

## December 5 Public Art Practitioner Input meeting

1. What is your experience in public art projects? Include jurisdiction and your role (i.e. project manager, contractor, consultant, artist).

Respondents ranged from public art consultants who worked on projects such as the County Operations Center, Southeast Live Well Center, and many more; artists (one who worked on a County public art project and one who didn't) and other consultants/artists who have worked on public art projects outside of the County.

2. In your experience, detail the level of success for the public art process for the following members:
  - 1.2.1. Consultants
  - 1.2.2. Artists
  - 1.2.3. Contractors
  - 1.2.4. Public Art Site

Public art consultants felt a great level of success for the process. The artists felt that their success was heavily influenced by the help provided by the public art consultants. Without the consultants, artists wouldn't know how to get involved with some projects (example came from non-County project). The scale of the project would make a difference on the scale of the process, such as the call for artists. Open call for artist should be easy and accessible. Artist community needs more support to go for public art projects.

3. In your experience, detail the level of success for public art projects for the following members:
  - 1.3.1. Consultants
  - 1.3.2. Artists
  - 1.3.3. Contractors
  - 1.3.4. Public Art Site

The Southeast Live Well Center is considered a best practice in creating a sense of belonging, celebrating community and local artists, and building community pride. However, the feedback indicates that future public art projects should involve more local artists and incorporate mechanisms to collect public feedback on the success of the project.

4. In your experience, what works well with the County of San Diego's public art process?

The involvement and engagement of the Committee from the beginning, as well as following the established process, are seen as positive. The reinstatement of the County Art Commission is also viewed as a great development. Additionally, the feedback emphasizes the importance of qualified professional public art project management and the valuable collaboration with the County facilities director and contractors/inspectors who have experience with art installations.

5. In your experience, what doesn't work well with the County public art process?

The 0.5% allocation for public art is seen as low and has not increased over time, making it challenging to have the desired impact. The County's artist agreement is problematic for artists, as it takes away their copyrights and ownership, and the language needs to be revised to better support both the artists and the County. Additionally, there is a need for clear and transparent guidelines, and consistent community input in the selection and discussion process. Finally, the feedback suggests that providing mentorship or consulting support for artists who have not created public sculpture before would be beneficial.

6. What are your recommendations to improve the County public art process to make it more efficient, inclusive, or impactful for artists, communities, and other stakeholders? Are there any challenges that exist to implement your recommendations?

Key recommendations include:

- a) Increasing the involvement and reporting of the County Art Commission, with the art consultants working as partners;
- b) Allowing artists to own and promote their artworks, and the Commission housing and publishing the art inventory;
- c) Updating the ordinance to reflect national standards and specific needs, and adopting policies and guidelines for various aspects of the public art program;
- d) Centralizing the implementation and administration of the ordinance with a qualified public art professional.

Additionally, the feedback suggests simplifying the language in RFPs to be more artist-friendly and building insurance needs into the budget to support artists. Lastly, the recommendations emphasize the need for a more inclusive approach to public art installations beyond just murals.

7. How can equity be better leveraged in the selection and management of artists and consultants?

The responses suggest that leveraging equity in the selection and management of artists and consultants for public art projects can be challenging. The workforce compliance and insurance requirements, which are designed for general contractors, are often not realistic or applicable for small, specialized consultants and individual artists. The feedback recommends centralizing the implementation and administration of the public art ordinance with a qualified public art professional, rather than relying on individual consultants. Additionally, the process should be made more accessible and inclusive for artists new to public art, with support in navigating insurance requirements and providing feedback on rejected proposals. Outreach and community engagement, including in different languages, are also highlighted as important considerations for improving equity.

8. What other models or approaches to public art selection, community engagement,

or project management have you found to be successful?

The qualitative feedback highlights successful models and approaches to public art selection, community engagement, and project management. For the Live Well Center project, the approach of partnering with the community, incorporating their feedback, and involving the artists was considered a successful model. However, this level of community engagement may not be necessary for smaller projects. The feedback suggests creating a comprehensive art policy booklet outlining best practices and clarity would benefit all parties. Additionally, the importance of intentionally engaging local community artists is emphasized. The respondent also recommends connecting with national public art networks and organizations to leverage their extensive experience and resources.

9. What should be the goal of the County's public art program?
  - To celebrate community and local artists to inspire visitors to the project sites and to be a part of what makes us a world class city.
  - Centralize administration of a public art program under the Arts and Culture Program and standardize the implementation of the ordinance to meet national best practices.
  - To tell the story of San Diego County and to show the diversity of artists.
  - To highlight public sculpture in both rural and city sites.
  - Celebrate community and local artists
  - Put art in public spaces within the community
  - Expand access to the arts
  - Leader to facilitate between government and art
  - Inspire, educate, create an interesting, beautiful experience for people