



Public Art & Civic Design and Percent for Art Code Changes

The City of Pittsburgh’s Department of City Planning, in partnership with the Office of the Mayor, has announced reforms to the City Code regarding the Art Commission and Percent for Art Program.

The Art Commission was established in 1911 to Guide the City’s civic design and public art and currently reviews an average of 50 applications per year, 65 percent of which are civic design related. Later, in 1977, the City adopted the municipal Percent for Art program, which states at least one percent of municipal construction or renovation projects costing \$50,000 or more shall be set aside for the inclusion of public art.

In addition to these changes, the City is working to finalize a Public Art Trust Fund to collect contributions to the Public Art Performance Point program. Established in the Zoning Code in 2018, the performance point system allows developers to increase their density by incorporating community priorities into their projects such as affordable housing, public art, and energy-efficient design. The fund will also be able to receive private charitable donations, matching funds from charitable entities, and transfers from the general fund, as budgeted.

Code Change Overview: Art Commission (§ 175.01-175.07)

Current Concept	Proposed Change	Reasoning
<p>The Art Commission is a single body comprised of 1 painter, 1 sculptor, 3 architects, and 2 community representatives.</p> <p>The Art Commission reviews the urban design, architectural, and landscape features of structures that are erected on or above land owned by the City. The Art Commission also reviews all art proposed on City-owned land.</p>	<p>The Commission shall consist of 2 Committees, allowing focused expertise on public art and civic design projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Art Committee: 4 artists or arts professionals, and 1 community representative • Civic Design Committee: 4 architects or urban designers, and 1 community representative <p>The Public Art Committee reviews and approves the addition, modification, relocation, and removal of Public Art. The Civic Design Committee reviews and approves modification to or designs of new structures and designed landscapes.</p>	<p>Committee format will allow for improvement to process and efficiency and respond to the differing nature of projects and Commissioners’ areas of expertise. The updates to the Code and accompanying rules of procedure will provide clarity around the Commission’s purview.</p>



Code Change Overview: Percent for Art (§ 175.08)

Current Concept	Proposed Change	Reasoning
<p>At least 1% of municipal construction or renovation projects costing >\$50,000 and paid for in whole or in part by the City is set aside for the inclusion of public art.</p> <p>The City department in charge of the project (DPW, DOMI) includes public art in the project budget.</p>	<p>A minimum of 1% of Capital Construction or Renovation Projects costing >\$50,000 and paid for in whole or in part by the City shall be allocated for Public Art.</p> <p>DCP's annual Capital Budget shall include funds for public art equivalent to 1% of the total eligible construction or renovation projects in that fiscal year.</p>	<p>Centralized budgeting allows us to prioritize art in communities that need it most, distribute available dollars in ways that allow artists sufficient funds to create lasting, impactful art, and reduce the amount of procurement/ contracting administration by DCP processing artist paperwork directly.</p>

Code Change Overview: Performance Point System (915.07.D.9)

Current Concept	Proposed Change	Reasoning
<p>Developers may receive performance points for one-time contributions for the City to realize art on publicly owned lands within the same neighborhood.</p>	<p>Creation of a trust fund to deposit developer payments. Fund can also be used to receive private charitable donations, matching funds from charitable entities, and transfers from the general fund, as budgeted.</p>	<p>Mechanism to collect funds was never formalized when Performance Point System was adopted. Fund also anticipates other public art funding which may be received by the City.</p>