

Introduction

What is Public Art?

Public art is art for everyone. It is sculpture, installations, murals, manhole covers, paving patterns, and creative lighting. Public art is woven into a community's fabric providing vitality and creativity in all aspects of life. street furniture, building facades, bus stops, way finding signage, gates, fountains, play equipment, engravings, carvings, bas-reliefs, public performances, creative interventions and many more.

Why Public Art?

Art in public spaces is free and reaches a broad audience. It creates interesting gateways, parks and municipal buildings. Public art at its best can inspire a community with unifying themes that reflect the character of an area. Lastly, public art elevates the visibility of art in our community.

History of Public Art in Jackson

Public Art is present in Jackson, and can be seen in many public and private locations. The Town Square is exemplary of the power of public art, with the iconic Elk Antler Arches, flanking a community space with character and charm that leaves tourists with an impression of Jackson.

Over the years, as different artist types have settled in Jackson they have initiated a variety of approaches to creating art in public places. From John Simm's austere buffalo sculpture, to Ben Roth's polished stingray's, artists have taken it upon themselves to create art for the public to enjoy.

Cultural Infrastructure

Jackson is home to over 60 art galleries, the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the Center for the Arts, the Jackson Hole Music Festival, the annual Fall Arts Festival, the Western Design Conference and numerous Art Auctions. The vast majority of these fine establishments and events showcase high quality artwork within buildings and cultural spaces, while a small portion exhibit artwork outside. There is clearly a missing piece Jackson's cultural infrastructure: Public Art.

The future of public art in Jackson will largely be defined by the Comprehensive Plan, and this public art plan. It is imperative soft language is adopted in the Comprehensive plan in support of public art to promote Jackson as a cultural destination for tourists, and community that openly embraces the arts.

Goals of the Public Art Task Force

1. Define the Vision and Principles for Public Art in the Town of Jackson and Teton County.
2. Establish the administrative framework, policies and procedures to guide the Public Art Program.
3. Formulate a funding mechanism(s) to support a Public Art Program.
4. Develop strategies for the implementation of the Public Art Program.
5. Identify key partnerships and collaborative opportunities with appropriate non-profit organizations.
6. Identify upcoming opportunities and locations for public art, and administer a pilot project.
7. Educate the public about the value of public art in the community, and gather public input on public art and this plan.
8. Determine the long term goals and method of evaluating the Public Art Program