

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Committee on Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development & Arts  
**From:** Asha Venkataraman, Council Central Staff  
**Date:** July 14, 2016  
**Subject:** Amendment regarding the Municipal Arts Fund

---

The Office of Arts and Culture (Arts) transmitted legislation for the Committee on Civil Rights, Economic Development, Utilities & Arts to consider at its July 22 meeting. This legislation would amend Section 20.32.050 of the Seattle Municipal Code to allow expenditures for maintenance of public art directly from the Municipal Arts Fund (MAF). This legislation also clears the way for Arts to operationalize funding decisions consistent with the 2016 Adopted Budget.

Until this year's budget, the Council appropriated public art from the Cumulative Reserve Subfund – Unrestricted Budget Control Level (CRS-U). The 2016 Adopted Budget moved the appropriation for maintenance of public arts from the CRS-U, which is accounted for outside of the Arts budget, to the MAF, which is accounted for within the Arts budget, and assumed a contribution from the CRS-U to the MAF. The change was intended to more accurately reflect revenues and expenditures for Arts work and allow better accounting of the Arts budget.

Because the current SMC specifically prohibits using MAF funds for maintenance of City-owned artwork and specifies that maintenance costs come from another source, this bill proposes amendments to the language of the SMC to implement the change outlined in the 2016 Adopted Budget.

cc: Kirstan Arestad, Central Staff Executive Director  
Dan Eder, Central Staff Deputy Director