

# Wake County Arts & Culture Committee



## Public Art – Update/ Policy Considerations

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# Today's Agenda

- Current Policy Summary
- Recap of Pilot Projects
  - Fuquay-Varina & Morrisville Library (completed)
  - Beech Bluff County Park (scheduled completion 2023)
- Proposed Refinements to Arts Program Budget
- Next Steps
- Questions/Comments

# Wake County Public Art Policy

- Enacted by Board of Commissioners in 2016
- CIP Projects with Significant Access for General Public
  - Libraries & Parks
  - Marbles Kids Museum & Five County Stadium
  - Certain Human Services Facilities
  - Other Projects Authorized by the Board
- CIP Projects Estimated to cost \$1 million or more
- Budget - **1% of project construction cost**
- Goals of Policy
  - Enhance Appearance of Public Facilities
  - Expand Public Experience
  - Provide exposure to culture through Art
  - Enhance the Aesthetic Environment



## Public Art Administrative Policy Effective July 1, 2017

### I. PURPOSE

#### A. Background & Purpose

On November 21, 2016, the Wake County Board of Commissioners enacted an ordinance to establish funding for public art in certain county capital projects estimated to cost \$1 million or more that provide significant general public access. The intent of this ordinance is to enhance the aesthetic environment, expand public experience and exposure to culture through various art forms, enhance the appearance of public facilities and improve the environment of the county on behalf of its citizens, by the incorporation of art in the design and construction of public facilities within the county. The purpose of this administrative policy is to define the process for acquiring and managing public art that is commissioned for Wake County owned facilities or donated as part of the Public Art program.

#### B. Definition of Public Art

Public art is defined as an original work of art that is designed and created by artists and that is accessible to the public. In addition to the traditional forms of art such as sculpture, painting, fresco, glass, mosaic and others, the public art requirement may also be met by incorporating artistic elements into an overall architectural design if created by an artist. Any art installed pursuant to the Public Art Ordinance shall become and remain the property of Wake County.

### II. SCOPE

#### A. Eligible County Projects

County capital improvement projects estimated to cost \$1 million or more that provide significant general public access such as libraries, parks, and greenways shall be eligible for funding. Other projects that may be eligible for funding include certain Human Services facilities, future projects on the campus of Marbles Kids Museum, or the Five County Stadium Complex, or other facilities that may be authorized by the Board of Commissioners. This ordinance and administrative policy does not apply to capital improvement projects of the Wake County Public School System or Wake Technical Community College.

#### B. Public Art Projects May Include:

1. Commissioning of permanent works designed for specific County projects
2. Artists contracted to work as integral members of a County project design team where their art work is integral with the design of the project
3. Loan, purchase or donation of art works deemed appropriate for eligible county projects
4. Temporary installations, other short-term projects or planning activities that result in the creation of temporary or permanent public art.

# Completed Pilot Projects



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# Completed Pilot Projects

Fuquay-Varina Community Library & Morrisville Community Library

Total Combined Art Budget: \$80,000



Fuquay-Varina Community Library



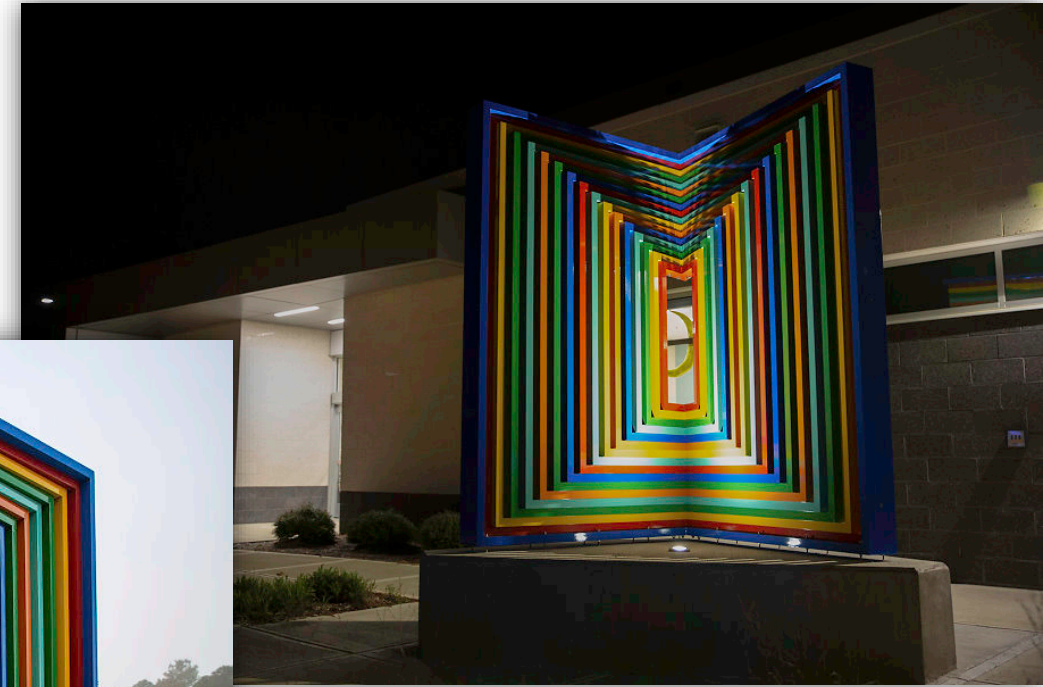
Morrisville Community Library



# “the Source” Fuquay-Varina Library



**“library as a great book,  
a source-opening up  
with a fan of pages and  
possibilities” – Randy  
Walker**



**Inspired by the  
Mineral Springs as a  
Source of Healing**



# “Stacks” Morrisville Library



Inspired by the bookshelf as a Living Changing Structure

Morrisville a diverse community, Library changes with community





# Beech Bluff County Park - Public Art

- Commission artist for **Multiple Pieces**
- Art Budget: **\$120,000**
- RFQ - 41 submittals including international (Australia, UK, Italy, Spain...)
- Shortlist 4 artists for interviews
- Site Visits for shortlist artists
- Artist engaged during Schematic Design



# Early Design Concept - Scale



“We relish the opportunity to make emblematic and engaging artwork for the Park that **reflects the important goals of environmental education and an active lifestyle**, creating an atmosphere of curiosity and personal investment in wildlife for all who visit the park”.

# Proposed Refinements to Arts Program Budget



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# Public Art Budget Challenges

- Current budget parameters need more flexibility
  - Small Projects – for \$1M project, \$10,000 budget is low
  - Large Projects – for \$80M project, \$800,000 budget is high
- Projects where Arts had not formerly been prioritized, do not have the budget to provide for arts funding
- Construction Materials Escalation is also hitting Arts materials
  - steel, paint, glass, etc.

# Public Art Budget Challenges

- More important to scale the art cost appropriately according to a facility's visitors and use:
  - Library or Park spectator intensive – more immersive art experience
  - Public Health Project – visitors are primarily there for services;
    - art should be more passive and therapeutic
  - Public Safety Project (EMS/Fire Station) – more subtle; building element
- We believe a project arts budget can be refined to reflect the project's purpose



# Proposed Considerations

- Propose establishing an Arts Fund that is 1% of all eligible budgeted construction projects:
  - Could create one funding pot or distribute by CIP element or program
- Allows leverage of larger pot to appropriately scale art on a project
- Provides funding source for smaller projects that may not have an arts budget

# Public Art Exterior Samples

Artist: Erik Carlson  
Project Cost: \$165,000



Artist: Ben Volta  
Project Cost: \$200,000



Artist: Gail Simpson  
Project Cost: \$138,000





# Public Art Interior Samples



Artist: Erik Carlson  
Project Cost: \$20,000



Artist: Erik Carlson  
Project Cost: \$250,000



Artist: Ben Volta  
Project Cost: \$50,000

# Next Steps

- FDC will work with BMS & Finance to develop Arts funding strategy
- At the same time, will continue to develop arts concepts for those projects already in design
- Will also study our upcoming Public Safety projects to identify arts opportunities
- Will report back to this Committee with an update



# Questions/Comments



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