

2016 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

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50	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Explore expanding the 1% for Art Program by eliminating exclusions.

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Harrell; Licata; O'Brien; Okamoto

Staff Analyst: Frank Video

Date		Total	SB	BH	JO	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Executive and the Seattle Arts Commission together explore the possibility of expanding the City's 1% for Art Program by removing current exclusions, thereby increasing the number of eligible projects currently allowed, and to report their findings.

Background

Considered one of the most successful public art programs in the country, Seattle's 1% for Art Program integrates artworks and the ideas of artists into a variety of public settings, advancing Seattle's reputation as a cultural center for innovation and creativity.

The Program specifies that 1% of eligible city capital improvement project funds be set aside for the commission, purchase and installation of artworks in a variety of settings. By providing opportunities for individuals to encounter art in parks, libraries, community centers, on roadways, bridges and other public venues, we both enrich our urban landscape and empower working artists.

Development in Seattle has grown significantly since its 1% for Art Program was instituted in 1973. The program has never seen an increase in its percent allocation.

The City's public art collection includes more than 400 permanently sited and integrated works and nearly 3,000 portable works, commissioned through a public process of selection panels comprised of professional visual artists and community and city representatives.

The Department of Finance and Administrative Services defines several categories of projects that are ineligible to participate in the City's 1% for Art Program, such as projects outside City limits, major maintenance, and in-kind replacement projects.

Rather than proposing a percentage increase to the current 1% for Art Program, this proposal is to assess the viability of expanding eligible projects beginning with the 2021 CIP.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Finance and Culture

Date Due to Council: September 19, 2016.