

Summary of Key Findings from Municipal Public Art Research

Public Art Funding

Across all comparable municipalities, variations of the percentage for public art on municipal capital projects were common practice. The benchmark percentage contributed to Public Art is 1%. How the 1% formula is applied to capital projects varies greatly from one municipality to another. Some communities apply 1% to all capital projects while others select projects based their perceived public benefit. Having a defined formula to guide funding for Public Art offers a greater amount of consistency and predictability in all stages of Public Art planning and delivery.

Community Involvement and Participation

With regards to the selection of artwork, location, maintenance, conservation, decommissioning, and dispersal, the common theme was that these types of decisions were almost exclusively made with the support of an arts and culture themed community committee or an ad hoc arts and culture committee of Council. This is a key component to all successful Public Art Programs reviewed as it allows for the community to not only interact but also participate with Public Art Planning.

Public Art Management

It was common practice across all comparable communities that regardless of the delivery model of Public Art Programming, either by the Municipality or by an established third-party arts organization, the municipality always remained actively involved in the funding, selection process and stewards of Public Art over the long term.