



**CITY OF SALINAS
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2026
DEPARTMENT: LIBRARY & COMMUNITY SERVICES
FROM: KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, LCS DIRECTOR
TITLE: ANNUAL PUBLIC ART PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to receive the annual public art plan and recommend the Salinas City Council adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Public Art Plan including the appropriation of \$266,000 from the Municipal Art Fund.

BACKGROUND:

On May 16, 2017, the City Council adopted an Ordinance establishing a Public Art Program. The Ordinance created a Municipal Art Fund which is funded exclusively from contributions made by public construction projects: The 2017 Ordinance imposed upon the City the requirement to contribute an amount not to exceed one-half percent (0.5%) of the total project cost of each eligible capital improvement program project to a Municipal Art Fund. There was a cap of \$50,000 for any one project and a cap of \$100,000 for spending in one year.

In May of 2023 the City Council adopted an ordinance amending Section 5-01.08 of the Salinas Municipal Code to increase the per-project and annual funding contributions to the Municipal Art Fund (MAF). This included increasing the City's contribution from eligible construction projects from one-half percent (0.5%) to one percent (1%) and removed the maximum contributions per project or year. In addition, Council authorized an annual general fund contribution in the amount of \$100,000

A key tool for the Commission is the MAF. The money for the fund comes from a fee on the value of qualified capital improvement program construction projects funded by the General Fund, Measure G and E. The fee is 1% of qualified completed CIPS. The money is deposited into the fund every June at the end of the fiscal year. The annual General Fund contribution is transferred twice each Fiscal Year in December and June. The Current balance is \$500,416.88.

One of the Public Art Commission's (PAC) primary activities is the preparation of an Annual Public Art Plan that includes specific activities that promote public art and recommends the release of funds from the Municipal Art Fund to cover the costs of the activities described in the annual

plan. Per Ordinance, the Public Arts Annual Plan will be submitted to the City Council annually no later than April 1.

At the May 19, 2025, Public Art Commission meeting an Annual Plan sub-committee was established. The sub-committee met five times (on Oct. 21, 2025, Nov. 17, 2025, Dec. 9, 2025, Jan. 6, 2026 & Jan. 20, 2026) to prepare a draft plan. The draft plan includes four components:

- 1) **PUBLIC ART EVENT GRANTS:** Consistent with the 2024 Annual Public Art Plan, the sub-committee is recommending continuing the grant program that would support new or existing art centered events. The sub-committee recommends \$20,000 be made available for the grant program.
- 2) **MURAL/SCULPTURES:** The sub-committee recommends allocating an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for mural(s)/sculpture(s). A Call for Artist would be issued with a focus on local artist.
- 3) **NOBLEWINS SUSTAINABLE PARK BENCHES:** The sub-committee recommends allocating an amount not to exceed \$26,000 for the purchase, installation and art associated with this project. The bench(es) would be located in a park, and a Call for Artists would be issued to select the art to be displayed on the bench.
- 4) **ALEBRIJES & NAHUALES:** The sub-committee recommends allocating an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to bring this cultural exhibit to Salinas. This effort is being led by the City of Salinas, Salinas Chamber of Commerce and local artists. The exhibit includes (8) 25-28 ft. high spirit animals to be displayed throughout Salinas and up to (30) small pieces that could be on display in an indoor setting. The exhibits would be on display for 4-6 weeks and could include a one-day festival as well. There would be a local fundraising effort with the hope that these resources could be used to offset the MAF contribution so that not all \$200,000 would be used. Unused MAF dedicated to this project would be returned to the MAF for future allocation and plans.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

LCS staff will coordinate with the following Departments when implementing the draft plan:

City Attorney's Office: Necessary Agreements and Call for Artists
Public Works: Encroachment Permits
Community Development: Site Plan Review for Murals and Sculptures
Administration Department: Alebrijes & Nahuales Exhibit

ATTACHMENTS:

PowerPoint Presentation