



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS INITIATIVE (CPPI) PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

To expand the relationships of all its diverse communities and preserve the City of Fort Worth’s significant investment in public art, various forms of engagement must be explored. The Community Partnership Projects Initiative (CPPI) is built on a model that fosters community-based partnership opportunities for nominating sites associated with capital improvement projects for permanent public art. Such collaborations between the city and communities, non-profit organizations, and/or philanthropic foundations, not only leverage resources and expertise, but can also provide additional funding, and support in community engagement efforts that surpass what the Fort Worth Public Art Program (FWPA) program is able to accomplish.

Historical Context

Since its establishment in 2021, FWPA has been committed to developing creative public art projects throughout the city. Through various opportunities, residents are encouraged to actively engage in the public art process. Since 2022, the City of Fort Worth has contracted with Arts Fort Worth to manage the program. The FWPA Master Plan Update recommended that development of Project Core Teams made up of 5 – 7 community members to assist with project planning, artist selection, design review and artwork dedication events. While the location for public art projects is now limited to bond-funded projects recommended by the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) and adopted by City Council, by, there are several examples of community-nominated projects made possible through other forms of funding.

Prior to FWPA’s inception, the city’s first community-nominated project was initiated through a partnership with a group of citizens known as the Vaquero Committee, who wanted to pay homage to the economic and cultural contributions of the Mexican cattle-herders whose traditions gave rise to western cowboys as we know them today. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Fort Worth, the Vaquero Committee agreed to raise matching funds with the non-profit organization, Artes de la Rosa, acting as its fiscal agent, to enable the City to commission the equestrian bronze sculpture. Today, the Vaquero de Fort Worth, installed in 2012 on North Main Street, is a landmark seen by countless residents and visitors to the historic Northside.

In 2008, FWPA launched its first community-nominated initiative, Community ID: Public Art in Neighborhoods (CID), which enabled community groups to apply for a public art project at a nearby city-owned property. The goal of CID was to facilitate public art “throughout the city, in all of its districts, reinforcing the unique strength and character of neighborhoods”. Funding from the City’s Water and Sewer Fund annual 2% public art allocation allowed the FWAC to recommend new public art projects, free from the geographical restrictions associated with bond programs. In Fiscal Year 2012, after awarding one public art project in each of the city’s eight Council Districts, CID was paused to evaluate its effectiveness. However, in 2016, City Council adopted an amendment to the FWPA Ordinance that discontinued the annual 2% public art funding that had supported the CID program.

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Since the culmination of the CID initiative, FWPA has received various inquiries from citizens throughout the city requesting projects that serve a specific purpose, including commemorations. In review of the FWPA program’s history with community-nominated projects and consideration of the challenges created through bond funding for public art projects, not only are locations limited, but also are possibilities for investing in sustainable community engagement efforts and effective collaboration beyond the installation and dedication of an artwork.

To provide for such opportunities, the FWAC recommended the “Public Art Plan for the 2022 Bond Program” set aside \$500,000 in Proposition A (Streets & Mobility Infrastructure) to commission public artworks through a new initiative called “Community Partnership Projects Initiative (CPPI)”. The City Council adopted the plan on November 29, 2022 (M&C 22-0935), with the understanding that the FWAC would recommend project criteria, selection process, and funding match to City Council prior to implementation.

On April 17, 2023, the FWAC adopted a Resolution to appoint a CPPI Planning Committee composed of three Art Commissioners (Estrus Tucker, James Talambas, and Dr. Jennifer Brooks) and two community members (Johnica Rivers, and Cecilia N. Sánchez Hill) to develop draft guidelines, including project criteria, applicant eligibility, required submission materials, required funding percentage match, and application review panel composition, as well as a policy for commemorative projects.*

The CPPI Committee’s recommendations outlined below are based on review of the CID Initiative, research from publications on community partnerships and creative placemaking, and programs with similar goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Goals

- To promote processes rooted in collaboration, communication, and community engagement.
- To foster the development of meaningful public art projects through building authentic and strong partnerships between the City of Fort Worth through its Fort Worth Public Art program, artists, community groups and other non-profit entities, and organizations.
- To elevate voices of historically underserved communities.
- To center projects around education and programming as a platform for creative placemaking¹ and community building during the project and beyond.

CPPI Approach

While projects developed through CPPI will follow the public art process outlined in the Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan Update of 2017, CPPI offers a uniquely collaborative process for the creation of permanent public artworks that are inspired by community vision and ongoing development of creative places, through education and continual community interaction. These public art projects will be distinctively characterized through three major aspects: (1) Community Vision, (2) City and Partner Financial Investment, and (3) Ongoing Activation. Each feature acts as the foundation for developing expectations, ownership, and commitment to each project:

¹ Creative placemaking projects have community participation at the core of their model and activate spaces and integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities. Creative placemaking requires partnerships across sectors, engages the community, involves artists, designers, and culture bearers, and helps to advance local economic, physical, and/or social change, ultimately laying the groundwork for systems change.

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- **Community Vision** – CPPI fosters deeper community engagement opportunities throughout the process. The community engagement stages and responsibilities for Arts Fort Worth (FWPA) Staff and the awarded applicant partners are as follows:
 - **Arts Fort Worth (FWPA) Staff**
 - Prior to CPPI Launch: A Focus Group made up of nonprofit and community organization representatives will be engaged to provide input on the application process.
 - During CPPI Launch: Application Information Sessions (in-person and virtual) will be conducted to introduce interested groups to the application process. Attendance at one session is mandatory.
 - After Project Awarded: A Project Core Team will be established that includes representatives of the partner organization and the community to participate in project goal setting, artist selection, and artwork design reviews.
 - **Awarded Partners:**
 - Before Application Submitted: Applicants must conduct community outreach to ensure support for their overall vision ahead of application submission.
 - After Project Awarded and Artist Selection: Partners will lead education engagement efforts with their communities. This may include hosting and developing platforms where the community can learn about creative placemaking through workshops or training.
 - After Artwork Installation: It will be important for partners and their communities to maintain continual community connection. This will be done through planning and participating in an artwork dedication event and developing future placemaking opportunities.
- **City and Partner Financial Investment** – It is anticipated that two (2) CPPI projects will be awarded, with a city-funded public art budget of \$250,000.00 each. In addition, the Partners are required to provide a cash match of at least a minimum of 20% of the city award.
- **Ongoing Programming** – A unique feature of the CPPI process will be creative placemaking education as a powerful tool for community and artist leadership. To ensure all CPPI projects are successful, staff will provide public art project management, learning opportunities, and space for conversations about the importance of art in communities. It is recommended that staff support long-term community unity and site engagement by connecting partners with field experts who can assist them with implementing inclusive community-led workshops, training sessions and lectures.

Program Guidelines and Application Process

- **Partnership Defined** – A collaborative relationship between two or three entities within a community equally sharing accountabilities and rewards of a public art project. Partners are committed to working towards a shared vision, clear communication, strong community leadership and engagement. This may include:
 - **Nonprofit 501 (c)(3) Fort Worth Organizations** including Higher Education Institutions, Public entities (FWISD, Trinity Metro, etc.); Local organizations, or,
 - **Community Groups** including Neighborhood Associations, HOA's, informal geographic specific communities (non 501 (c)(3)).
- **Partner Application Requirements**
 - Applicants, as defined above, must partner with a fiscal sponsor that agrees to act as the trustee of funds and assumes financial responsibilities related to CPPI fundraising efforts. A list of potential fiscal agents will be included in the application. Some organizations may serve as their own fiscal sponsor.

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- Additionally, applicants must demonstrate evidence of community support and connection, community leadership and commitment to raise a portion of funds for the project. Awarded community partners will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Fort Worth.
- Applicants must also submit a fund-raising plan.
- **Project Eligibility** – Ideal CPPI projects prioritize communities that are historically underserved; Amplify the community’s voice; Center around the development of a permanent public art project; Provide education and programming as a platform for reflection, connection, and community building; and develop strategies for continual community engagement over the long-term engagement.

To encourage inclusivity and community building, commemorative projects will be deferred during the pilot year of CPPI.

Site Location and Development

CPPI projects must be located on or visible from a street improvement project included in the 2022 Bond Program, Proposition A (see attached list) Should a site be proposed on a city-owned site that is not listed, FWPA staff will work with the City to determine if there is an opportunity for approval.

Project Structure and Rollout

The project is structured to ensure responsibilities are equally divided amongst FWPA and Partners, to allow time for fundraising and in-depth community engagement:

- Community and Artist Information meetings and/or Workshops
- Application process –the FWAC will establish a CPPI Application Review Panel that reflects representation of the city of Fort Worth’s diverse community, the Art Commission, arts professional(s), and historian. An application review process will be conducted using a rubric for assessing programmatic, financial, and feasibility of applicants’ proposals.
- Partner Awardee Orientation Process – A Memorandum of Agreement is signed between the city and Partner. Meetings will be held to orient groups into the public art process and structure breakdown.
- Artist Selection - Awarded partners will review 6-8 artists from the FWPA Registry of local, regional, and national artists who express interest in CPPI projects and a willingness in a community-based artistic practice.
- Education and Engagement – Inclusive education and auxiliary programming resources are provided for partners to lead and create within the community and through guidance of field experts. This phase allows partners additional time to engage the community and to raise funds in an appropriate timeframe.
- Preliminary and Design Phase – the selected artist begins design development with the input of the partners.
- Additional Community Engagement – Planning of artwork dedication and creative placemaking opportunities
- Fabrication and Installation of the artwork
- Artwork Dedication and space activation

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