

Art in the Right-of-Way

Art in the right-of-way integrates artwork, creative elements, and cultural experiences into public spaces such as sidewalks, streets, and plazas. These activations aim to promote a sense of place, foster engagement and connectivity, and promote cultural expression in the public realm. Art can be integrated into right-of-way infrastructure in various of forms, including street furnishings, lighting, performances, temporary installations, wayfinding, and paving materials. The City's Public Art Program enables the design and implementation of public art in eligible active transportation infrastructure, creating visible, community-centered spaces for users. Collaboration across departments, as well as partnerships with SANDAG, MTS and Caltrans, will support the implementation of the City's Public Art Master Plan and a future citywide cultural plan. This will strengthen connections with cultural amenities and promote placemaking within mobility projects.



*Mural on crosswalk at White City Place, London
Source: My Modern Met, 2020*

PROGRAM IN ACTION

The City of San Diego has an established arts and culture program that guides the creation and integration of art in public spaces. The program is rooted in the City's Urban Design Element of the General Plan and is guided by the Public Art Master Plan. Council Policy 900-11 outlines the process for including public art into capital improvement projects, while the Municipal Code requires 2% of the budget of eligible construction projects to fund the Public Art Program. Additionally, Ordinance 19280 stipulates that 1% of the project budget of eligible private development be allocated for art or cultural enhancement. These funds may also be used to enhance Mobility Master Plan projects in the implementation phase.

CITYWIDE

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Estimated Initiation Timeframe

Existing program; Ongoing



Implementation Cost

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Potential Funding Sources

- » General Fund
- » Public-private partnerships
- » Federal, state, and regional grants



Leading Entity

Commission for Arts and Culture

Collaborating Entities

Other City departments, partner agencies, public-private partnerships



Relevance to Mobility Master Plan Goals

Goals 2, 3, 4, 7

Relevance to Climate Action Plan

Actions 3.5a, 3.5 SA-1.1, SA-13



Incorporating Community Engagement

The community identified incorporating locally-made aesthetic elements into projects to make walking or rolling and cycling more attractive as a top mobility need.



*Public art integrated into transit station
Source: City of San Diego, 2024*