



Civic Arts Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR  
October 28, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Civic Arts Commission  
 Submitted by: Cameron Woo, Chairperson, Civic Arts Commission  
 Subject: Fiscal Year 2026 Public Art Budget

INTRODUCTION

Attached is the City of Berkeley's Public Art Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). The Civic Arts Commission-approved FY26 Public Art Budget will guide the City's public art investments and project management for the upcoming fiscal year, implemented by the Office of Economic Development's Civic Arts Program, in collaboration with other City departments, consultant teams, commissioned artists, project stakeholders, and communities.

The FY26 Public Art Budget was adopted by the Civic Arts Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 25, 2025, as follows: M/S/C (Blecher/Woo) to approve FY26 Public Art Budget. Vote: Ayes — Bachrach, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Montgomery, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Pineda, Scott. In this fiscal year, the Civic Arts Commission has prioritized ensuring adequate funding for current public art projects underway, completion of the current multiyear and not yet started public art projects identified in previous fiscal years, and conducting a *Public Art Strategic Plan* before initiating new public art projects.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The annual budget for public art projects is approved by the Civic Arts Commission every fiscal year. The approved Public Art Budget for FY26 pertains to funding for public art projects located in two distinct funds: Fund 148 (Cultural Trust Fund); and Fund 150 (Public Art Fund):

*Fund 148: Cultural Trust Fund Budget for FY26* (Attachment 1) includes a total of \$2,860,919 to be used for public art. The City's Percentage for Public Art on Private Projects Ordinance (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 23.316, established in 2016) generates in-lieu fees from private development to the Cultural Trust Fund (Fund 148) valued at 0.8% of a private development's construction costs for any of the following: new multifamily residential projects of five or more dwelling units; new commercial structures; new industrial structures; and all construction of building additions exceeding 10,000 square feet. This budget includes committed and uncommitted rollover of the

FY25 Cultural Trust Fund balance (\$2,243,397) and the sum of any new funds (\$617,522) collected in the prior fiscal year for inclusion in the FY26 budget.

The Cultural Trust Fund Budget contains projected expenditures totaling \$2,860,919 including, but not limited to:

- Commissioning artwork for Santa Fe Railroad Right of Way;
- Pilot Utility Box Mural Program;
- Completion of Mosaic artwork for Aquatic Park; and
- Artwork exhibitions in the City's "Cube Space" gallery in the Center Street Garage.

The budget includes artwork conservation contracts to maintain and repair public art owned by the City; administration funds set-aside; and a contingency amount for use during the implementation of the FY26 projects. The FY26 budget also includes funds for a *Public Art Strategic Plan* for the City of Berkeley which will commence in late 2025. This planning process will garner input from the community and other stakeholders in order to develop a framework to evaluate how new public art projects are funded and a recommended process to evaluate the funding of community-initiated public art projects. Any unspent funds from the FY26 budget will be carried forward and available for public art in FY27.

*Fund 150: Public Art Fund Budget for FY26 (Attachment 2)* includes a total of \$527,202 to be used for public art based upon eligible municipal construction projects in the Capital Improvement Budgets from FY23 through FY25. The City's Appropriation for Public Art for Municipal Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Ordinance (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.13, established in 2022) requires that 1.75% of the estimated cost of construction of City capital improvement projects are reserved for public art for integration on-site within the CIP project or for publicly accessible City-owned sites. For large City CIP projects with substantial art set-aside amounts, onsite public art is typically integrated into the overall project. For smaller CIP projects, the arts funds are typically aggregated for deposit into the Public Art Fund. Funds may be expended on public art at any appropriate site within the City. Funds from two or more CIP projects may be pooled to fund a single work of art. Funds may be used for permanent or temporary public art. Per BMC Chapter 6.14, the Civic Art Commission makes the final determination on publicly-accessible sites for art funded through this policy. Per BMC Chapter 6.13, the Civic Arts Commission shall supervise and control the expenditure of all funds appropriated for public art.

The Public Art Fund Budget contains projected expenditures totaling \$527,202 including, but not limited to:

- Installation of the William Wareham sculpture at the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza;

- Public Art for Telegraph Avenue; and
- City flag project.

The budget also includes artwork conservation funds to maintain and repair public art owned by the City; administration funds set-aside; and a contingency amount for use during the implementation of the FY26 projects. Any unspent funds from the FY26 Public Art Fund Budget will be carried forward and available for public art in FY27.

### BACKGROUND

The City's public art funding policies require the Civic Arts Commission to develop an annual budget for public art projects. The Public Art on Private Development policy also requires a regular annual public process for deciding how the Cultural Trust Funds will be allocated in accordance with the priorities of the Arts and Cultural Plan, following the Guidelines for Public Art in the City of Berkeley. Each year, Civic Arts staff works with the Civic Arts Commission's Public Art Subcommittee and other City departments to develop these budgets simultaneously.

Last fiscal year (FY25), the Civic Arts Program implemented a portfolio of public art projects valued at \$696,808 with funds allocated in the FY25 Public Art Program budgets. Those projects included:

- Completed the commissioning and installation of 76 framed works by photographer Lara Kaur and organized an unveiling event at the West Berkeley Family Wellness Center Open House (June 27, 2025).
- Finalized the design and construction approval of a mosaic artwork by Julie W. Chang and coordinated artwork proposal display as part of the Willard Park Clubhouse ribbon cutting and open house (June 25, 2025).
- Completed the purchase and installation of 24 framed works by Bay Area artists curated by Kala Art Institute and installed new artwork signage at 2180 Milvia Street and 1947 Center Street (June 16, 2025).
- Issued a nationwide RFQ and selected artist Sorell Raino Tsui for the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center/Young Adult Project public art commission at Grove Park.
- Developed an approved Project Plan for two free-standing public art structures as part of the Santa Fe Trackbed-to-Park conversion.
- Executed a contract with artist Masako Miki for a public art installation at the Aquatic Park pathway wall.
- Presented four quarterly exhibitions featuring emerging and mid-career Bay Area artists at the Cube Space gallery (2010 Addison Street).
- Issued a nationwide RFP for a *Public Art Program Strategic Plan* and received twelve proposals.

- Performed ongoing maintenance of the City’s Public Art Collection, including restoration of *Mak Roote*, a collaborative work by John Wehrle and poet Betsy Davids at the Berkeley Amtrak Station.
- Completed the restoration of the “*World Wall for Peace*” in conjunction with the Civic Center Upper Plaza Improvements (Reopened August 21, 2025).
- Across these projects, the Public Art Program received 283 RFQ responses, collected 1,204 public input surveys, engaged 33 community stakeholders, and remunerated 38 artists.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the content of this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The budgets include likely future expenditures on potential public art projects in the City. The Civic Arts Commission may make modifications to this budget over the course of the fiscal year as additional needs and funding opportunities arise.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

All future public art revenues and expenditures will be tracked and accounted for. If necessary, an additional Information Report will be submitted to the City Council.

CONTACT PERSON

Jennifer Lovvorn, Secretary, Civic Arts Commission, 981-7533

Attachments:

- 1: Fund 148 Public Art Budget for FY 2026
- 2: Fund 150 Public Art Budget for FY 2026

PUBLIC ART ON PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS BUDGET - FY26			Budget
Fund 148 (Cultural Trust Fund)			
Approved at June 25, 2025 Civic Arts Commission meeting			
FY26 FUNDING			Amount
1	FY25 Carryforward Total Balance		\$2,243,397.30
2	FY25 "Art" Carry Forward Balance	\$131,710.62	
3	Art Committed Carryforward from FY25	\$1,611,454.56	
4	FY25 "Administration" Carry Forward Balance	\$459,201.35	
5	Admin Encumbrance Carry Forward from FY25	\$0.00	
6	FY25 "Conservation" Carry Forward Balance	\$41,030.77	
7	Conservation Encumbrance Carry Forward from FY25	\$0.00	
8	In-Lieu Payments for FY26		\$552,576.42
9	2127 Dwight (2127-2159)	\$125,476.26	
10	3030 TELEGRAPH	\$156,056.16	
12	2538 Durant	\$132,000.00	
13	2587 Telegraph	\$139,044.00	
14	Bayer Community Benefit Payment for FY26	148-21-208-252-0000-000-000-441310-	\$64,946.00
15	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY26</b>		<b>\$2,860,919.72</b>
PUBLIC ART FUND ADMINISTRATION FUNDING			Available Funding
16	FY26 Available Admin Funding	\$582,705.83	Budget
17	Projected Admin Costs FY26 (CAC)		\$116,780.00
18	Encumbrance Carryforward: Jeremy Kaplan	Admin	\$2,948.53
19	Encumbrance Carryforward: Chandra Cerrito	Admin	\$30,000.00
20	Cube Space Curator: Kevin Chen	Admin	\$11,200.00
21	Public Art Coordination Services	Admin	\$100,000.00
22	Unallocated Admin in FY26	Carryforward to FY27	\$321,777.30
23	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$582,705.83</b>
FY26 BUDGET PROJECTS			
CONSERVATION PROJECTS			Budget
24	FY26 Available Conservation Funding	\$102,783.01	
25	Preservation Arts New Encumbrance	As-Needed Services - Conservation	\$47,500.00
26	ARG Conservation New Encumbrance	As-Needed Services - Conservation	\$47,500.00
27	Wehrle graffiti abatement	Routine Graffiti Abatement	\$6,400.00
28	Unallocated Available Funds in FY26		\$1,383.01
29	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$102,783.01</b>
ART PROJECTS			Budget
30	FY26 Available Art Funding	\$2,175,430.87	
31	CUBE SPACE		
32	Cube Space Artist Fees	2000 x 4	\$8,000.00
33	Cube Space Signage	450 x 4	\$1,800.00
34	Cube Space Photography	500 x 5	\$2,000.00
35	Cube Space Window Cleaning	400 x 4	\$1,600.00
36	GENERAL PUBLIC ART COSTS		
37	Photography of public art projects		\$25,000.00
38	Graphic Design (Exhibition Announcements + Signage)		\$15,000.00
39	Installers Collections and Signage		\$10,000.00
40	Gizmo Art Productions New Encumbrance	As-Needed Services - Art Fabrication and Installation	\$200,000.00
41	Turtle Island Monument	Reserve for Potential Project Implementation	\$300,000.00
42	Contingency and unallocated		\$576.31
43	Carryforward Projects (Budgeted and started in FY25)		
44	Aquatic Park Tile	Masako Miki Contract (budget install in FY26)	\$47,000.00
45	Wang Po Shu - Earthsong Bell Sign		\$15,454.56
46	Jean LaMarr Project at Ohlone Park	Artist design contract	\$12,000.00
47	Fabrication of Jean LaMarr artwork elements	Fabricated through as-needed contract (\$105,000)	
48	Santa Fe Railroad Right of Way	Panelist fees and artist proposal fees and travel	\$15,000.00
49	Santa Fe Railroad Right of Way	Artist contract	\$150,000.00
50	Add funds to Measure T1 Artworks		
51	MLK Youth Service Center	Funds from 148 to augment Measure T-1 Funds	\$337,000.00
52	African American Health Resource Center	Funds from 148 to augment Measure T-1 Funds	\$150,000.00
53	South Berkeley Senior Center	Funds from 148 to augment Measure T-1 Funds	\$150,000.00
54	Public Art Strategic Plan Consultant		\$110,000.00
55	Dona Spring Memorial		\$150,000.00
56	Aquatic Park Sculpture New Selection Process		\$15,000.00
57	Aquatic Park Sculpture		\$400,000.00
58	Utility Box Mural Program (Pilot Reboot)		\$60,000.00
59	Other Projects from Work Plan (Not Yet Started or Budgeted)		
60	Hidden Gems (Berkeley pathways and stairs)	\$175,000.00	\$0.00
61	BLM Mural on Gilman on BART column	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
62	Harrison Street Artwork	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
63	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,175,430.87</b>
64	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,860,919.72</b>

PUBLIC ART FUND BUDGET - FY26			Budget
Fund 150 (Public Art Fund)			
Approved at June 25, 2025 Civic Arts Commission meeting			
FY26 FUNDING			Amount
1	FY25 Carryforward Total Balance		\$66,192.41
2	FY25 "Art" Carry Forward Balance	\$19,121.64	
3	FY25 "Administration" Carry Forward Balance	\$ 26,138.14	
4	FY25 "Conservation" Carry Forward Balance	\$ 15,432.63	
5	Committed Carried Forward from FY25	\$5,500.00	
6	FY26 Total Allocations		\$461,009.65
7	FY26 PW 1.75% Allocation (Annual Capital Budget June 2024)	\$137,288.00	
8	FY26 1.75% Allocation (Annual Capital Budget June 2024)	\$75,993.75	
9	FY23 & FY24 PW Transfer from Fund 501 to Fund 150 posted March 2025	\$192,541.05	
10	FY24 PRW Transfer from Fund 138 to Fund 150 posted March 2025	\$ 55,186.85	
11	PW Reconciliation FY25 1.75% Allocation	TBD	
12	PRW Reconciliation FY25 1.75% Allocation	TBD	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FY26</b>			<b>\$527,202.05</b>
FY26 BUDGET EXPENSES			Budget
PUBLIC ART FUND ADMINISTRATION FUNDING		Available Funding	Budget
13	FY26 Available Admin Funding	\$118,340.07	
14	Projected Admin Costs FY26		\$49,030.43
15	Unallocated Admin Funds carry forward to FY27		\$ 69,309.64
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ 118,340.07</b>
CONSERVATION PROJECTS		Available Funding	Budget
16	FY26 Available Conservation Funding	\$61,533.59	
17	Unallocated Conservation Funds in FY26	If not used, will carry forward to next year	\$ 61,533.59
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ 61,533.59</b>
ART PROJECTS			
18	FY26 Available Art Funding	\$347,328.39	
19	BART Plaza Ambient Sound Installation Commission	Spiritual Technologies (4 +\$1,500 video + \$1,500 travel)	\$ 7,000.00
20	James McKee encumbrance carryforward	Sound Contract - \$1500 still encumbered	\$ 1,500.00
21	BART Plaza Sound Compositions	2 sound installations at \$5,000/each - Contract for 2 in FY26	\$ 10,000.00
22	BART Plaza Artwork Plaques	3 signs at \$200 ea.	\$ 600.00
23	BART Plaza Sound Installations Technician	Technical Assistance with System/Component Replacement	\$ 50,000.00
24	Xian contract carryforward	Home Sculpture Removal - Transport	\$ 4,000.00
25	Collection Signage Program		\$ 30,000.00
<b>Other Projects from Work Plan (Not Yet Started)</b>			
26	Council Referral for City Flag	Estimate	\$ 25,000.00
27	Telegraph Ave crosswalk/street murals		\$25,000.00
28	Telegraph Ave Art Plan		\$125,000.00
29	Contingency Unallocated Art Funds in FY26	If not used, will carry forward to next year	\$ 69,228.39
<b>30 Subtotal</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ 347,328.39</b>
<b>31 Total Budget</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ 527,202.05</b>