Public Art in Region 6W.
A blueprint to create great public art projects in Region 6W.
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Overall Vision for Regional Public Art

Great public art will be created throughout our five-county region that will engage the residents of our communities.

Steps to consider for your community:

1. Engage public with art.
2. Connect with city needs
3. Involve great artists

Define Public Art

Sample definition:
Public art has the following elements:
- An original work of art
- Placed in a publicly accessible location
- Created with the intention of reflecting and engaging the community

Public art can take a variety of forms and media; it may have functional as well as aesthetic qualities; it may be integrated into its site, or it may be a discrete piece.

From Burlington's Master Plan

What is your definition of public art?

Possible Funding

Grants:
- Southwest Arts and Humanities Council (SMAHC) Grant
- Forecast Public Art Grant
- Springboard for the Arts
- State Arts Board Grant
- Community Grants
- and many more

Find ways to create dialogue and understanding with the public on these topics to create the context that whether or not the public art is "liked" does not matter; it matters if it engages the public and individuals.

Hold public meetings and communicate that commission meetings are open to the public.

Utilize positive support network to engage in public art conversations and write letters to the editor.

Connect with artists.
Grants are available to pay artists to submit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and/or Request for proposals (RFP).

Find funding for project. Include cost of maintenance for future years.

With a coalition of your positive support + keeping the public involved, you will create a public art project that will leave a legacy!
Regional Project Next Steps:
• Seek funding to continue planning work.
• Create a facebook page or interactive web presence to continue this discussion and get feedback.
• Encourage cities to work on their own projects and offer support and resources.

Funding is needed to coordinate the following:

Organize regional public art commission meetings. This group would be volunteers for our communities as well as those appointed by city councils to represent their community. A variety of people including artists, residents and public officials should sit on this commission. We already have a focus group that has started this discussion and would like to continue to work on a project.

Inventory the public art our region.

Define public art and why public art matters. We will define how it improves quality of life and shows that people care about their community.

Define goals/strategies. We will decide what we want public art to accomplish in our region over a long period of time. We will decide what we want this specific project to accomplish.

Create a method of communicating progress of public art projects to city/county governments and the public.
• The public art commission members should report back to their communities regularly. Minutes of our meetings or updates of our project should be given to city and county governments.
• Hold public meetings to get input, or use other methods of engaging the public.
• Find ways to create dialogue and understanding with the public on these topics to create the understanding of 1) why money is being spent on art, 2) how the art fits with the town’s brand (brand may need to be identified) and 3) that whether or not the public art is “liked” does not matter; it matters if it engages the public and individuals.
• Measure, nurture and utilize positive support network to engage in public art conversations and write letters to the editor.

Connect with artists. Grants are available to pay artists to submit a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and/or Request for proposals (RFP).

Find funding for project. Include cost of maintence for future years.

Our hope is to create a regional public art project that engages the public, inspires minds, addresses a common city need, and leaves a legacy to our region!

Find a project for the region. Brainstorming:
• Lots of little projects. Art everywhere!
• Regional Art Hub - there is so much art in our region. We can challenge to each other’s towns to create more art!
• Regional Sculpture Park - temp sculptures rotate throughout the region and along trails.
• Logo with art throughout the region. iD the town. Brand with art. (same sculpture design but each town creates unique sign using that design.)
• A Year of Art with things like sidewalk chalk contest (video and photos to keep it alive), decorate recycle bin, etc.
• Interactive art - post it notes, chalk board, blog, survey. Show potential art projects to the public.
• Bike art : Decorate bikes that can then be available to the community.
• Mosaics in each town (Barcelona of MN).
• Public art for Meander weekend (could be temporary).
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