

# STAFF REPORT

For Meeting of Oct. 26, 2015

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item #

NO. 2015-

**SUBJECT:**  
Public Art Plan

## Subject

Development of a Public Art Plan was a specific task assigned to the Community Enhancement Committee. The CEC is seeking re-commitment by the Council on this task before beginning work.

## Summary and Background

The City Council directed the CEC to develop a Public Art Plan as one of the five specific tasks assigned to the group in the Spring of 2014. Public Art Plans can vary dramatically in scope and intent. Also, many of the example art plans which staff found are in communities which already have a long history of arts programming.

The CEC's recommendation for the most logical step toward increasing the availability of art in the community is to develop a very limited Public Art Plan which is modeled off of one component of Moscow, Idaho's Public Art Plan. Hermiston's plan would simply define what "Public Art" is and the intention behind the plan, engage the public through a process to identify generally what "focus areas" should the City focus on and to generally identify what types of art would be appropriate to locate in those focus areas. Finally, the plan would establish specific policies regarding the ownership, potential acquisition, maintenance responsibilities, and potential disposal/removal of Public Art.

An example of how the "focus area" process would work is to solicit public input on the best areas to place public art, and then inside of those areas, what general types of art make sense. The resulting statements in the Art Plan would look approximately like, "somewhere in the first two blocks of Imaginary Street, beneficial Public Art could include installation of decorative bike racks, artistic benches, and/or pedestals for rotating art." The process for actual funding, selection, and specific placement of actual art would be addressed in the companion policies.

City Staff lacks the time and expertise to properly develop this plan fully in-house. Staff recommends hiring a specialist on a limited-duration contract to assist on the three main work tasks outlined above. Mostly this contractor will help facilitate public involvement, and actually write the plan.

## Fiscal Information

An application has already been filed for an "Arts Build Communities" grant from the State to fund 50% of this project. The requested grant amount is \$4,500. The City match would be \$4,500 out of pocket. The use of existing City staff resources to help oversee and manage this process is estimated at approximately \$4,000.

**City of Hermiston**

## Alternatives and Recommendation

### Alternatives

1. Motion to support development of the Art Plan as outlined.
2. Motion to support development of the Art Plan contingent on grant funding.
3. Motion to direct the CEC to stop work on creating an Art Plan.

### Recommendation

Motion to support development of the Art Plan as outlined.

### Requested Action/Motion

Motion to support development of the Art Plan as outlined.

**Department Head-** Mark Morgan, Assistant City Manager



**City Manager Approval-** Byron Smith, City Manager

