogala

**Current Status (per project development process)**

Approving the Contract

**Next Steps**

Staff is working with Matthew Mazzotta on his contract and routing it for signature.

**Anticipated Completion**

TBD

## PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd

### North Circle Park

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

DeWitt Godfrey

**Project Scope**

Commission an artist to develop a concept design for public art at North Circle Park.

**Task Force Members**

Dawn Rogala, Stacey Becker, Tristan Wright, Robert Arzola, and Ana Vicinanzo

**Current Status (per project development process)**

Developing the Concept Proposal

**Next Steps**

The concept design has been completed and approved. Staff will work with departments and divisions to determine when the site will be refurbished so the artwork can be installed.

**Anticipated Completion**

tbd



### Wilkes Street Park

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

Eto Otitigbe

**Project Scope**

Commission permanent public art for the redesigned park

**Task Force Members**

Chris Kurowski, Marcee Craighill, Ana Vicinanzo, Sydney Strickland, and Tanya Quinteros

**Current Status (per project development process)**

Developing the Concept Proposal

**Next Steps**

Construction has begun on the site and staff has met with Planning and Zoning to learn more about the construction schedule. The public art process will resume in early 2026.

**Anticipated Completion**

TBD

## **PUBLIC ART PROJECTS, cont'd**

### **West End Transit Corridor**

**Lead Agency**

Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)

**Artist(s)**

Cara Lynch, Nancy O'Neil, Matthew Geller, Robert Tulley, and Shahin Talishkhan

**Project Scope**

Work with T&ES to integrate new public art into the 18 bus shelters along the transitway

**Task Force Members**

Brian Kelley, Trena Raines, Gus Ardura, Donna Fossum, Reginald Arno, Christopher Zeimann

**Current Status (per project development process)**

On Hold

**Next Steps**

The artists continue to work with the staff and design team to complete their final designs. Staff continues to work with the necessary departments to develop a timeline for installation.

**Anticipated Completion**

Varied (2026-2028)



### **Del Pepper Community Resource Center**

**Lead Agency**

Office of the Arts

**Artist**

TBD

**Project Scope**

Commission an original work of public art for the main lobby and adjoining wings of the Center.

**Task Force Members**

Brian Kelley, Chris Kurowski

**Current Status (per project development process)**

On Hold

**Next Steps**

This project is on hold temporarily while staff work to review the scope of the project.

**Anticipated Completion**

TBD

## Active Public Art Task Forces

### **Public Art Project Task Forces**

Per the Public Art Implementation Plan: “The Commission for the Arts will form an ad hoc Public Art Project Task Force for each project that the Program undertakes. The ad hoc Task Force will convene on an as needed basis to advise on the development of each project. The Task Force will: Advise Office of the Arts staff on the development of Public Art Project Plans and recommend the Plan to the full Commission; Review artist portfolios and recommend selection of an artist to the full Commission; Report to the Commission on its activities on a monthly basis, and; Review artist concepts and recommend approval of concepts to the full Commission.” Below is a list of currently active task forces:

#### **North Potomac Yard Park**

1. Stacey Becker\*
2. David Pritzker\*
3. Daniel Unkel (proj. stakeholder)
4. Ben Knapp (proj. stakeholder)
5. Carly Snyder (proj. stakeholder)
6. Christopher Potter (comm. stakeholder)
7. Sarah Pascual (comm. stakeholder)

#### **Site/See: New Views in Old Town Task Force**

1. Dawn Rogala\*
2. Chris Kurowski\*
3. Jack Browand (proj. stakeholder)
4. Claire Mouledoux (proj. stakeholder)
5. Clint Mansell (comm. stakeholder)
6. Nicole McGrew (comm. stakeholder)

#### **City-wide Murals Task Force**

1. Brian Kelley\*
2. David Pritzker\*
3. Saya Behnam (proj. stakeholder)
4. Dereth Bush (comm. stakeholder)
5. Allison Nance (comm. stakeholder)

#### **Market Square/City Hall Task Force**

1. Alvah Beander\*
2. Scott Abeles\*
3. Jenine Kotob (proj. stakeholder)
4. Leo A Daley Representative (proj. stakeholder)
5. Laurie Axelrod (comm. stakeholder)
6. Candace Edgerley (comm. stakeholder)

#### **Ewald Park Task Force**

1. Brian Kelley\*
2. Trena Raines\*
3. Judy Lo (proj. stakeholder)
4. Qiaojue Wu (proj. stakeholder)
4. Natalie Brown (comm. stakeholder)
5. Asa Orrin-Brown (comm. stakeholder)

#### **Powhatan Park Task Force**

1. Catherine Dehoney\*
2. Alvah Beander\*
3. Daniel Unkle (proj. stakeholder)
4. Sara Kohn (comm. stakeholder)
5. Debi Steinbacher (comm. stakeholder)

#### **Ramsey Rec Center Mural Task Force**

1. Tia Norris\*
2. Lauren Miller\*
3. Lucresha Murphy-Tate (proj. stakeholder)
4. Laura Durham (proj. stakeholder)
5. Dan Altman (comm. Stakeholder)
6. Shawnta Driver (comm. stakeholder)
7. Ismenia Molina (comm. stakeholder)

\*Arts Commissioner

## Public Art Planning & Project Development Process

|                                                   | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Identifying the Project in the Annual Plan</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects are identified in the Public Art Workplan, a document developed annually by the Office of the Arts with input from the Workplan Task Force. The Public Art Workplan is approved by the Arts Commission and by City Council.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Setting Project Goals and Parameters</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once a project has been initiated, the Arts Commission establishes a Public Art Project Task Force specifically for that project.</li> <li>Office of the Arts staff, with input from the Project Task Force, develops a Public Art Project Plan. This plan includes goals, location, timeline and budget; the artist selection process and community engagement process; and a list of internal and external stakeholders for the project.</li> <li>The Project Plan is approved by the Arts Commission.</li> </ul>                           |
| <b>Developing the Artist Pool</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based upon the approved Project Plan, the Office of the Arts develops a pool of artists and collects qualifications for the Project Task Force to review.</li> <li>The pool of artists can be collected through an open competition, pre-qualified artist list, curatorial process or invitational.</li> <li>Artist qualifications generally include a cover letter from the artist expressing their interest in the project, a resume, and examples from the artist's portfolio with a corresponding description of each project.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Selecting the Finalists</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project Task Force reviews artist qualifications based on criteria outlined in the approved Project Plan.</li> <li>Depending on the process in the approved Project Plan, the Project Task Force can select a single artist based upon qualifications, or a small number of finalists (generally three to five).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Selecting the Artist</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If finalists are selected, they may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paid a stipend to develop a concept proposal and present that proposal to the Project Task Force.</li> <li>Interviewed by the Project Task Force.</li> <li>A combination of the above.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Project Task Force recommends selection of an artist to the Arts Commission based upon the Concept Proposal and/or interview.</li> </ul>                                                                                                       |
| <b>Approving the Contract</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of the Arts develops a contract agreement with the artist.</li> <li>The agreement is approved by the City Manager or City Council, depending on the size of the contract.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Approving the Concept Proposal</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The selected artist develops a Concept Proposal, if that was not a part of the artist selection phase.</li> <li>The Office of the Arts facilitates community engagement conducted by the artist as part of their process of developing a Concept Proposal.</li> <li>The Project Task Force reviews the Concept Proposal and recommends it to the Arts Commission for approval.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Approving Final Design</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of Arts conducts a review of the final design documentation provided by the artist for both technical considerations and to ensure it is in conformity with the approved concept proposal.</li> <li>The Office of the Arts facilitates technical reviews by other City staff as required.</li> <li>The Office of the Arts signs off on the Final Design.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Fabrication</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In most cases, the artist is responsible for fabrication. The Office of the Arts monitors fabrication to ensure it is on schedule and in conformity with the approved design.</li> <li>In some cases, the Office of the Arts will play a more direct role in overseeing the fabrication of artwork, with the artist acting in an advisory role.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Installation</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Office of the Arts works with the artist, relevant City Departments, and other stakeholders to schedule and facilitate installation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**ARTICLE K - Alexandria Commission for the Arts<sup>11</sup>**

- **Sec. 2-4-90 - Creation, composition and organization.**

- (a) There is hereby established a standing commission known as the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.
- (b) The commission shall consist of 16 members to be appointed by the city council. The composition of the commission shall be as follows:
  - (1) four members shall have expertise in the arts, including, but not limited to, arts educators, professional practitioners of various art disciplines and professional administrators working in the arts;
  - (2) three members shall have specific expertise in visual arts either as professional practitioners of visual art, curators of visual art, or as professional arts administrators currently working in the field;
  - (3) three members shall represent the public at large, as arts consumers or participants;
  - (4) three members shall be professionals in fields relevant to arts and cultural development, including cultural planning, marketing, finance, funding, tourism, promotion, non profit organizational development, and real estate development;
  - (5) two members shall be professionals in the field related to the visual appearance of the cityscape, such as architecture, environmental design, landscape architecture or urban design; and
  - (6) one member shall be a student who resides in the city and attends a high school located in the City of Alexandria.
- (c) Members of the commission shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by article A of this chapter. The members shall serve for a term of three years, except in the case of an appointment to fill the unexpired portion of a term. (Ord. No. 3782, 2/25/95, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4482, 5/12/07, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4920, 1/24/15, Sec. 1)

- **Sec. 2-4-91 - Function; powers; duties.**

- (a) The functions of the commission shall be as follows:
  - (1) to advise city council with regard to policies that will strengthen the arts and further public access to the arts and cultural matters identified by the city council;
  - (2) to establish and periodically review criteria and standards for arts grant applications for city funds and accountability for the use of such funds; the allocation from such funds to eligible organizations and activities as may be appropriated by the city council for such purpose;
  - (3) to review the public art annual work plan as developed by the office of the arts and a work plan task force and make recommendations to the city council as part of the budget process;
  - (4) to review and approve public art project plans for specific public art projects, and to review and approve artist selection and concept development;
  - (5) to create committees and task forces, as necessary, to focus on public art project development and artist selection;
  - (6) to review proposals for donations of public art and commemorative art and make recommendations to the city council;

- (7) to collaborate with the office of the art on public art project evaluations; and
  - (8) to support public communication and outreach as related to the arts and;
  - (9) to serve as citizen liaisons to city planning initiatives when public art is involved.
- (b) The commission is empowered to adopt rules and regulations in regard to procedure and other matters so long as the same are not inconsistent with the city code, including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees, through which to carry on its functions and purpose.
- (c) A commission chair, vice-chair and secretary shall be elected annually by the commission members at the organization meeting designated in the commission's bylaws. (Ord. No. 3782, 2/25/95, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4482, 5/12/07, Sec. 1; Ord. No. 4920, 1/24/15, Sec. 1)