



Public Art Ordinance

CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING – 06/23/2025



PUBLIC ART ORDINANCE

QUICK FACTS

File Number

CODE025-0001

Impact

City-wide

Initiating Entity

City Administration and City Council

Applicable Code

UDC provisions affected by the ordinance include: 7.2.705 and 7.4.1103



PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Colorado Springs' Public Art Ordinance is part of the City's on-going efforts to recognize the value and significance of artwork throughout the community and region. City Council has determined that the oversight and management of the City's public art collection is an executive and administrative function of the City rather than a legislative function overseen by City Council. As such, the City's Public Art Ordinance proposes updates to the Unified Development Code (UDC) to reflect the current approach and thinking on the oversight and establishment of artwork.

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BACKGROUND & HISTORY

- **1982** – City Council created the Art Commission of the Pikes Peak Region (known as “Public Art Commission”)
- **1983-2016** – Aspects and focus of the Public Art Commission’s governance were refined by City Council
- **2010** – City adopts strong-mayor form of government
- **2020** – City adopted its first public art master plan (entitled “Public Art COS”)
- **2025** – City Council initially adopted an ordinance dissolving the Public Art Commission
- **FUT** – Office of the Mayor will work with agency and stakeholders to re-establish the Public Arts Commission under the legislative branch to administer the City’s public art collection

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HIGHLIGHTED CHANGES

7.2.705.B Community Amenities:

Community Amenities: Community amenities may include the preservation of green space, sensitive natural areas, and other unique site features; the preservation or adaptive reuse of **an** historic building; and the provision of active recreational facilities, such as parks, trails, recreation centers, community meeting rooms, and other gathering spaces that are accessible to residents of the development and the public; or public art **that is publicly accessible and visible to the community** ~~meets the criteria outlined in the Public Art Master Plan and as reviewed by the Public Arts Commission.~~

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HIGHLIGHTED CHANGES

7.4.1103.D.2 Mixed-Use and Non-Residential:

Public art may be used as a substitute for façade articulation, ~~subject to neighborhood and Public Arts Commission review.~~ **as approved by the Manager according to the following review criteria:**

a. **The public art must be constructed of and installed using materials that are reasonably be expected to last, under average weather conditions, for a period not less than ten (10) years;**

b. **The location and placement of the public art must not create a safety concern or obstruct traffic or pedestrian access in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City Code, the City of Colorado Springs Engineering Criteria Manual, or similar laws; and**

c. **The public art must be publicly visible to those within the right-of-way nearest to the façade for which the articulation substitution is being made.**

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

7.5.702 AMENDMENTS TO UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE

Criteria for Approval

1. The Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan and other plans adopted by City Council.
2. The current conditions and character of current structures and uses in each zone district.
3. The most desirable use of land in each zone district.
4. The conservation of sensitive environmental features.
5. Promotion of responsible development and growth.

Statement of Compliance

CODE-24-0006

After evaluation of the UDC Text Amendment application for the Public Art Ordinance the application meets the approval criteria as set forth under City Code Section 7.5.702.D Approval Considerations.



Questions?



PLANNING COMMISSION

OPTIONAL MOTIONS

CODE-25-0001 – Public Art Ordinance

Should the City Council wish to approve the UDC Text Amendment application, the following motion is suggested:

Adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 7 (Unified Development Code) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, pertaining to public art.

Should the City Council wish to deny the UDC Text Amendment application, the following motion is suggested.

Deny an Ordinance amending Chapter 7 (Unified Development Code) of the Code of the City of Colorado Springs 2001, as amended, pertaining to public art.