

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin initially adopted an Art in Public Places (AIPP) ordinance in 1985 to direct the inclusion of works of art in construction projects in order to expand the experience of the citizens of Austin with visual art and to stimulate the vitality and economy of the City while enhancing Austin's standing as a national leader in the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the AIPP program to commission art for public spaces and to provide professional opportunities for local artists and fabricators to continue to live and thrive in Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin Arts Commission approved Recommendation No. 20230123-10 recommending that AIPP be included in public-private partnership (P3) projects led by the City where an alternative project delivery process is used and construction costs are valued at \$200,000 or more; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is increasingly using the P3 delivery method for developing public facilities and has been actively seeking to develop public real estate assets with private partners to achieve a broad range of community benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, some P3 mixed-use developments may include affordable housing that would, under the current ordinance, be considered part of the construction cost calculation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin is currently in the process of developing numerous capital projects, including a new convention center, an airport expansion, and numerous additional facilities for the proposed 2026 general obligation bond program; and

26           **WHEREAS**, because renovation projects may involve the relocation,  
27 conservation, storage and re-installation of existing public art, greater flexibility  
28 may be required for the use of AIPP funds; and

29           **WHEREAS**, exemptions for P3 developments that seek to provide  
30 alternative delivery of a public art component that meets or exceeds the standards  
31 of the City's program are currently administered in an ad hoc manner, but would  
32 benefit from a systematic process for evaluation; and

33           **WHEREAS**, other public entities, including the University of Texas  
34 Landmarks program, employ a curatorial model of project selection and  
35 installation that may be well-suited to the City's needs; and

36           **WHEREAS**, several barriers to participation in the AIPP program have  
37 been highlighted by local artists who may not be able to fulfill multi-year  
38 maintenance requirements without further support; and

39           **WHEREAS**, several cherished public artworks, such as murals, exist on  
40 private property but there is no current City program to assist in the creation,  
41 maintenance or preservation of these public artworks; **NOW THEREFORE,**

42           **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

43           The City Manager is directed to review Chapter 7-2 (*Art in Public Places*)  
44 and associated program guidelines and present recommended changes to the Arts  
45 Commission and Council's Economic Opportunity Committee and then to Council.  
46 The recommended changes should achieve the following:

- Include public-private partnership capital projects while exempting affordable housing costs, where applicable, and provide a process for alternative compliance that meets or exceeds City standards;
- Allow flexibility for the use of funds for maintenance, relocation, conservation, storage, deaccession, and re-installation of artwork;
- Allow greater flexibility for the use of funds in the nearby vicinity of projects, if it improves public visibility and engagement;
- Allow the solicitation of curatorial services as a delivery model for major projects; and
- Address potential obstacles to local participation by artists and fabricators.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

After Council approves the recommendations above, the City Manager is directed to provide notice prior to execution of a contract for public art that clearly explains the rights and responsibilities of the commissioned artist. This notice should include information on processes for potential deaccession, relocation, or maintenance of artwork.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to explore opportunities to support funding and other assistance for the creation, maintenance, or preservation of artwork, such as murals, that enhance public spaces but are presented on private property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City Manager is directed to report back to Council by July 18, 2025, with a status report on the recommendations requested by this resolution, including any identified budget needs to implement the recommendations.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Myrna Rios  
City Clerk