CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

STOW CITY COUNCIL
Council Chambers
3760 Darrow Rd.
Stow, OH

JUNE 18, 2026

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Council Members: Kyle Herman (At-Large), President; John Baranek (Ward 3), Vice-President; Cyle Feldman (At-Large), Pro Tem; Matt Riehl (Ward 1), Kelly Coffey (Ward 2), Mario Fiocca (Ward 4), and Kim Young (At-Large). Meeting will be Live Streamed at https://stowohio.org/244/City-Council Click on "view event" next to corresponding meeting and on the City of Stow You Tube @CityofStowOhio

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance**
   Councilman Baranek

4. **Proclamations and Commendations**

5. **Approval of Minutes**

   a. May 14, 2026 Minutes
   2026-05-14 City Council - Draft.pdf

6. **Public Comment Period**

7. **Mayor's Report**

8. **Old Business**

9. **New Business**

10. **Disposition of Ordinances and Resolutions**

TABLED

a. 2026-095 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1104 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "USE STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1104.04(a)(6), ENTITLED "DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY, INCLUDING 5-12 UNITS, 13+ UNITS, AND MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES."
First Reading: April 23, 2026
Second Reading: May 14, 2026 (Tabled)
Public Hearing Scheduled for May 28, 2026 - Rescheduled for July 9, 2026
2026-095 Chapter 1104 - Amending Density Cap.pdf
2026-095 Chapter 1104 - Amending Density Cap Version 2.pdf

b. 2026-096 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1103 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1103.04, ENTITLED "MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS."

First Reading: April 23, 2026
Second Reading: May 14, 2026 (Tabled)
Public Hearing Scheduled for May 28, 2026 - Rescheduled for July 9, 2026
2026-096 Chapter 1103 - Amending Minor Planned Development Overlay Standards.pdf
2026-096 Chapter 1103 - Amending Minor Planned Development Overlay Standards Version 2.pdf

SECOND READING

c. 2026-100 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR, LAW DIRECTOR, AND FINANCE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF STOW EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2028.
1st Reading: May 14, 2026
2026-100 Elected Official Pay.pdf

d. 2026-102 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO AMEND SECTION 3.06 TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE OF ACTING MAYOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
1st Reading: May 14, 2026
2026-102 Charter Amendment - Section 3.06.pdf

e. 2026-103 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO ADD SECTION 6.08 OF THE CHARTER, CREATING A PROVISION FOR AN ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
1st Reading: May 14, 2026
2026-103 Charter Amendment - Section 6.08.pdf

f. 2026-104 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO ADD SECTION 9.07 OF THE CHARTER, CREATING A PROVISION FOR AN ACTING LAW DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
1st Reading: May 14, 2026
2026-104 Charter Amendment - Section 9.07.pdf

FIRST READING

g. 2026-111 A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR TO PASS LEGISLATION ALLOWING FOR THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM IN OHIO
2026-111 Resolution - Community Energy Pilot - Environment Commission.pdf

h. 2026-112 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-238 INCREASING THE AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES WITH EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR GAS SERVICE PROJECT WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
2026-112 Amending 25-238 East Ohio Gas.pdf

i. 2026-113 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 951 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED “MUNICIPAL CEMETARY,” PARTICULARY SECTION 951.12 ENTITLED “INDIGENT BURIAL”
2026-113 Chapter 951 - Amending Indigent Burial.pdf

j. 2026-114 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF STOW MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC ART AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
2026-114 Resolution in Support Master Arts Plan.pdf
2026-114 Exhibit A Master Plan for Public Art All Sections - DRAFT.pdf

11. Bill of Listing Approval

a. Approval for President of Council or Designee to sign the Bill Listing for June 25, 2026

12. Scheduling of Standing Committee Meetings

13. Adjournment

ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

The City of Stow will make the transition of all city business accessible via any reasonable accommodation. Please contact the Clerk of Council or Commission Secretary 48 hours in advance for the necessary arrangements.

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES BEFORE THE MEETING

(Agendas, Minutes, Packets and Legislation posted at www.stowohio.gov)

Minutes of the City Council held on Thursday, May 14, 2026, 7:35 pm

Call to Order

Roll Call

Council Members Present:	Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, and Mario Fiocca
Council Members Absent:	None.
City Officials Present:	Nick Wren, Steve Hooten, Kelly Toppin, Mike Jones, Steven Tichon, Bryan Snavely, Mike Lang, and Sonya Mottram

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

Councilman Herman led the prayer this evening.

Proclamations and Commendations

- Proclamation for Lt. Bell

  Ted Bell Proclamation.pdf

  2026-108 Resolution for LT. Bell.pdf

  Mr. Riehl read aloud a formal resolution honoring Police Lieutenant Theodore (Ted) Bell on the occasion of his retirement. He stated that it was appropriate for council to honor employees with exceptional service. He read the Proclamation for Lt. Bell and described how he had served over 27 years with uncommon devotion, leading by example and demonstrating honor, trustworthiness, and dependability. He recounted that Bell had risked his life to rescue a family from an armed intruder, for which he received numerous awards (American Red Cross Hero Award, Ohio Attorney General Distinguished Law Enforcement Valor Award, congressional recognition, and others). He concluded that Lt. Bell had dedicated his professional life to enforcing the law and serving others with professionalism, integrity, and ability, and that the resolution formally extended the city's gratitude and commendation for his distinguished service, to be recorded in the city's permanent records and declared an emergency measure so the recognition would take effect immediately.
  Mr. Feldman and other Council members thanked Lt. Bell for his service. Lt. Bell said he was humbled and grateful for the time servicing the City of Stow.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of April 23, 2026 City Council Minutes

  2026-04-23 City Council Minutes - Draft.pdf

  Motion made by John Baranek, seconded by Matt Riehl, to approve April 23, 2026 City Council Minutes. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

2026-108 RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE OFFICIAL GRATITUDE AND COMMENDATION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, IN RECOGNIZING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY BY POLICE LIEUTENANT THEODORE BELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF STOW

Motion made by Matt Riehl, seconded by John Baranek, to suspend the rules 2026-108 RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE OFFICIAL GRATITUDE AND COMMENDATION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, IN RECOGNIZING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY BY POLICE LIEUTENANT THEODORE BELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF STOW. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Matt Riehl, seconded by Cyle Feldman, to adopt 2026-108 RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE OFFICIAL GRATITUDE AND COMMENDATION OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, IN RECOGNIZING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY BY POLICE LIEUTENANT THEODORE BELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF STOW. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments this evening.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Wren reported the Mayor has a commitment at the high school this evening. He went on to say administration had finished first round interviews for the Parks and Recreation Director position and the interviews for the Amphitheater Coordinator position. They plan to have legislation to approve appointments at the June meeting.

Old Business

New Business

- 2026-109 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ASHLEY STANTON AS INCOME TAX ASSISTANT OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STOW, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID APPOINTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-109 Appointment of Ashley Stanton - Tax Assistant.pdf

The Clerk read 2026-109 for a first reading.

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by Matt Riehl, to suspend the rules 2026-109 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ASHLEY STANTON AS INCOME TAX ASSISTANT OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STOW, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID APPOINTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to adopt 2026-109 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ASHLEY STANTON AS INCOME TAX ASSISTANT OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STOW, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID APPOINTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2026-110 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES CORCORAN AS PLANS EXAMINER II OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STOW, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID APPOINTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

2026-110 Appointment of Charles Corcoran - Plans Examiner II pdf

The Clerk read 2026-110 for a first reading.

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by Matt Riehl, to suspend the rules 2026-110 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ASHLEY STANTON AS INCOME TAX ASSISTANT OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STOW, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID APPOINTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to adopt 2026-110 AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ASHLEY STANTON AS INCOME TAX ASSISTANT OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STOW, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR SAID APPOINTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Disposition of Ordinances and Resolutions

SECOND READING

- 2026-095 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1104 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "USE STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1104.04(a)(6), ENTITLED

"DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY, INCLUDING 5-12 UNITS, 13+ UNITS, AND MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES."

2026-095 Chapter 1104 - Amending Density Cap.pdf

The Clerk read 2026-095 for a second reading.

Ms. Young said she appreciated Andrew Brantsch's presentation in the Committee of the Whole and emphasized that "affordable" housing did not necessarily mean low-income housing. She explained that the goal was to ensure people such as recent graduates, tradespeople, and retirees could afford to live in Stow, and she stressed that workforce housing should be seen as a way to let people who work in the city also live there. Mr. Herman then framed the discussion around the city's long-standing comprehensive plan goals. He recalled that for decades Stow's plans had called for a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly city center, and he read from the 2017 comprehensive plan about creating a lively, walkable mixed-use downtown at the Darrow–Graham intersection and at other strategic locations. He asked council whether those goals still reflected the city's vision or whether it was time to consider a new comprehensive plan. Later, he also responded to concerns that the density change would apply "everywhere" by explaining that the code already targeted density to main commercial corridors, and he described mixed-use redevelopment (such as around The Amp and other commercial lots) as a gradual and organic way to realize the city's long-standing goals. Mrs. Coffey reiterated that she was not opposed to mixed use or to higher density in the specific downtown overlay, but she expressed concern that the proposed density language applied more broadly across the city. She said she had heard from residents along Fishcreek and from Bayside Estates neighborhood about the possibility of a developer assembling multiple lots and building a three-story apartment building, and she asked Mr. Cowan whether that was possible on corridors such as Fishcreek or Norton. Mr. Cowan answered that those corridors were among the main routes listed in the code, so it was possible in theory, but any project would still have to comply with design, landscaping, open-space, and conditional-use requirements. Mrs. Coffey then raised concerns about the impact on the school district, noting its current financial challenges and specifically mentioning district-owned land on Housley Road. She later pointed out that, while the code explicitly tied duplexes, triplexes, and quadplexes to main roads, she did not see similar "main road" limitations spelled out for multifamily apartment density, and Mr. Cowan confirmed that, as written, most of the intended areas were on main roads but that the code text did not always state that as clearly as it could. Mr. Feldman said he was still researching and wanted to balance giving developers the flexibility they needed with maintaining the city's long-term vision. He reported that some residents were criticizing the amendments on the grounds that they would bring "low income" housing and asked Mr. Cowan to clarify how the "affordable housing" element actually worked. Mr. Cowan explained that the affordability option was just one of four ways a developer could qualify for modifications under the minor plan development overlay, and even then, only if the overlay was being used. Mr. Feldman also referenced housing numbers—approximately 14,000 total households, about 10,000 owner-occupied, and around 4,000 rentals and observed that, with a roughly 6% vacancy rate, there were already about 240 rental units available. He noted that changing the density cap from nine to six units per acre had created an internal inconsistency because the city was no longer following its own previously adopted standard, and he agreed that this needed to be corrected. Throughout this discussion, Mr. Cowan provided technical clarification. He confirmed that some main corridors such as Fishcreek and Norton were among the

limited areas where higher-density multifamily could be proposed but stressed that any such projects would still be subject to strict design, landscaping, open-space, and conditional-use criteria. He emphasized that the affordability provision was optional and only one of several modification pathways in the minor plan development overlay, not a blanket mandate for low-income projects. He also reiterated that, although the map technically showed around 90 parcels with some multifamily potential, once topography, floodplains, wetlands, lot size, and other constraints were considered, only a handful of sites were realistically developable. He concluded that the late 2025 amendments had left the code "broken" and internally inconsistent, and that council needed to arrive at some resolution—whether by adopting the proposed fixes or by amending them further—to restore a coherent zoning framework.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by John Baranek, to table 2026-095 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1104 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "USE STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1104.04(a)(6), ENTITLED "DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY, INCLUDING 5-12 UNITS, 13+ UNITS, AND MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES.". Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2026-096 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1103 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1103.04, ENTITLED "MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS."

2026-096 Chapter 1103 - Amending Minor Planned Development Overlay Standards.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-096 for a second reading.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Mario Fiocca, to table 2026-096 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1103 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1103.04, ENTITLED "MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS.". Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING

- 2026-098 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 505 C.O.S., ENTITLED "ANIMALS AND FOWL", PARTICULARLY SECTION 505.01 THEREOF, ENTITLED "DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE; NUISANCES" AND REPEALING SECTION 505.18 THEREOF, ENTITLED "DANGEROUS DOGS AND VICIOUS DOGS" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING WITH SECTION 505.18 ENTITLED "NUISANCE DOGS, DANGEROUS DOGS, AND VICIOUS DOGS" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-098 Amending 505 Avery_s Law.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-098 for a first reading.

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by Matt Riehl, to suspend the rules 2026-098 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 505 C.O.S., ENTITLED "ANIMALS AND FOWL", PARTICULARLY SECTION 505.01 THEREOF, ENTITLED "DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE; NUISANCES" AND REPEALING SECTION 505.18 THEREOF, ENTITLED "DANGEROUS DOGS AND VICIOUS DOGS" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING WITH SECTION 505.18 ENTITLED "NUISANCE DOGS, DANGEROUS DOGS, AND VICIOUS DOGS" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by John Baranek, to adopt 2026-098 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 505 C.O.S., ENTITLED "ANIMALS AND FOWL", PARTICULARLY SECTION 505.01 THEREOF, ENTITLED "DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE; NUISANCES" AND REPEALING SECTION 505.18 THEREOF, ENTITLED "DANGEROUS DOGS AND VICIOUS DOGS" IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING WITH SECTION 505.18 ENTITLED "NUISANCE DOGS, DANGEROUS DOGS, AND VICIOUS DOGS" AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

• 2026-099 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 373 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES, AND MOTORCYCLES," PARTICULARY SECTION 373.11 ENTITLED "RIDING ON SIDEWALKS; SKATEBOARDS; ANIMALS" AND SECTION 313.27, ENTITLED "ELECTRIC BICYCLES."

2026-099 Chapter 373 Amending Electric Bicycle Statute.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-099 for a first reading.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to suspend the rules 2026-099 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 373 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES, AND MOTORCYCLES," PARTICULARY SECTION 373.11 ENTITLED "RIDING ON SIDEWALKS; SKATEBOARDS; ANIMALS" AND SECTION 313.27, ENTITLED "ELECTRIC BICYCLES.". Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to adopt 2026-099 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 373 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES, AND MOTORCYCLES," PARTICULARY SECTION 373.11 ENTITLED "RIDING ON SIDEWALKS; SKATEBOARDS; ANIMALS" AND SECTION 313.27, ENTITLED "ELECTRIC BICYCLES.". Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Coffey thanked Mr. Hooten for the improved language for helmets.

• 2026-100 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR, LAW DIRECTOR, AND FINANCE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF STOW EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2028.

2026-100 Elected Official Pay.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-100 for a first reading.

• 2026-101 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2024-118, ALLOWING MODIFICATION OF THE SITE PLAN AND GRANTING CERTAIN VARIANCES ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3691 HUDSON DRIVE EXTENSION, IN THE CITY OF STOW, OH

2026-101 Amending 2024-118 Site Plan Modification-Rustic Diamond.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-101 for a first reading.

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by Kelly Coffey, to suspend the rules 2026-101 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2024-118, ALLOWING MODIFICATION OF THE SITE PLAN AND GRANTING CERTAIN VARIANCES ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3691 HUDSON DRIVE EXTENSION, IN THE CITY OF STOW, OH. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to adopt 2026-101 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2024-118, ALLOWING MODIFICATION OF THE SITE PLAN AND GRANTING CERTAIN VARIANCES ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3691 HUDSON DRIVE EXTENSION, IN THE CITY OF STOW, OH. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

• 2026-102 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO AMEND SECTION 3.06 TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE OF ACTING MAYOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-102 Charter Amendment - Section 3.06.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-102 for a first reading.

• 2026-103 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO ADD SECTION 6.08 OF THE CHARTER, CREATING A PROVISION FOR AN ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-103 Charter Amendment - Section 6.08.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-103 for a first reading.

• 2026-104 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO ADD SECTION 9.07 OF THE CHARTER, CREATING A PROVISION FOR AN ACTING LAW DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-104 Charter Amendment - Section 9.07.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-104 for a first reading.

• 2026-105 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH UTILITY SERVICE CO FOR YEAR 5 OF A CONTRACT FOR THE TRIHALOMETHANE REMOVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-105 Utility Services Co - Watertower.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-105 for a first reading.

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by Matt Riehl, to suspend the rules 2026-105 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH UTILITY SERVICE CO FOR YEAR 5 OF A CONTRACT FOR THE TRIHALOMETHANE REMOVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to adopt 2026-105 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH UTILITY SERVICE CO FOR YEAR 5 OF A CONTRACT FOR THE TRIHALOMETHANE REMOVAL SYSTEM, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

• 2026-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING LTD FOR DESIGN OF THE GRAHAM ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-106 Chagrin Valley Engineering - Graham Rd.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-106 for a first reading.

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by Matt Riehl, to suspend the rules 2026-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING LTD FOR DESIGN OF THE GRAHAM ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman,

Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to adopt 2026-106 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING LTD FOR DESIGN OF THE GRAHAM ROAD CONNECTIVITY PROJECT, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Baranek commented on the professional history with Chargin Valley and noted the great work that they have accomplished.

- 2026-107 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH EVANS, MERCHWART, HAMBLETON, & TILTON INC FOR DESIGN OF THE FISHCREEK ROAD/STOW ROAD ROUDABOUT PROJECT, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2026-107 EMH_T - Fishcreek roundabout.pdf

The Clerk read Ordinance 2026-107 for a first reading.

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by John Baranek, to suspend the rules 2026-107 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH EVANS, MERCHWART, HAMBLETON, & TILTON INC FOR DESIGN OF THE FISHCREEK ROAD/STOW ROAD ROUDABOUT PROJECT, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kelly Coffey, seconded by Matt Riehl, to adopt 2026-107 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO MAKE AND ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH EVANS, MERCHWART, HAMBLETON, & TILTON INC FOR DESIGN OF THE FISHCREEK ROAD/STOW ROAD ROUDABOUT PROJECT, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill of Listing Approval

- Approval of May 14th Bill Listing

Invoice Distribution Report 05142026.pdf

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by Mario Fiocca, to approve Approval of May 14th Bill Listing. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

- Approval for President of Council or Designee to sign the Bill Listing for May 28, 2026

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by John Baranek, to approve Approval for President of Council or Designee to sign the Bill Listing for May 28, 2026. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

- Approval for President of Council or Designee to sign the Bill Listing for June 11, 2026

Motion made by Cyle Feldman, seconded by John Baranek, to approve Approval for President of Council or Designee to sign the Bill Listing for June 11, 2026. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Scheduling of Standing Committee Meetings

Mr. Baranek said he wanted solicitation placed on a future committee agenda for discussion. He explained that he had received calls from residents about the hours solicitors were coming through neighborhoods and questioned whether the city could better limit or define those times. He added that he himself had nearly been run over by someone on a two-wheeled device while he was out after dusk, and he noted that other people in the area had experienced similar issues.

Mrs. Coffey said she had heard similar complaints about solicitors. She noted that the city already had set hours for solicitation and a list residents could join to opt out, but she observed that the problem seemed to be that solicitors were not following those existing rules.

Mr. Hooten explained that commercial solicitors in Stow were required by law to stop at 6:00 p.m., but the city was well aware that some were ignoring this, especially one particular company. He said he had already received many complaints that week and had personally called the company's supervisor, though complaints continued even the next day. He urged residents to call the police non-emergency line if solicitors were out after 6:00 p.m. or were aggressive or refusing to leave, noting that officers were willing to respond and had already stopped several solicitors. He added that documented complaints could allow the city to revoke a company's solicitation privileges or pursue criminal charges for violations.

Mr. Herman highlighted several upcoming events, including the All-America City rally on the green on May 20 at 6:00 p.m. and the Memorial Day ceremony at Stow Cemetery on May 25 at 10:00 a.m. He noted that the Stow Summer Sunset Blast and The Amp had been named grand marshal of the Fourth of July parade, and he suggested that, since it was not an election year, council members walk together in the parade to show unity and community. He also proposed exploring an upgrade to the council chamber's AV system.

He went on to say there was a proposal to add more and better-placed cameras for clearer video. He requested comment from Council. Ms. Young and Mr. Feldman expressed support.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mario Fiocca, seconded by John Baranek, to adjourn. Vote – Yeas: Kyle Herman, Cyle Feldman, Matt Riehl, Kelly Coffey, Kim Young, John Baranek, Mario Fiocca. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Clerk

Chairman

REQUESTED BY PLANNING DIRECTOR
APPROVED BY PLANNING
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-095 INTRODUCED BY YOUNG

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1104 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "USE STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1104.04(a)(6), ENTITLED "DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY, INCLUDING 5-12 UNITS, 13+ UNITS, AND MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES."

WHEREAS, the City of Stow wishes to amend certain sections of Chapter 1104 of the Codified Ordinances of Stow relating to removing the six unit per acre density cap established by Council to restore the policy direction as vetted by the two-year public process;

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2026 (P.C. 2026-007), the Planning Commission did prudently consider and now recommends to this Council the amendment of the Zoning Code of the City of Stow to reflect these changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Section 1104.04(a)(6), entitled "Dwelling, Multi-Family, including 5-12 Units, 13+ Units, and Multi-Family Complexes," which currently reads:

(6) Dwelling, Multi-Family, including 5-12 units, 13+ units, and multi-family complexes.

A. A Multi-Family dwelling shall be a minimum of 500 square feet per dwelling unit, plus 150 square feet for each bedroom in excess of one.

B. The density of a multi-family development shall not exceed six (6) dwelling units per acre. The total number of units permitted shall be calculated by multiplying the total land area, exclusive of public streets existing at the time the site plan is submitted, by the maximum density permitted per acre.

be, and the same is, hereby amended to read:

(6) Dwelling, Multi-Family, including 5-12 units, 13+ units, ~~and~~ multi-family complexes**, and Dwelling-Multi-Family, above Ground Floor Only**.

A. A Multi-Family dwelling shall be a minimum of 500 square feet per dwelling unit, plus 150 square feet for each bedroom in excess of one.

~~B. The density of a multi-family development shall not exceed six (6) dwelling units per acre. The total number of units permitted shall be calculated by multiplying the total land area, exclusive of public streets existing at the time the site plan is submitted, by the maximum density permitted per acre.~~

SECTION 2. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the

law.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and, pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect thirty days after its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

READINGS:
First Reading: April 23, 2026
Second Reading: May 14. 2026 (TABLED)

PUBLIC HEARING:
~~Thursday, May 28, 2026~~
Thursday, July 9, 2026

I, Sonya Mottram, Clerk of Council, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing were posted in accordance with Section 4.12 of the Charter and 125.01 C.O.S.

VERSION 2

REQUESTED BY PLANNING DIRECTOR
APPROVED BY PLANNING
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-095 INTRODUCED BY YOUNG

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1104 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "USE STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1104.04(a)(6), ENTITLED "DWELLING, MULTI-FAMILY, INCLUDING 5-12 UNITS, 13+ UNITS, AND MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES."

WHEREAS, the City of Stow wishes to amend certain sections of Chapter 1104 of the Codified Ordinances of Stow relating to removing the six unit per acre density cap established by Council to restore the policy direction as vetted by the two-year public process;

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2026 (P.C. 2026-007), the Planning Commission did prudently consider and now recommends to this Council the amendment of the Zoning Code of the City of Stow to reflect these changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Section 1104.04(a)(6), entitled "Dwelling, Multi-Family, including 5-12 Units, 13+ Units, and Multi-Family Complexes," which currently reads:

(6) Dwelling, Multi-Family, including 5-12 units, 13+ units, and multi-family complexes.

A. A Multi-Family dwelling shall be a minimum of 500 square feet per dwelling unit, plus 150 square feet for each bedroom in excess of one.

B. The density of a multi-family development shall not exceed six (6) dwelling units per acre. The total number of units permitted shall be calculated by multiplying the total land area, exclusive of public streets existing at the time the site plan is submitted, by the maximum density permitted per acre.

be, and the same is, hereby amended to read:

(6) Dwelling, Multi-Family, including 5-12 units, 13+ units, ~~and~~ multi-family complexes**, and Dwelling-Multi-Family, above Ground Floor Only**.

A. A Multi-Family dwelling shall be a minimum of 500 square feet per dwelling unit, plus 150 square feet for each bedroom in excess of one.

~~B. The density of a multi-family development shall not exceed six (6) dwelling units per acre. The total number of units permitted shall be calculated by multiplying the total land area, exclusive of public streets existing at the time the site plan is submitted, by the maximum density permitted per acre.~~

B. Dwelling, Multi-Family, including 5–12 units, 13+ units, multi-family complexes, and Dwelling-Multi-Family, above Ground Floor Only shall be allowed on lots with frontage on Kent Road, Darrow Road, Fishcreek Road, Graham Road, Stow Road, Hudson Drive, Norton Road and designated bus routes identified on the METRO RTA Bus

System Map.

C. The density of a multi-family development shall not exceed ten dwelling units per acre except for properties zoned commercial. The total number of units permitted shall be calculated by multiplying the total land area, exclusive of public streets existing at the time the site plan is submitted, by the maximum density permitted per acre.

SECTION 2. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and, pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect thirty days after its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST

_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

I, Sonya Mottram, Clerk of Council, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing were posted in accordance with Section 4.12 of the Charter and 125.01 C.O.S.

REQUESTED BY PLANNING DIRECTOR
APPROVED BY PLANNING
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-096 INTRODUCED BY YOUNG

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1103 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1103.04, ENTITLED "MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS."

WHEREAS, the City of Stow wishes to amend certain sections of Chapter 1103 of the Codified Ordinances of Stow relating to reinstall modification standards for Minor Planned Development Districts to restore the policy direction as vetted by the two-year, comprehensive, and public process;

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2026 (P.C. 2026-007), the Planning Commission did prudently consider and now does not recommend to this Council the amendment of the Zoning Code of the City of Stow to reflect these changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Section 1104.03 entitled "Minor Planned Development Overlay District Standards," which currently reads:

1103.04 MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS.

(a) Relation to Base District Standards.

(1) A minor planned development, if approved, shall be applied as an overlay district, and all base district designations shall be maintained.

(2) A minor planned development, if approved, may allow for modifications to the standards of the base district. All such modifications shall be referred to as site development allowances.

(3) Notwithstanding any limitations on variances (Section 1112.23), site development allowances may be approved provided the applicant specifically identifies each site development allowance in the minor planned development application and demonstrates how each site development allowance would be compatible with surrounding development; and is necessary for proper development of the site.

(4) All approved site development allowances shall be delineated in the ordinance approving the minor planned development and shall be considered the standards of the minor planned development overlay district as it applies to the subject property.

(Ord. 2025-208. Passed 12-4-25.)

be, and the same is, hereby amended to read:

1103.04 MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS.

(a) Relation to Base District Standards.

(1) A minor planned development, if approved, shall be applied as an overlay district, and all base district designations shall be maintained.

(2) A minor planned development, if approved, may allow for modifications to the standards of the base district. All such modifications shall be referred to as site development allowances.

(3) Notwithstanding any limitations on variances (Section 1112.23), site development allowances may be approved provided the applicant specifically identifies each site development allowance in the minor planned development application and demonstrates how each site development allowance would be compatible with surrounding development; and is necessary for proper development of the site**, and is aligned with a minimum of one of the modification standards detailed in subsection (b) below.**

(4) All approved site development allowances shall be delineated in the ordinance approving the minor planned development and shall be considered the standards of the minor planned development overlay district as it applies to the subject property.

(b) Modification Standards. An applicant seeking a site development allowance shall be required to justify their request through the provision of tangible benefits to the City of Stow by meeting a minimum of one of modification standards detailed below.

(1) Environmentally Sustainable Design. Principal buildings in the minor planned development are designed to meet criteria for LEED Silver certification or the minor planned development meets LEED neighborhood design standards.

(2) Affordability.

(A) A minimum of twenty-five (25) percent of dwellings in the minor planned development are offered for rent or for sale at an amount no more than thirty (30) percent pf the gross annual income of households that earn no more than eighty (80) percent of the area median income as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for a minimum period of thirty (30) years, or

(B) A minimum of fifteen (15) percent of dwellings in the minor planned development are offered for rent at an amount no more than thirty (30) percent of the gross annual income of households that earn no more than sixty (6) percent of the area median income as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for a minimum of thirty (30) years.

(3) Accessible Design. Minor planned developments for detached one-unit structures or townhomes which are not governed by Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or State Accessibility regulations shall provide a minimum of twenty (20) percent of the dwelling units to be accessible to persons with limited mobility.

(4) Other. The applicant may proposed an "other" objective for consideration which shall be aligned with the City of Stow Comprehensive Plan, as determined by the City Council.

(Ord. 2025-208. Passed 12-4-25.)

SECTION 2. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and, pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect thirty days after its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

READINGS:
First: April 23, 2026
Second Reading: May 14. 2026 (TABLED)

PUBLIC HEARING:
~~Thursday, May 28, 2026~~
Thursday, July 9, 2026

VERSION 2

REQUESTED BY PLANNING DIRECTOR
APPROVED BY PLANNING
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-096 INTRODUCED BY YOUNG

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1103 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS," PARTICULARY SECTION 1103.04, ENTITLED "MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS."

WHEREAS, the City of Stow wishes to amend certain sections of Chapter 1103 of the Codified Ordinances of Stow relating to reinstall modification standards for Minor Planned Development Districts to restore the policy direction as vetted by the two-year, comprehensive, and public process;

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2026 (P.C. 2026-007), the Planning Commission did prudently consider and now does not recommend to this Council the amendment of the Zoning Code of the City of Stow to reflect these changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Section 1104.03 entitled "Minor Planned Development Overlay District Standards," which currently reads:

1103.04 MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS.

(a) Relation to Base District Standards.

(1) A minor planned development, if approved, shall be applied as an overlay district, and all base district designations shall be maintained.

(2) A minor planned development, if approved, may allow for modifications to the standards of the base district. All such modifications shall be referred to as site development allowances.

(3) Notwithstanding any limitations on variances (Section 1112.23), site development allowances may be approved provided the applicant specifically identifies each site development allowance in the minor planned development application and demonstrates how each site development allowance would be compatible with surrounding development; and is necessary for proper development of the site.

(4) All approved site development allowances shall be delineated in the ordinance approving the minor planned development and shall be considered the standards of the minor planned development overlay district as it applies to the subject property.

(Ord. 2025-208. Passed 12-4-25.)

be, and the same is, hereby amended to read:

1103.04 MINOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT STANDARDS.

(a) Relation to Base District Standards.

(1) A minor planned development, if approved, shall be applied as an overlay district, and all base district designations shall be maintained.

(2) A minor planned development, if approved, may allow for modifications to the standards of the base district. All such modifications shall be referred to as site development allowances.

(3) Notwithstanding any limitations on variances (Section 1112.23), site development allowances may be approved provided the applicant specifically identifies each site development allowance in the minor planned development application and demonstrates how each site development allowance would be compatible with surrounding development; and is necessary for proper development of the site**, and is aligned with a minimum of one of the modification standards detailed in subsection (b) below.**

(4) All approved site development allowances shall be delineated in the ordinance approving the minor planned development and shall be considered the standards of the minor planned development overlay district as it applies to the subject property.

(b) Modification Standards. An applicant seeking a site development allowance shall be required to justify their request through the provision of tangible benefits to the City of Stow by meeting a minimum of one of modification standards detailed below.

(1) Environmentally Sustainable Design. Principal buildings in the minor planned development are designed to meet criteria for LEED Silver certification or the minor planned development meets LEED neighborhood design standards.

(2) Accessible Design. Minor planned developments for detached one-unit structures or townhomes which are not governed by Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or State Accessibility regulations shall provide a minimum of twenty (20) percent of the dwelling units to be accessible to persons with limited mobility.

(3) Other. The applicant may proposed an "other" objective for consideration which shall be aligned with the City of Stow Comprehensive Plan, as determined by the City Council.

(Ord. 2025-208. Passed 12-4-25.)

SECTION 2. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and, pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect thirty days after its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST

_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

I, Sonya Mottram, Clerk of Council, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing were posted in accordance with Section 4.12 of the Charter and 125.01 C.O.S.

REQUESTED BY COUNCIL
APPROVED BY COW
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-100 INTRODUCED BY HERMAN

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR, LAW DIRECTOR, AND FINANCE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF STOW EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2028.

WHEREAS, Section 4.15 of the Charter of the City of Stow requires that Council establish compensation for each elected officer of the City; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2011-038 last set the compensation for the Mayor and this elected officer has not received a Cost-of-Living adjustment (COLA) in fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 2013-131 last set the compensation for the Law Director and the Finance Director and these elected officers have not received a Cost-of-Living adjustment (COLA) in twelve years ; and

WHEREAS, this Council wishes to increase compensation for these elected officers and create a framework to provide COLA increases to these positions; and

WHEREAS, Section 4.15 of the Charter of the City of Stow requires that any increase in the compensation of these elected officers be submitted for approval by the electors of the City of Stow in the next general election; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Stow is desirous of placing the following compensation plan on the ballot;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the question of increasing compensation for these elected officers and creating a framework to provide COLA increases to these positions is hereby directed to be submitted to a vote of qualified electors of the City of Stow, Ohio, at a general election to be held on the 3rd day of November 2026 at the regular polling places of polling in said City between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m..

SECTION 2. That the ballot shall, at the top thereof, be entitled "CITY OF STOW ELECTED OFFICIAL COMPENSATION ISSUE" and the question to be separately submitted on said ballot shall be substantially in the words and form as follows:

Issue – Shall the compensation of the Mayor, Law Director, and Finance Director be amended to reflect as follows:

Mayor – Effective January 2, 2028, the base annual salary for the Mayor shall be

$100,000.00, representing an increase of twenty-four (24) percent over the salary as established in 2011. Effective January 2, 2029 and continuing each year henceforth, the base annual salary of the Mayor shall be increased by an amount no less than the greater of the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor or the highest collective bargaining unit's annual percentage increase for that year. The Mayor's salary shall be paid following the bi-weekly schedule as used for other salaried employees of the City of Stow.

Law Director - Effective January 2, 2028, the base annual salary for the Law Director shall be $100,000.00, representing an increase of twenty-three (23) percent over the salary as established in 2013. Effective January 2, 2029 and continuing each year henceforth, the base annual salary of the Law Director shall be increased by an amount no less than the greater of the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor or the highest collective bargaining unit's annual percentage increase for that year. The Law Director's salary shall be paid following the bi-weekly schedule as used for other salaried employees of the City of Stow.

Finance Director - Effective January 2, 2028, the base annual salary for the Finance Director shall be $100,000.00, representing an increase of twenty-three (23) percent over the salary as established in 2013. Effective January 2, 2029 and continuing each year henceforth, the base annual salary of the Finance Director shall be increased by an amount no less than the greater of the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, as published by the U.S. Department of Labor or the highest collective bargaining unit's annual percentage increase for that year. The Finance Director's salary shall be paid following the bi-weekly schedule as used for other salaried employees of the City of Stow.

To the left of such wording, in boxes with appropriate places of markings shall appear the words "YES" and "NO" and each voter shall indicate his or her vote by marking a cross mark "X" in the place so provided.

SECTION 3. That in the event said issue is approved by the majority of the electors voting herein, any existing Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed as of the effective date of the compensation provided herein.

SECTION 4. That the Clerk be, and she is, hereby directed to give Public Notice of the time and place of holding of such election by publication of such notice at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election, in a newspaper of general circulation in said City.

SECTION 5. The Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to certify a copy of this ordinance to the Board of Election of Summit County; that this ordinance be, and hereby is, determined sufficient authority upon filing with the Summit County Board of Elections to cause that government body to proceed to place the herein prescribed Issue upon the Stow City ballot at the **November 3, 2026** general election, and that such authority be deemed granted to the Board upon receipt of a certified copy hereof.

SECTION 6. To pay the costs of printing and mailing said copies of said proposed Issue and publishing notice thereof be, and hereby is, appropriated from the general fund the appropriate sums of monies so needed and the Director of Finance shall cause payment to be made therefor from such funds as are heretofore or hereinafter lawfully appropriated by Council for such purpose.

SECTION 7. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 8. That this ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety for the reason that said ballot question must immediately be sent to the Board of Elections to meet the Board's deadline of August 5, 2026 within which to receive questions for this November's general election and, pursuant to Section 4.13 Charter, shall take effect upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

REQUESTED BY HERMAN
APPROVED BY COW
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-102 INTRODUCED BY HERMAN

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO AMEND SECTION 3.06 TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURE OF ACTING MAYOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the 2025 Charter Review Commission for the City of Stow recommended amending the Charter Section 3.06 of the City of Stow to clarify the procedure to follow in the event of the need of an Acting Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Council did not approve the proposal from the Charter Review Commission to be placed on the ballot for the November 4, 2025 general election; and

WHEREAS, Council now desires to place this proposal on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 general election; and

WHEREAS, the Summit County Board of Elections requires ballot items such as this Resolution to be submitted to it no later than sixty (60) days prior to the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO, WITH AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ITS MEMBERS ELECTED OR APPOINTED THERETO CONCURRING THAT:

SECTION 1. The question of a proposed separate amendment to the Charter of the City of Stow, as originally adopted by the electorate on November 4, 1958, and as amended from time to time be, and the same is, directed to be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City of Stow, Ohio, at a general election to be held on the **3rd** day of **November 2026** at the regular places of polling in the City between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (or at such other date and time deemed appropriate by election officials); that such issue shall be submitted as a separate and distinct Charter Amendment; and that such Charter Amendment shall not be dependent on any other proposed amendment to the Charter.

SECTION 2. The ballot shall, at the top thereof, be titled, "CITY OF STOW CHARTER AMENDMENT ISSUE" and the question to be separately submitted on the ballot shall be substantially in the words and form as follows:

"Charter Issue—Shall Section 3.06, "Acting Mayor", of the Charter for the City of Stow be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 3.06 ACTING MAYOR.

President of Council, ~~or any member of Council designated by the majority vote of Council, in that order~~, shall become the Acting Mayor with all the powers of the Mayor in the event the Mayor, ~~or one acting in that capacity for the Mayor,~~ is temporarily: (a) Absent from the Municipality, (b) Inaccessible, (c) Unable for any cause or reason, to perform the duties of the Mayor, or (d) Until Council elects a Mayor in the event of the vacancy of said office as said procedures are set forth in Section 3.07 herein under. **In the event that the President of Council, while acting in the capacity of Acting Mayor is temporarily: (a) Absent from the Municipality, (b) Inaccessible, (c) Unable for any cause or reason, to perform the duties of the Mayor, or (d) Until Council elects a Mayor in the event of the vacancy of said office as said procedures are set forth in Section 3.07 herein under, then Council shall choose, by majority vote, a designee from their membership to serve as Acting Mayor.** Any member of Council performing the duties of the Acting Mayor shall relinquish his/her Council voting power on any motion or legislation.

To the left of such wording, in boxes with appropriate places of markings shall appear the words "YES" and "NO" and each voter shall indicate his or her vote by marking a cross mark "X" in the place so provided.

SECTION 3. In the event this separate amendment to the City Charter is approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, it shall become part of the Charter of the City of Stow and the present existing Section 3.06, shall thereby be then repealed or amended.

SECTION 4. The Clerk be, and she is, hereby directed to give Public Notice of the time and place of holding such election by publication of such notice at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election, in a newspaper of general circulation in said City.

SECTION 5. The Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to publish the full text of the proposed Charter Amendment Issue in accordance with Section 731.211, O.R.C.

SECTION 6. The Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to certify a copy of this ordinance to the Board of Elections of Summit County; that this ordinance be, and hereby is, determined sufficient authority upon filing with the Summit County Board of Elections to cause that government body to proceed to place the herein prescribed Charter Issue upon the Stow City ballot at the **November 3, 2026** general election, and that such authority be deemed granted to the Board upon receipt of a certified copy hereof.

SECTION 7. To pay the costs of printing and mailing said copies of said proposed Charter Amendment Issue and publishing notice thereof be, and hereby is, appropriated from the general fund the appropriate sums of monies so needed and the Director of Finance shall cause payment to be made therefor from such funds as are heretofore or hereinafter lawfully appropriated by Council for such purpose.

SECTION 8. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council

concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 9, That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety for the reason that said ballot question must immediately be sent to the Board of Elections to meet the Board's deadline of August 5, 2026 within which to receive questions for this November's general election, so that the electors are given proper opportunity pursuant to Sections 19.01 and 20.03 Charter, to vote on the question, and, pursuant to Section 4.13 Charter, shall take effect upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

REQUESTED BY HERMAN
APPROVED BY COW
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-103 INTRODUCED BY HERMAN

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO ADD SECTION 6.08 OF THE CHARTER, CREATING A PROVISION FOR AN ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the 2025 Charter Review Commission for the City of Stow recommended amending the Charter Article 6 of the City of Stow allow for an acting Finance Director in the event of incapacity of the Finance Director; and

WHEREAS, Council did not approve the proposal from the Charter Review Commission to be placed on the ballot for the November 4, 2025 general election; and

WHEREAS, Council now desires to place this proposal on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 general election; and

WHEREAS, the Summit County Board of Elections requires ballot items such as this Resolution to be submitted to it no later than sixty (60) days prior to the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO, WITH AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ITS MEMBERS ELECTED OR APPOINTED THERETO CONCURRING THAT:

SECTION 1. The question of a proposed separate amendment to the Charter of the City of Stow, as originally adopted by the electorate on November 4, 1958, and as amended from time to time be, and the same is, directed to be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City of Stow, Ohio, at a general election to be held on the **3rd** day of **November 2026** at the regular places of polling in the City between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (or at such other date and time deemed appropriate by election officials); that such issue shall be submitted as a separate and distinct Charter Amendment; and that such Charter Amendment shall not be dependent on any other proposed amendment to the Charter.

SECTION 2. The ballot shall, at the top thereof, be titled, "CITY OF STOW CHARTER AMENDMENT ISSUE" and the question to be separately submitted on the ballot shall be substantially in the words and form as follows:

"Charter Issue—Shall Article 6, Charter Review Commission, of the Charter for the City of Stow be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 6.08 ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR.

The Assistant Director of the General Division shall become the Acting Finance Director with all the powers of the Finance Director in the event the Finance Director is temporarily: (a) Absent from the Municipality, (b) Inaccessible, (c) Unable for any cause or reason, to perform the duties of the Finance Director. In the event that the Assistant Director of the General Division is vacant at the time that the Finance Director is temporarily unable to perform their duties pursuant to this section, the Mayor shall appoint an Acting Finance Director from within the Finance Department, until such time as the Finance Director is able to resume the performance of their duties.

To the left of such wording, in boxes with appropriate places of markings shall appear the words "YES" and "NO" and each voter shall indicate his or her vote by marking a cross mark "X" in the place so provided.

SECTION 3. In the event this separate amendment to the City Charter is approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, it shall become part of the Charter of the City of Stow and the present existing Section 6.08, shall thereby be then repealed or amended.

SECTION 4. The Clerk be, and she is, hereby directed to give Public Notice of the time and place of holding such election by publication of such notice at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election, in a newspaper of general circulation in said City.

SECTION 5. The Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to publish the full text of the proposed Charter Amendment Issue in accordance with Section 731.211, O.R.C.

SECTION 6. The Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to certify a copy of this ordinance to the Board of Elections of Summit County; that this ordinance be, and hereby is, determined sufficient authority upon filing with the Summit County Board of Elections to cause that government body to proceed to place the herein prescribed Charter Issue upon the Stow City ballot at the **November 3, 2026** general election, and that such authority be deemed granted to the Board upon receipt of a certified copy hereof.

SECTION 7. To pay the costs of printing and mailing said copies of said proposed Charter Amendment Issue and publishing notice thereof be, and hereby is, appropriated from the general fund the appropriate sums of monies so needed and the Director of Finance shall cause payment to be made therefor from such funds as are heretofore or hereinafter lawfully appropriated by Council for such purpose.

SECTION 8. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 9. That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety for the reason that said ballot question must immediately be sent to the Board of Elections to meet the Board's deadline of August 5, 2026 within which to receive questions for this November's general election, so that the electors are given proper opportunity pursuant to Sections 19.01 and 20.03 Charter, to vote on the question, and, pursuant to Section 4.13 Charter, shall take effect upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic
FILED WITH CLERK_____ MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

REQUESTED BY HERMAN
APPROVED BY COW
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-104 INTRODUCED BY HERMAN

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A SEPARATE AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026: TO ADD SECTION 9.07 OF THE CHARTER, CREATING A PROVISION FOR AN ACTING LAW DIRECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the 2025 Charter Review Commission for the City of Stow recommended amending the Charter Article 9 of the City of Stow allow for an acting Law Director in the event of incapacity of the Law Director; and

WHEREAS, Council did not approve the proposal from the Charter Review Commission to be placed on the ballot for the November 4, 2025 general election; and

WHEREAS, Council now desires to place this proposal on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 general election; and

WHEREAS, the Summit County Board of Elections requires ballot items such as this Resolution to be submitted to it no later than sixty (60) days prior to the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO, WITH AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ITS MEMBERS ELECTED OR APPOINTED THERETO CONCURRING THAT:

SECTION 1. The question of a proposed separate amendment to the Charter of the City of Stow, as originally adopted by the electorate on November 4, 1958, and as amended from time to time be, and the same is, directed to be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the City of Stow, Ohio, at a general election to be held on the **3rd** day of **November 2026** at the regular places of polling in the City between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (or at such other date and time deemed appropriate by election officials); that such issue shall be submitted as a separate and distinct Charter Amendment; and that such Charter Amendment shall not be dependent on any other proposed amendment to the Charter.

SECTION 2. The ballot shall, at the top thereof, be titled, "CITY OF STOW CHARTER AMENDMENT ISSUE" and the question to be separately submitted on the ballot shall be substantially in the words and form as follows:

"Charter Issue—Shall Article 9, Charter Review Commission, of the Charter for the City of Stow be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 9.07 ACTING LAW DIRECTOR.

The Deputy Law Director shall become the Acting Law Director with all the powers of the Law Director in the event the Law Director is temporarily: (a) Absent from the Municipality, (b) Inaccessible, (c) Unable for any cause or reason, to perform the duties of the Law Director. In the event that the position of Deputy Law Director is vacant at the time of the Law Director's temporary inability to perform their duties under this Section, the Mayor shall appoint an Acting Law Director from within the Law Department until such time as the Law Director is able to resume performance of their duties.

To the left of such wording, in boxes with appropriate places of markings shall appear the words "YES" and "NO" and each voter shall indicate his or her vote by marking a cross mark "X" in the place so provided.

SECTION 3. In the event this separate amendment to the City Charter is approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, it shall become part of the Charter of the City of Stow and the present existing Section 9.07, shall thereby be then repealed or amended.

SECTION 4. The Clerk be, and she is, hereby directed to give Public Notice of the time and place of holding such election by publication of such notice at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such election, in a newspaper of general circulation in said City.

SECTION 5. The Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to publish the full text of the proposed Charter Amendment Issue in accordance with Section 731.211, O.R.C.

SECTION 6. The Clerk be, and she hereby is, directed to certify a copy of this ordinance to the Board of Elections of Summit County; that this ordinance be, and hereby is, determined sufficient authority upon filing with the Summit County Board of Elections to cause that government body to proceed to place the herein prescribed Charter Issue upon the Stow City ballot at the **November 3, 2026** general election, and that such authority be deemed granted to the Board upon receipt of a certified copy hereof.

SECTION 7. To pay the costs of printing and mailing said copies of said proposed Charter Amendment Issue and publishing notice thereof be, and hereby is, appropriated from the general fund the appropriate sums of monies so needed and the Director of Finance shall cause payment to be made therefor from such funds as are heretofore or hereinafter lawfully appropriated by Council for such purpose.

SECTION 8. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 9. That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety for the reason that said ballot question must immediately be sent to the Board of Elections to meet the Board's deadline of August 5, 2026 within which to receive questions for this November's general election, so that the electors are given proper opportunity pursuant to Sections 19.01 and 20.03 Charter, to vote on the question, and, pursuant to Section 4.13 Charter, shall take effect upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

REQUESTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
APPROVED BY COW
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-111 INTRODUCED BY HERMAN

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR TO PASS LEGISLATION ALLOWING FOR THE CREATION OF A COMMUNITY ENERGY PILOT PROGRAM IN OHIO.

WHEREAS, community energy facilities allow customers to choose the source of their electricity, including customers who want to purchase solar energy but do not have suitable conditions to install their own solar facility; and

WHEREAS, community solar facilities are a more decentralized, resilient and efficient way to deliver electricity to ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, in June 2025, Ohioans saw a 26% increase of their electricity bills; and

WHEREAS, community solar facilities have shown to save households 5% to 20% on their electricity costs; and

WHEREAS, Ohio imports 20% of its energy from out of state and regional energy prices are increasing significantly; and

WHEREAS, a community energy pilot program would produce energy locally, avoiding costly transmission upgrades and improving grid reliability for all ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, Ohio based solar manufacturing companies and workers will benefit from local community solar projects enabled by this legislation; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-four (24) states currently have legislation for community energy, providing a framework that supports the production of community energy facilities in those states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Council of the City of Stow calls on the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor of Ohio to enact a community energy pilot program (HB303), which passed the Ohio House with a 77 to 8 affirmative vote and awaits passage in the Ohio Senate.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to present a copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the Ohio House, President of the Ohio Senate, all members of the Ohio Senate Energy Committee and Ohio Governor as an expression of the City of Stow's support.

SECTION 3. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council

concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and, pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect thirty days after its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

REQUESTED BY SERVICE DIRECTOR
APPROVED BY FINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-112 INTRODUCED BY BARANEK

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-238 INCREASING THE AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURES WITH EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR GAS SERVICE PROJECT WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF PUBLIC BIDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Service Director has requested authorization to increase expenditures for gas service from $80,850.00 to $100,850.00 from East Ohio Gas Company and

WHEREAS, the purchase is exempt from public bidding pursuant to C.O.S. Sections 173.07(a)(1)C; and

WHEREAS, since the expenditure is over $50,000.00 the Service Director requests legislative approval by this Council; and

WHEREAS, except for the expenditure amount needing to increase, all provisions contained within Ordinance No. 2025-238 are accurate and remain in full force and effect;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor be, and he hereby is, authorized to make and enter into a contract with East Ohio Gas Company for gas service.

SECTION 2. That the Finance Director be, and he hereby is, authorized to appropriate, encumber, and pay funds in an amount not to exceed **One Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars and 00/100 ($100,850.00)** to East Ohio Gas Company for said purchase.

SECTION 3. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 4. That this ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety due to all buildings needing gas service and, pursuant to Section 4.13 Charter, shall take effect upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

Fund Account Numbers – 101 General, 284 EMS, 207 Street, 216 Water, 826 Cemetery

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST

_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

I, Sonya Mottram, Clerk of Council, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing were posted in accordance with Section 4.12 of the Charter and 125.01 C.O.S.

Fund Account Numbers – 101 General, 284 EMS, 207 Street, 216 Water, 826 Cemetery

REQUESTED BY SERVICE DIRECTOR
APPROVED BY COW
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-113 INTRODUCED BY HERMAN

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 951 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STOW, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL CEMETARY," PARTICULARY SECTION 951.12 ENTITLED "INDIGENT BURIAL"

WHEREAS, the City of Stow wishes to amend certain sections of Chapter 951 of the Codified Ordinances of Stow relating to the process and requirements of the City as it relates to indigent burials;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Section 951.12, entitled "Indigent Burial" which currently reads:

951.12 INDIGENT BURIAL.

The City of Stow has an indigent burial program which shall be administered by the Service Department as follows:

(a) Interment of persons meeting the requirements of Ohio R.C. 5101.521 shall be done only with prior authorization of the Director of Public Service and as provided for in this section.

(b) The Mayor and Director of Finance are hereby authorized to pay the following sums for professional services rendered by funeral directors to prepare Ohio R.C. 5101.521 persons for burial in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Director of Public Service.

Each adult person	$700.00
Each child under 12 years of age	550.00
Each still birth	150.00

The Mayor and Director of Finance are also hereby authorized to pay for a stone or concrete marker on which the person's name and age, if known, and date of death shall be inscribed.

(c) Ohio R.C. 5101.521 burials shall be scheduled to arrive at a municipal cemetery before 11:00 a.m., weekdays.

(d) Before any interments or payments are made pursuant to this section, the funeral director must submit the following to the Director of Public Service:

(1) Three copies of a statement for the amount requested to be paid by the City pursuant to subsection (b) hereof;

(2) Two copies of the death certificate and one copy of the burial permit; and

(3) An original certificate of indigency form completed by the next of kin, or if not available, the most knowledgeable individual concerning the affairs of the deceased, for the purpose of determining whether the deceased qualifies to be buried at the City's expense pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5101.521.

This certificate shall be in a form prescribed by the Director of Public Service and shall be completed, signed and witnessed in the offices at _____ Cemetery, or other location designated by the Director, prior to or on the day of the burial.

(e) Should it be ascertained, after any payment by the City pursuant to subsection (b) hereof, that such payment was made for a decedent whom the City did not have the responsibility

to bury pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5101.521, the City shall be entitled to any benefits payable on behalf of such decedent by any person or agency who had the responsibility to pay burial benefits pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5101.521, up to an amount totaling the payment made pursuant to subsection (b) hereof plus the fees for the grave space and the opening and closing.

be, and the same is, hereby amended to read:

951.12 INDIGENT BURIAL AND INURNMENT.

The City of Stow has an indigent burial **and inurnment** program which shall be administered by the Service Department as follows:

(a) Interment of persons meeting the requirements of Ohio R.C. ~~5101.521~~ **9.15** shall be done only with prior authorization of the Director of Public Service and as provided for in this section. **Indigent, as used in this section, is a person who meets the requirements of Ohio R.C. 9.15.**

(b) The Mayor and Director of Finance are hereby authorized to pay ~~the following sums~~ for professional services rendered by funeral directors to prepare ~~Ohio R.C. 5101.521~~ **Indigent** persons for burial **or inurnment** in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Director of Public Service.

~~Each adult person~~	~~$700.00~~
~~Each child under 12 years of age~~	~~550.00~~
~~Each still birth~~	~~150.00~~

The Mayor and Director of Finance are also hereby authorized to pay for a stone or concrete marker on which the person's name and age, if known, and date of death shall be inscribed.

(c) The Director Public Service shall have sole authority to determine the disposition of Indigent remains in accordance with Ohio R.C. 2108.81(A)(10). Cremated remains of Indigent persons shall only be released to the City for burial or inurnment.

(~~c~~**d**) ~~Ohio R.C. 5101.521~~ **Indigent** burials **or inurnments** shall be scheduled to arrive at a municipal cemetery before 11:00 a.m., weekdays.

(~~d~~**e**) Before any interments or payments are made pursuant to this section, the funeral director must submit the following to the Director of Public Service:

(1) Three copies of a statement for the amount requested to be paid by the City pursuant to subsection (b) hereof;

(2) Two copies of the death certificate and one copy of the burial permit; and

(3) An original certificate of indigency form completed by the next of kin, or if not available, the most knowledgeable individual concerning the affairs of the deceased, for the purpose of determining whether the deceased qualifies to be buried at the City's expense pursuant to Ohio R.C. ~~5101.521~~ **9.15**.

This certificate shall be in a form prescribed by the Director of Public Service and shall be completed, signed and witnessed in the ~~offices at _____ Cemetery, or other~~ location designated by the Director, prior to or on the day of the burial.

(4) Cremation Authorization Form, if applicable.

(~~e~~**f**) Should it be ascertained, after any payment by the City pursuant to subsection (b)

hereof, that such payment was made for a decedent whom the City did not have the responsibility to bury pursuant to Ohio R.C. ~~5101.521~~ **9.15**, the City shall be entitled to any benefits payable on behalf of such decedent by any person or agency who had the responsibility to pay burial benefits pursuant to Ohio R.C. ~~5101.521~~ **9.15**, up to an amount totaling the payment made pursuant to subsection (b) hereof plus the fees for the grave space and the opening and closing.

SECTION 2. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this ordinance were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter, and, pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect thirty days after its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST

_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR_____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

I, Sonya Mottram, Clerk of Council, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing were posted in accordance with Section 4.12 of the Charter and 125.01 C.O.S.

REQUESTED BY LAW
APPROVED BY COW
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-114 INTRODUCED BY HERMAN

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF STOW MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC ART AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Stow desired to create a Master Plan for Public Art to outline vision, goals, and actionable steps to incorporate public art into everyday life and foster a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stow engaged Sabertooth Public Art, supported by the 2024 ArtsForward grant from ArtsNow, to create the Master Plan for Public Art; and

WHEREAS, through community outreach, research, and public engagement, Sabertooth Public Art has created the Master Plan for Public Art; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan for Public Art will allow the City to apply for applicable grants and other funding opportunities to increase public art.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STOW, COUNTY OF SUMMIT AND STATE OF OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. City Council finds the 2026 City of Stow Master Plan for Public Art is necessary to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public.

SECTION 2. City Council accepted the 2026 City of Stow Master Plan for Public Art as set forth in the draft, included as Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. This Council finds and determines that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees or subcommittees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

SECTION 4. This Resolution was adopted pursuant to Section 4.11 Charter and is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety for the reason that Master Plan for Public Art will allow the coordinated and organized pursuit of public art in the City of Stow and allow applications to be made for various grants and funding opportunities, and pursuant to Section 4.13, Charter, shall take effect upon its adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor, otherwise at the earliest period allowed by law.

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL_____

ATTEST

_____ _____
Sonya Mottram, CLERK OF COUNCIL Kyle Herman, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH MAYOR _____ APPROVED_____
John Pribonic, MAYOR

FILED WITH CLERK _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM EFFECTIVE DATE_____

_____
Drew C. Reilly, LAW DIRECTOR

2026-114
EXHIBIT A

STOW MASTER PLAN FOR PUBLIC ART
DRAFT 2

05.18.26

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DRAFT

SECTION 1: Introduction

Stow's Public Art Master Plan serves as a roadmap for cultivating a vibrant, inclusive, and community-centered public art program in Stow. It outlines a shared vision, goals, and actionable steps to integrate public art into everyday life, enriching public spaces and building community pride. The City of Stow is committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich community through the thoughtful integration of public art into its civic landscape. This Public Art Plan establishes a framework for the development, funding strategies, placement, and maintenance of public artworks throughout the city, reflecting Stow's identity, its history, and the aspirations of its residents.

Initiated in 2025 through a partnership with Sabertooth Public Art and supported by a 2024 ArtsForward grant from ArtsNow, this plan lays the groundwork for a public art program that is community-driven, sustainable, and uniquely representative of the City of Stow.

The overarching vision is for public art to be woven into the daily life of the city where murals, sculptures, and installations reflect the people, land, history, and the stories that shape Stow.

The plan is driven by clear goals, including the **Beautification and Enhancement of Public Spaces**, the **Support and Uplift of Local Artists**, **Strengthening Civic Pride and Placemaking**, and **Celebrating Storytelling, Identity, and Community Voice**. It also aims to establish clear and replicable procedures and define communication structure and roles for public art.

Public art has the power to transform shared spaces, animating streetscapes, sparking conversation, and deepening a community's connection to place. Through murals, sculptures, installations, landscape and other artistic expressions, the City of Stow seeks to create an environment in which art is not confined to galleries or institutions but is woven into the everyday experiences of those who live, work, and visit here.

These goals are reinforced by core values that guide the plan:

- **Equity & Inclusion:** Ensuring public art reflects the full diversity of the community.
- **Support for Local Artists:** Prioritize fostering strong, reciprocal relationships with a diverse network of local creatives, ensuring their voice and talent are central to the public art program. Centering and supporting creatives with a connection to Stow.
- **Collaboration:** Shaping and sustaining the work with residents, civic partners, and businesses.
- **Creative Placemaking:** Bringing life, identity, and purpose to public spaces.
- **Sustainability:** Designing artworks and systems for long-term impact and care.

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By investing in the arts, the City of Stow affirms that cultural enrichment and economic development are mutually reinforcing priorities.

PLANNING PROCESS

The development of the Public Art Master Plan was guided by an inclusive and comprehensive community engagement strategy. A dedicated Steering Committee was established, comprising selected stakeholders and representatives from various Stow organizations and City staff, who provided initial guidance and foundational ideas.

The process of gathering research and information was multi-faceted, ensuring broad community input and was collected through the following mechanisms:

- **Public Outreach:** This included three in-depth focus groups, a large-scale community engagement event, and a city-wide survey to gather diverse perspectives and inform the plan's direction.
- **Site-Specific Research:** The planning team conducted a city tour and independent site visits to assess priority locations for public art placement.
- **Collaboration with City Entities:** Sabertooth met with both the Arts Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board during their respective board meetings to gather additional data and align with existing municipal goals.

STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

This Public Art Master Plan outlines a comprehensive framework for establishing and sustaining a successful public art program in Stow.

The document includes:

- An overview of community context and cultural assets
- Goals and objectives for the public art program
- Community engagement strategies
- Identification of priority sites and locations
- Potential types of public artworks
- Artist engagement and selection processes
- Partnerships and stakeholders
- Maintenance and conservation guidelines
- Budget and funding strategies
- Implementation timelines and evaluation strategies

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Together, these components create a roadmap for integrating public art into Stow's civic landscape in ways that are thoughtful, community-driven, and sustainable.

A LIVING DOCUMENT

The policies and programs outlined in this plan represent a long-term vision for Stow as a city where public art is valued, sustained, and accessible to all. At the same time, the plan is designed to function as a living document, one that evolves alongside the community it serves and remains responsive to new opportunities, partnerships, and creative ideas.

Through continued collaboration with artists, residents, and civic partners, the City of Stow aims to build a public art program that reflects the creativity, identity, and aspirations of the Stow community for years to come.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & KEY PARTICIPANTS

This section outlines the primary roles, responsibilities, and purpose of key participants in the City of Stow Public Art Program. Clear definition of these roles helps ensure transparent decision-making, effective collaboration, equitable artist selection, and successful implementation of public art projects throughout the city.

Arts Commission / Public Art Commission

An Arts Commission, often administered through a Public Art Commission (PAC) or similar municipal body, is a formal process through which the City selects and contracts an artist or artist team to design and create an original artwork for a specific publicly accessible site. Commissions are commonly used for permanent or long-term public artworks such as murals, sculptures, installations, gateways, integrated architectural works, parks, plazas, and civic infrastructure projects.

These projects are intended to enhance public spaces, strengthen community identity, reflect local culture and history, and contribute to the visual character and economic vitality of the City of Stow.

Key Responsibilities

- Define project purpose, artistic goals, budget, timeline, and scope.
- Identify and approve appropriate public art sites in collaboration with city departments and community stakeholders.

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- Develop and administer Calls for Artists (RFQs/RFPs), including eligibility criteria, selection methodology, and evaluation processes.
- Convene and oversee artist selection panels and public art review processes.
- Manage artist communications, contracts, approvals, and project coordination.
- Serve as liaison between artists, city departments, contractors, fabricators, consultants, and community partners.
- Coordinate community engagement and stakeholder participation throughout the project lifecycle.
- Oversee project fabrication, installation, documentation, and final acceptance.
- Ensure projects are completed on schedule, within budget, and in compliance with city standards and public art policies.
- Support long-term conservation, maintenance planning, and stewardship of public artworks.

Recommended Structure
Current Artist Commission working in collaboration with the Mayor, City Departments, site stewards, and artist selection panels. A future Public Art Project Manager position is recommended as the program expands.

Artist Selection Panel / Public Art Selection Committee
The Artist Selection Panel is a temporary advisory committee assembled to evaluate artist qualifications, conceptual proposals, and public art submissions for specific public art opportunities. The panel helps ensure that artist selections are informed by artistic excellence, community relevance, technical feasibility, diversity of perspectives, and alignment with the goals of the City of Stow Public Art Plan.

Selection panels may include representatives from city departments, arts professionals, design professionals, business leaders, educators, community organizations, site stakeholders, and residents.

Key Responsibilities

- Review artist qualifications, portfolios, and project submissions using established evaluation criteria.
- Evaluate artistic quality, creativity, technical feasibility, durability, accessibility, and relevance to the site and community context.
- Participate in artist interviews, presentations, and proposal reviews.
- Deliberate collaboratively and recommend finalists or selected artists for consideration and approval.

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- Ensure transparency, fairness, and equity throughout the artist selection process.
- Provide feedback regarding site appropriateness, public impact, and long-term stewardship considerations.
- Represent community and stakeholder perspectives during the review process.
- Advise the Arts Commission and City regarding recommended artist selections and project direction.

Recommended Membership
Representatives from the Mayor's Office, Legal Department, Planning & Development Department, Parks & Recreation Department, local arts professionals, business representatives, educators, community organizations, residents, site stakeholders, and members of the Arts Commission.

Site Stewards / Stewardship

Site stewardship refers to the individuals or departments responsible for the long-term care, monitoring, protection, and public interpretation of artworks located in public or shared spaces. Stewardship combines maintenance responsibilities with community engagement and educational outreach.

Site stewards serve as liaisons between the public, artists, managing departments, and the City to ensure artworks remain safe, accessible, and well-maintained over time.

Key Responsibilities

- Monitor and maintain public artworks exposed to weather and environmental conditions.
- Track artwork condition, maintenance history, and location through documentation systems.
- Coordinate repairs, conservation efforts, and routine maintenance.
- Support public engagement through signage, tours, workshops, and educational programming.
- Help protect site-specific artworks that are closely connected to their physical environment and community context.
- Report vandalism, damage, or safety concerns related to public artworks.

Recommended Stewardship
Parks & Recreation Department in collaboration with the Mayor, City Departments, site stewards, and the Arts Commission.

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Marketing & Communications
Marketing and communications support the Public Art Program by documenting projects, promoting public engagement, and communicating the value of public art to residents and visitors. Effective communication helps build community awareness, participation, civic pride, and long-term support for public art initiatives.

Key Responsibilities

- Document public art projects through photography, video, written content, and archival materials.
- Share artist features, installation updates, and project milestones with the public.
- Develop social media campaigns and promotional materials aligned with city branding and accessibility standards.
- Coordinate press releases, media outreach, and public announcements related to public art initiatives.
- Support educational outreach, tourism promotion, and public programming efforts.
- Assist in maintaining online public art maps, inventories, and digital archives.

Recommended Structure
Collaboration between the City's marketing staff, the Arts Commission, community partners, and a dedicated Public Art social media and communications strategy.

Public Artist
A public artist creates artwork for publicly accessible spaces such as parks, civic buildings, streetscapes, trails, gateways, plazas, and community gathering places. Public art projects may include murals, sculptures, integrated design elements, installations, environmental art, light-based works, and digital media.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop original artistic concepts responding to project goals, community input, and site context.
- Refine selected concepts through design development and review processes.
- Collaborate with city staff, contractors, engineers, fabricators, and site stewards.
- Design, fabricate, transport, and install artworks according to approved plans and specifications.
- Maintain project schedules, budgets, and required documentation.
- Provide maintenance recommendations and conservation guidance for completed artworks.

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- Participate in community engagement activities when appropriate.

Recommended Selection Process
Open calls to artists through RFQ or RFP processes administered by the Arts Commission and Artist Selection Panels. Finalists may be invited to develop and present detailed design proposals, budgets, timelines, and community engagement concepts.

Mayor & City Representatives
The Mayor and City representatives provide administrative oversight and interdepartmental coordination to ensure public art projects align with municipal priorities, regulations, contracts, budgets, and public safety standards.

Key Responsibilities

- Review and approve contracts, agreements, and funding allocations related to public art projects.
- Ensure compliance with zoning regulations, permitting requirements, insurance standards, and city policies.
- Coordinate communication and approvals between departments and project partners.
- Assist with infrastructure coordination, construction review, and implementation logistics.
- Support public transparency and accountability throughout project development.
- Provide final approvals for proposed public art projects when required.

Recommended Participation
Mayor's Office, Legal Department, Planning & Development Department, Parks & Recreation Department, Engineering Department, and other relevant municipal representatives.

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SECTION 2: Community & Context

Understanding the community context is essential to developing a successful public art program. The following overview highlights key demographic characteristics, historical influences, cultural assets, and community perspectives that inform the goals and strategies outlined in this Public Art Master Plan.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Located in northern Stow within Summit County, the City of Stow serves as a stable suburban community positioned between the regional centers of Akron, Kent, Hudson, and Cuyahoga Falls. Its location within Northeast Ohio places the city within close proximity to major cultural, educational, recreational, and economic assets, while maintaining a strong residential identity rooted in neighborhood character, parks, schools, and civic amenities.

The city encompasses approximately 17 square miles and is primarily composed of residential neighborhoods, community facilities, commercial corridors, parks, and natural landscapes. Public spaces throughout Stow—including parks, trails, civic buildings, streetscapes, and gathering areas—provide important opportunities for the integration of public art and creative placemaking initiatives.

Stow's population is approximately 34,000 residents, reflecting a mature and family-oriented community with a median age of approximately 41.5 years. Median household income levels are above regional and national averages, and the city maintains relatively low poverty rates, contributing to strong neighborhood stability and long-term community investment.

The demographic composition of Stow continues to gradually diversify and includes a predominantly White population alongside Black or African American, Asian, multiracial, Hispanic, and other residents. These demographic characteristics provide important context for the development of inclusive, accessible, and culturally responsive public art programming that reflects the evolving identity of the community.

As a suburban community with strong civic participation, quality public amenities, and extensive park systems, Stow is well positioned to support public art initiatives that strengthen community identity, enhance visual character, encourage gathering and engagement, and contribute to long-term cultural and economic vitality.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The history of Stow is deeply connected to the early settlement patterns of the Connecticut Western Reserve and the broader development of Northeast Ohio. The township was named after Joshua Stow, a surveyor and landowner who participated in the surveying of the Western Reserve in 1796 and later purchased land that would become Stow Township. Joshua Stow reportedly described the area as "one of the prettiest and most romantic spots in the Western Reserve."

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Prior to European settlement, the region was inhabited by Seneca Native Americans, who maintained settlements near what is now the neighboring village of Silver Lake. Recognition of these Indigenous histories is important to understanding the layered cultural landscape of the region and the broader historical context in which contemporary public art initiatives are situated.

The first permanent settler in the area, William Walker, arrived in 1802. Stow Township was formally organized in 1808 and later became part of Summit County in 1840. Over time, portions of the original township evolved into neighboring communities including Munroe Falls, Cuyahoga Falls, and Silver Lake.

The remaining township area incorporated as the Village of Stow in 1957 and officially became the City of Stow following the 1960 United States Census. Since that time, the city has experienced significant residential growth while retaining strong connections to its historic roots, natural landscapes, and community-centered identity.

Today, Stow's history, suburban character, extensive park system, and strong sense of civic identity provide a meaningful foundation for the development of public art initiatives that celebrate local culture, strengthen community pride, and enhance shared public spaces throughout the city.

CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

Stow benefits from a strong network of cultural, environmental, recreational, and civic assets that create meaningful opportunities for public art, creative placemaking, and community engagement. The city's combination of parks, trails, civic infrastructure, community programming, and regional connectivity provides an ideal framework for integrating public art into everyday public life.

Public art in Stow has the potential to strengthen community identity, activate gathering spaces, celebrate local history and ecology, and enhance the visual experience of residents and visitors throughout the city.

Parks and Outdoor Spaces

Stow maintains an extensive parks and recreation system consisting of community parks, athletic facilities, trails, playgrounds, conservation areas, and natural landscapes that serve as important civic gathering spaces and potential sites for public art integration.

One of the city's most significant environmental landmarks is Silver Springs Park, home to the world's largest exposed glacial pothole and a major regional recreational destination. The park includes wetlands, trails, boardwalks, educational facilities, and natural habitats that provide opportunities for environmentally responsive public art, interpretive installations, and nature-based creative experiences.

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Additional major parks and outdoor destinations throughout Stow include:

- **Oregon Trail Park**, a large community recreation area featuring athletic fields, walking paths, playgrounds, and event spaces suitable for family-oriented and participatory public art experiences.
- **Fox Den Golf Course**, a municipally owned golf course and event venue that serves as a highly visible civic destination with opportunities for gateway features, sculpture, and integrated landscape design.
- **Bow Wow Beach Dog Park**, a nationally recognized recreational amenity attracting regional visitors and providing opportunities for playful, community-centered public art.
- **Adell Durbin Park**, a wooded park and trail area connected to the city's broader recreational network and natural landscape system.
- **Fishcreek Road and Graham Road Corridors**, important transportation and commercial corridors that provide opportunities for streetscape enhancements, murals, gateway signage, lighting installations, and identity-based public art.
- **Metro Parks Trail Connections and Neighborhood Trail Systems**, which support pedestrian and bicycle connectivity throughout the city and offer opportunities for temporary installations, artistic wayfinding, interpretive elements, and trail-based arts programming.

Collectively, these parks and outdoor environments provide highly visible and accessible locations for future public art projects that encourage exploration, gathering, recreation, and cultural engagement.

Community Institutions and Programs

Stow supports a strong network of civic institutions, community programs, and public services that contribute to the city's cultural vitality and create opportunities for collaborative public art initiatives.

The City maintains an active Arts Commission alongside a robust Parks and Recreation Department that regularly coordinates festivals, concerts, seasonal programming, athletic events, educational activities, and community gatherings throughout the year. These programs help foster civic pride, strengthen neighborhood connections, and create natural opportunities for integrating temporary and permanent public art experiences into community life.

Additional community assets include:

- Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library
- Stow-Munroe Falls City School District
- Local businesses and commercial districts
- Community organizations and nonprofit groups
- Civic gathering spaces and municipal facilities
- Regional recreational and wellness programs

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Together, these institutions provide important infrastructure for public engagement, arts education, cultural programming, artist partnerships, and long-term stewardship of public art projects.

Regional Connectivity

Stow's location between Akron and Kent places the city within a broader regional arts, education, and cultural ecosystem that includes universities, museums, galleries, nonprofit arts organizations, and creative industries throughout Northeast Ohio.

Nearby institutions and cultural resources include:

- The University of Akron and the Myers School of Art
- Kent State University College of the Arts
- Akron Art Museum
- Summit Artspace
- ArtsNow
- Curated Storefront
- Regional theater, music, and festival organizations throughout Summit County

These regional connections create valuable opportunities for artist recruitment, educational partnerships, exhibitions, community collaborations, public programming, grant funding, and interdisciplinary creative initiatives.

Stow's accessibility to surrounding communities, combined with its strong civic infrastructure and quality public spaces, positions the city to become an increasingly visible participant within the Northeast Ohio public art and creative placemaking landscape.

Community Engagement Themes & Identity Drivers

Public feedback gathered through surveys, stakeholder meetings, community conversations, focus groups, and public events revealed several recurring themes that help define Stow's emerging cultural identity and inform the long-term vision of this Public Art Plan.

Rather than functioning solely as aesthetic enhancements, future public art initiatives in Stow should reinforce these shared community values, celebrate local identity, and help shape a recognizable sense of place throughout the city. The following themes emerged consistently throughout the engagement process and are intended to serve as guiding identity drivers for future public art, creative placemaking, and cultural programming initiatives.

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Creativity, Arts & Cultural Expression

Residents expressed strong interest in expanding opportunities for arts and cultural experiences throughout the city. Community members identified public art as a way to make creativity more visible and accessible in everyday life while strengthening Stow's cultural identity.

Participants emphasized interest in murals, sculpture, installations, performance spaces, temporary art events, festivals, and interactive experiences that celebrate music, theater, visual arts, design, and local creativity. Many residents expressed a desire for public spaces that feel vibrant, engaging, and artistically distinctive while also supporting opportunities for local artists, students, and community participation.

This theme suggests that public art in Stow should help cultivate a visible culture of creativity that reflects both the city's existing community character and its aspirations for future cultural growth.

Identity Opportunities

- Murals and large-scale visual landmarks
- Temporary and rotating public art installations
- Interactive and participatory artworks
- Artist-led community events and workshops
- Youth arts programming and student collaborations
- Arts-integrated festivals and cultural gathering spaces

History, Heritage & Storytelling

Community members consistently expressed pride in Stow's historical roots and identified storytelling as an important component of the city's identity. Residents expressed interest in public art that acknowledges local history, honors past generations, and connects the community's historic development to its future.

Themes related to the Connecticut Western Reserve, early settlement history, agricultural landscapes, neighborhood evolution, Indigenous histories, civic milestones, and local landmarks emerged as important narratives that could be explored through public art.

Rather than functioning as static monuments alone, residents expressed interest in artworks that invite exploration, learning, interpretation, and intergenerational connection.

Identity Opportunities

- Murals inspired by archival imagery and historical narratives
- Interpretive and educational public artworks
- Sculptural references to historic architecture and industry
- Story-based trail markers and wayfinding elements

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- Public art celebrating local figures, neighborhoods, and civic milestones
- Indigenous acknowledgement and place-based storytelling initiatives

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Community Pride & Shared Identity

Residents consistently described Stow as a welcoming, family-oriented, and community-centered city with strong neighborhood connections, quality schools, and a high level of civic pride. Participants expressed interest in public art that reflects these values while creating visible symbols of belonging and shared identity throughout the city.

Community members emphasized the importance of public spaces that feel inclusive, approachable, and representative of the people who live in Stow. Public art was frequently discussed as a tool for strengthening social connection, reinforcing neighborhood identity, and creating memorable gathering places.

This theme highlights the opportunity for public art to function as both a cultural asset and a community-building strategy.

Identity Opportunities

- Neighborhood gateway features and district identifiers
- Community-created murals and collaborative artworks
- Public art celebrating schools, families, and local traditions
- Gathering spaces designed around creative placemaking
- Interactive artworks encouraging play and social engagement
- Civic landmarks that create recognizable visual identity for Stow

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Parks, Trails & Connection to Nature

Stow's parks, trails, waterways, and green spaces emerged as one of the community's strongest defining assets. Residents repeatedly identified the city's recreational amenities and natural landscapes as central to quality of life and community identity.

Participants expressed strong interest in integrating public art into parks, trails, recreational corridors, and environmental settings in ways that complement the surrounding landscape and encourage exploration, recreation, wellness, and environmental awareness.

Community feedback suggested that future public art should embrace Stow's natural character while creating experiences that connect people more deeply to the environment.

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Identity Opportunities

- Nature-inspired sculptures and landscape-integrated artworks
- Artistic trail markers, seating, and wayfinding systems
- Interactive environmental and ecological installations
- Play-oriented and family-focused public art experiences
- Artworks connected to water, wildlife, and regional ecology
- Creative placemaking within parks, trails, and outdoor gathering areas

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A Connected & Forward-Looking Community

Residents also expressed interest in positioning Stow as a progressive, connected, and evolving community that balances its suburban character with innovation, creativity, and regional engagement. Many participants recognized the opportunity for public art to contribute to economic development, tourism, civic visibility, and destination-making within Northeast Ohio.

This theme reflects a desire for public art that helps Stow distinguish itself regionally while remaining authentic to the community's identity and values.

Identity Opportunities

- Signature gateway artworks and destination murals
- Contemporary and innovative public art approaches
- Regional artist partnerships and collaborations
- Creative activation of commercial corridors and gathering districts
- Public art supporting tourism, events, and economic vitality
- Integrated branding and placemaking strategies tied to civic identity

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KEY FINDINGS: NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Community Needs

Community engagement revealed a strong and consistent desire for a more visible, recognizable, and connected civic identity throughout the City of Stow. While residents described the community as welcoming, safe, family-oriented, and highly livable, many participants expressed that Stow currently lacks a distinct visual identity or cultural presence that differentiates it from surrounding suburban communities within Northeast Ohio.

Residents repeatedly identified public art as an opportunity to help define the character of the city, strengthen community pride, activate public spaces, and create memorable experiences that contribute to a stronger sense of place.

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Throughout the engagement process, participants emphasized that public art should not simply function as decoration, but rather as a tool for storytelling, gathering, placemaking, and community connection.

Stronger Civic Identity & Sense of Place

Residents expressed interest in developing recognizable visual landmarks, gateways, gathering spaces, and cultural destinations that help define Stow's identity both internally and regionally.

Public art can help address this need by:

- Activating shared public spaces and civic destinations
- Creating recognizable landmarks and community identifiers
- Strengthening neighborhood identity and local storytelling
- Enhancing visual character along parks, trails, corridors, and gathering areas
- Creating more vibrant, welcoming, and engaging public environments
- Reinforcing community pride and shared identity

Increased Visibility of Arts & Culture

Community members expressed strong interest in expanding opportunities for arts and cultural participation throughout the city. Residents identified a need for more visible creative activity integrated into everyday public life through murals, sculpture, performances, festivals, interactive installations, and artist-led programming.

Participants emphasized that public art could help:

- Support local artists and creative organizations
- Increase access to arts experiences for residents of all ages
- Create destinations and experiences that encourage community gathering
- Encourage youth engagement and creative participation
- Strengthen cultural vitality and community wellness

Better Integration of Public Art into Parks & Public Spaces

Residents consistently identified parks, trails, natural areas, and recreational facilities as some of Stow's strongest community assets. Many participants expressed interest in integrating public art into these spaces in ways that celebrate the environment, encourage exploration, and create more immersive public experiences.

Desired opportunities included:

- Nature-based and environmentally responsive artworks
- Artistic trail markers and wayfinding systems
- Interactive and family-friendly public art experiences
- Sculptural and interpretive installations within parks and recreational corridors
- Public art connected to ecology, wellness, and outdoor activity

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Need for Formal Public Art Infrastructure

Stakeholders also identified the importance of establishing a clear organizational framework to support long-term success of the Public Art Program. As Stow continues developing its public art initiatives, residents and stakeholders expressed the need for transparent leadership structures, policies, funding strategies, and maintenance systems.

Key infrastructure needs identified include:

- A formal structure for public art planning, decision-making, and project management
- Clear policies and procedures for artist selection, commissioning, and approvals
- Defined maintenance and conservation responsibilities
- Long-term funding and implementation strategies
- Community engagement and public input processes
- Platforms to document and promote public art, including maps, signage, social media, educational materials, and digital archives

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Opportunities

Because Stow is still in the early stages of developing a comprehensive public art program, the city has a unique opportunity to shape its cultural identity intentionally and strategically from the beginning. Rather than retrofitting disconnected projects over time, Stow can establish a cohesive vision that aligns public art investments with community values, long-term planning goals, and placemaking priorities.

This moment presents an opportunity to build a public art program that is integrated, community-driven, and reflective of Stow's unique character, history, landscapes, and aspirations for the future.

Existing Community Strengths

Stow already possesses several strong foundational assets that position the city for successful implementation of a long-term Public Art Program:

- A highly regarded parks and recreation system with extensive public spaces and trail networks
- Significant environmental and recreational assets including Silver Springs Park and regional trail connections
- An active Arts Commission and engaged civic leadership
- Strong municipal departments and supportive city staff
- Community interest in expanding cultural opportunities and creative programming
- Strong schools, libraries, and civic institutions that can support partnerships and engagement

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- Proximity to regional arts organizations, universities, museums, and creative industries throughout Northeast Ohio
- Existing community events and gathering spaces that can support temporary and permanent public art initiatives

These assets provide a strong foundation for implementing the strategies outlined in this Public Art Master Plan.

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Shape a Distinct Community Identity

Stow has the opportunity to develop a recognizable visual and cultural identity through coordinated public art, placemaking, gateway features, and creative public spaces that distinguish the city within the region.

Leverage Existing Parks & Public Spaces

The city's extensive parks, trails, civic facilities, and recreational destinations provide highly visible and accessible opportunities for integrating permanent and temporary public art experiences throughout the community.

Strengthen Community Pride & Belonging

Public art can reinforce shared identity, celebrate local stories, and create opportunities for residents to participate directly in shaping the visual character of the city.

Support Economic Development & Destination Making

Public art can help activate commercial corridors, support tourism, increase foot traffic, and create memorable destinations that contribute to economic vitality and community visibility.

Expand Partnerships & Regional Collaboration

Stow's proximity to Akron, Kent, and the broader Northeast Ohio arts ecosystem creates opportunities for partnerships with artists, universities, nonprofits, schools, cultural organizations, and regional funding initiatives.

Build a Sustainable Public Art Infrastructure

As the program develops, Stow has the opportunity to establish clear policies, funding mechanisms, maintenance standards, artist selection procedures, and long-term stewardship practices that support a sustainable and equitable Public Art Program for future generations.

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The Role of Public Art in Community Development

Across the United States, public art and creative placemaking initiatives have been shown to strengthen communities socially, culturally, and economically. Increasingly, municipalities are recognizing public art not simply as decoration, but as critical civic infrastructure that contributes to economic development, tourism, community identity, quality of life, and long-term community resilience.

Research from Americans for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and numerous urban planning and creative placemaking studies demonstrates that investments in arts and culture generate measurable benefits for communities of all sizes, including suburban municipalities similar to Stow.

Public art can help transform everyday spaces into meaningful civic destinations by creating visual identity, encouraging social interaction, supporting local businesses, improving public perception of spaces, and strengthening emotional connections between residents and the places they live.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY IMPACT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

The most comprehensive national research on the economic impact of arts and culture comes from the **Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6)** study conducted by Americans for the Arts. The study found that nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences generated approximately **$151.7 billion in economic activity nationally in 2022**, supporting **2.6 million jobs**, generating **$29.1 billion in tax revenue**, and providing more than **$101 billion in personal income to residents**.

The research also found that arts and cultural events significantly support surrounding businesses and local economies. On average, attendees at arts and cultural events spend an additional **$38.46 per person beyond admission costs** on dining, retail, parking, transportation, lodging, and other local purchases.

Importantly, Americans for the Arts expanded its research beyond economic metrics to examine social and community impacts. National findings revealed that:

- **89% of respondents** agreed that arts and cultural experiences inspire a sense of pride in their neighborhood or community.
- **86% of respondents** stated they would experience a significant sense of loss if local arts and cultural activities were no longer available.
- Arts and culture were consistently identified as contributing to community identity, belonging, tourism, and overall quality of life. (Arts Consulting Group)

These findings reinforce the role of public art as both an economic development strategy and a community-building tool.

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PUBLIC ART, PLACEMAKING & CIVIC IDENTITY

Research and case studies throughout the United States demonstrate that public art can help communities create recognizable identities and memorable public environments. Murals, sculptures, artist-designed streetscapes, gateways, lighting installations, and creative gathering spaces often become landmarks that contribute to tourism, civic branding, and neighborhood revitalization.

Communities that invest in public art frequently report:

- Increased pedestrian activity and use of public spaces
- Enhanced community pride and neighborhood identity
- Improved perceptions of safety and attractiveness
- Stronger tourism and destination appeal
- Greater community engagement and social connection
- Increased visibility for local businesses and cultural programming

Creative placemaking initiatives have also been shown to help activate underutilized spaces, strengthen downtown districts, support redevelopment efforts, and create environments that encourage gathering and interaction.

For suburban communities like Stow, public art represents an opportunity to create a stronger and more recognizable civic identity while enhancing parks, trails, corridors, civic spaces, and neighborhood gathering areas.

PUBLIC ART, WELLNESS & QUALITY OF LIFE

Research in environmental psychology, neuroaesthetics, and public health increasingly demonstrates that access to engaging visual environments and cultural experiences contributes positively to emotional well-being, cognitive engagement, and social cohesion.

Studies have shown that thoughtfully designed public environments incorporating art, nature, and placemaking elements can:

- Improve mood and emotional well-being
- Encourage walking, exploration, and outdoor activity
- Increase feelings of belonging and social connection
- Reduce perceptions of stress and environmental monotony
- Encourage civic participation and community interaction

Public art also plays an important role in creating inclusive and welcoming public spaces that reflect the diversity, history, and identity of the communities they serve.

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IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CITY OF STOW

For Stow, the development of a thoughtful and well-supported Public Art Program represents an opportunity to:

- Strengthen civic identity and sense of place
- Create recognizable visual landmarks and gathering spaces
- Enhance parks, trails, civic corridors, and public facilities
- Support economic development and destination-making efforts
- Expand opportunities for local artists and creative participation
- Increase community engagement and neighborhood pride
- Improve the visual character and experience of public spaces
- Foster long-term cultural vitality and community resilience

As Stow continues to grow and evolve, public art can serve as a powerful tool for connecting residents to one another, celebrating local identity, and shaping a more vibrant, memorable, and culturally engaged community for future generations.

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SECTION 3: Goals & Objectives

The City of Stow Public Art Program is grounded in a commitment to strengthening community identity, enhancing public spaces, supporting artists, and expanding opportunities for cultural engagement throughout the city. These goals establish a framework for implementation, governance, and long-term sustainability while reflecting community input, municipal priorities, and national best practices in public art planning.

Community engagement revealed strong support for public art as a tool for creative placemaking, civic pride, economic vitality, storytelling, and community connection. Residents also emphasized the importance of clear organizational structures, transparent processes, equitable artist opportunities, and long-term stewardship.

OVERARCHING GOALS

Beautify & Activate Public Spaces

Public art should enhance the visual character and experience of Stow's parks, neighborhoods, corridors, civic spaces, and gathering areas. By integrating art into everyday environments, the program can help transform underutilized or overlooked spaces into vibrant destinations that encourage gathering, exploration, recreation, and community interaction.

Public art should contribute to a more welcoming, memorable, and visually distinctive city while reinforcing Stow's identity through thoughtful placemaking.

Support Artists & Creative Opportunities

A central goal of the Public Art Program is to create meaningful opportunities for artists, particularly artists who live or work within Stow and the surrounding region. The program should establish transparent artist selection processes, fair compensation standards, and accessible opportunities for artists at varying career stages.

Recommended initiatives include:

- Open Calls to Artists and public art commissions
- Artist registries and RFQ/RFP systems
- Temporary and permanent public art opportunities
- Artist residencies and community collaborations
- Youth and emerging artist engagement initiatives

Supporting artists contributes not only to cultural vitality, but also to economic development, creative workforce growth, and regional cultural visibility.

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Strengthen Civic Pride & Community Identity

Public art should help strengthen Stow's sense of place by celebrating local stories, landscapes, neighborhoods, and shared community values. Artworks can serve as visual markers of civic identity while creating recognizable landmarks, gateways, and gathering spaces throughout the city.

Through intentional placement and community-centered design, public art can reinforce neighborhood pride, encourage social connection, and contribute to a stronger and more visible civic identity.

Celebrate Storytelling, History & Community Voice

Public art should reflect the unique identity, history, environment, and evolving character of Stow. Future projects should provide opportunities to celebrate local heritage, acknowledge diverse perspectives, and amplify community voices through visual storytelling.

Public art may interpret:

- Historical narratives and local landmarks
- Environmental and ecological themes
- Community traditions and shared experiences
- Cultural diversity and evolving identity
- Neighborhood stories and civic milestones

By embedding storytelling into public spaces, the program can help residents feel more connected to the city and to one another.

Establish Clear & Sustainable Public Art Infrastructure

Long-term success of the Public Art Program depends on clear organizational structures, policies, procedures, and leadership. The City should establish transparent and replicable systems for artist selection, project approval, funding, implementation, maintenance, and long-term stewardship.

Key priorities include:

- Defined project review and approval processes
- Clear roles and responsibilities across departments
- Maintenance and conservation planning
- Consistent artist contracting and compensation standards
- Public engagement and communication strategies
- Long-term funding and partnership development

The potential creation of a Public Art Coordinator or Project Manager position may further strengthen program continuity and implementation capacity.

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Strengthen Communication & Cross-Department Collaboration

Successful public art initiatives require coordinated communication among city leadership, departments, artists, community partners, and residents. The City should establish clear communication pathways and collaborative structures that support efficient project management and consistent public engagement.

Key stakeholders may include:

- City leadership and administrative departments
- The Stow Arts Commission
- Artist Selection Panels and advisory committees
- Parks & Recreation staff
- Planning & Development representatives
- Community organizations and project partners
- Artists, fabricators, and site stewards

Clear communication structures will help ensure transparency, accountability, and successful project delivery.

SHORT-TERM & LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

Short-Term Priorities

Initial implementation efforts should focus on visible, achievable projects that build public awareness, establish momentum, and develop foundational infrastructure for the program.

Potential short-term initiatives include:

- Pilot mural and utility box programs
- Community-based public art projects
- Park-based installations and trail enhancements
- Temporary and rotating public art opportunities
- Development of artist registries and Calls to Artists
- Creation of program policies, procedures, and branding systems
- Public art maps, signage, and digital engagement platforms

Long-Term Priorities

Long-term implementation should focus on building a sustainable, citywide Public Art Program integrated into future civic planning, development, infrastructure, and placemaking initiatives.

Potential long-term goals include:

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- Integration of public art into major infrastructure and capital projects
- Expansion of public art throughout parks, corridors, civic districts, and gateways
- Development of dedicated funding mechanisms and partnerships
- Establishment of permanent staffing and program administration
- Creation of cultural districts and destination public art projects
- Strengthening Stow's regional identity as a city that values arts, culture, and creativity

Priority Locations & Cultural Destinations

Public art investments should be strategically distributed throughout the city to maximize visibility, accessibility, and community impact. Rather than concentrating projects in a single area, the program should create a connected network of public art experiences across Stow.

Priority locations may include:

- Parks, trails, and natural areas
- Amphitheater and civic gathering spaces
- Neighborhood districts and community corridors
- Gateways and major transportation routes
- Streetscapes and commercial districts
- Utility infrastructure and civic facilities
- Underutilized or transitional spaces with placemaking potential

A distributed approach will help reinforce community identity throughout the city while ensuring broad public access to arts and culture.

Equity, Accessibility & Inclusion

Equity and accessibility should serve as foundational principles of the Public Art Program. The City should work to ensure that public art opportunities, resources, and experiences are inclusive, accessible, and representative of the broader community.

Key objectives include:

- Maintaining open and transparent artist selection processes
- Supporting artists from diverse backgrounds and career stages
- Expanding geographic distribution of public art across neighborhoods
- Reducing barriers to participation for artists and residents
- Creating artworks accessible to people of all ages and abilities
- Ensuring fair artist compensation and equitable project opportunities
- Encouraging meaningful community participation throughout project development

By prioritizing inclusion and accessibility, the Public Art Program can foster broader community ownership, representation, and long-term civic connection.

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SECTION 4: Community Engagement Strategies

Meaningful community engagement is essential to the success of the City of Stow Public Art Program. In Stow, engagement should not function as a one-time requirement or procedural exercise, but as an ongoing process of listening, collaboration, relationship-building, and shared civic participation.

Public art is most successful when it reflects the identity, values, stories, and aspirations of the community it serves. A strong engagement process helps ensure that residents are not simply observers of public art initiatives, but active participants in shaping the visual and cultural character of the city.

This framework establishes strategies for involving residents in ways that are inclusive, accessible, transparent, creative, and responsive to community identity.

PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement serves several important functions within the Public Art Program. It helps:

- Build public trust and transparency
- Strengthen community ownership and civic pride
- Identify meaningful stories, themes, and locations
- Ensure projects reflect local identity and values
- Expand participation in arts and cultural experiences
- Support equitable access to decision-making processes
- Strengthen long-term stewardship and support for public art initiatives

Engagement also provides valuable insight into how residents experience public spaces, what they value about their community, and how public art can contribute to a stronger sense of place throughout Stow.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS

Build Trust & Transparency

Residents should clearly understand how public art decisions are made, how feedback will be used, and how projects move from concept to implementation. Transparent engagement processes help build confidence in the Public Art Program and strengthen long-term public support.

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Reflect Community Identity

Public art should emerge from the stories, landscapes, history, and lived experiences of the community. Engagement helps ensure that projects are grounded in Stow's identity and shaped by local voices rather than imposed externally.

Encourage Broad Participation

The engagement process should invite participation from a wide range of residents, including:

- Youth and students
- Seniors and families
- Artists and creative professionals
- Business owners and community organizations
- Neighborhood groups and civic leaders
- Historically underrepresented or lower-visibility populations

Public engagement should prioritize accessibility, inclusivity, and low-barrier participation opportunities.

Generate Meaningful Project Input

Engagement should provide practical and actionable feedback related to:

- Public art themes and storytelling opportunities
- Potential artwork locations and priority sites
- Community values and cultural identity
- Desired project outcomes and public experiences
- Materials, aesthetics, and environmental considerations

Community input should directly inform artist calls, project priorities, and design direction.

Foster Long-Term Community Connection

Engagement should continue throughout the life of a project—not end once a survey or meeting concludes. Residents should remain informed and connected through project development, installation, celebration, and long-term stewardship.

Public art should foster lasting relationships between residents and the public spaces they share.

Guiding Philosophy

The Stow Public Art engagement process should be welcoming, creative, accessible, and community-centered. Successful engagement extends beyond formal public meetings by creating opportunities for participation in places where residents already gather and feel comfortable.

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Engagement efforts should:

- Take place in familiar and accessible community locations
- Use plain language and visually engaging materials
- Offer multiple ways to participate and provide feedback
- Encourage storytelling, dialogue, and creative interaction
- Reduce barriers related to transportation, technology, scheduling, and family participation

An effective engagement process should feel less like a procedural obligation and more like an invitation into shared civic creativity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Community engagement for public art projects should occur across four primary phases: Preparation, Outreach, Integration, and Follow-Up.

1. Preparation

Before a project begins, the City or project team should establish a clear engagement strategy aligned with project goals, timelines, and community priorities.

Preparation should include:

- Defining goals and desired outcomes for engagement
- Identifying key audiences and stakeholders
- Selecting appropriate engagement formats and participation methods
- Developing outreach and communications strategies
- Preparing accessible and visually engaging materials
- Establishing timelines and responsibilities for engagement activities

A strong preparation phase helps ensure that engagement is intentional, organized, and responsive to community needs.

2. Outreach & Discovery

The outreach phase should prioritize listening, dialogue, and creative participation. Rather than relying solely on formal meetings, engagement should occur in highly visible and accessible locations throughout the community.

Recommended outreach strategies may include:

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Pop-Up Engagement Activities

Temporary engagement stations at parks, festivals, libraries, schools, community events, and gathering spaces can encourage informal participation and spontaneous feedback.

Examples may include:

- Interactive idea walls
- “Postcards to Stow” activities
- Comment boards and chalk walls
- Public mapping exercises
- Temporary demonstration projects

Creative Workshops

Hands-on and family-friendly workshops can make participation more approachable and memorable while encouraging visual and creative forms of feedback.

Examples may include:

- Sticker voting and priority mapping
- Community drawing activities
- “Color Your Stow” exercises
- Youth art activities and make-and-take projects
- Collaborative mural or design concepts

Listening Sessions & Focus Groups

Small-scale conversations in familiar settings often create more comfortable and meaningful dialogue than large public meetings.

Potential locations may include:

- Libraries
- Schools
- Recreation centers
- Coffee shops and community gathering spaces
- Neighborhood organizations and civic groups

Hybrid Surveys & Digital Engagement

Surveys should be accessible both digitally and in print to support broader participation. QR codes, social media, and online platforms can complement printed materials distributed through libraries, city facilities, and local businesses.

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Targeted Outreach

Additional effort should be made to engage populations that may not traditionally participate in planning processes, including youth, seniors, working families, underrepresented residents, and neighborhood-based communities.

Partnerships with schools, community organizations, faith groups, and local leaders can help strengthen outreach efforts and broaden participation.

INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES

Equity and accessibility should be foundational to all engagement activities. Public participation processes should strive to create welcoming and inclusive environments where residents feel comfortable sharing perspectives, stories, and ideas.

Inclusive engagement practices should include:

- Hosting activities in free and accessible locations
- Distributing engagement opportunities throughout the city
- Offering multiple ways to participate and provide feedback
- Using plain language and visual materials
- Supporting family-friendly participation opportunities
- Encouraging storytelling and open-ended dialogue
- Reducing barriers related to transportation, scheduling, technology, and accessibility

These practices help ensure that the Public Art Program reflects a broader cross-section of the Stow community.

INTEGRATING COMMUNITY INPUT INTO PUBLIC ART

For engagement to be meaningful, community input must visibly influence project outcomes. Feedback gathered through engagement activities should directly inform artist calls, project themes, site priorities, and conceptual direction.

Design Guidance

Community feedback should help shape:

- Project goals and artist briefs
- Site priorities and community themes
- Storytelling opportunities and cultural references

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- Desired public experiences and outcomes

Storytelling & Interpretation

Residents' memories, ideas, quotes, drawings, and local references can provide important creative direction for artists and project teams.

Community contributions may inform:

- Imagery and symbolism
- Historical references
- Color palettes and material choices
- Interpretive and educational elements
- Site-specific narratives and themes

Transparent Decision-Making

The City should clearly communicate how decisions were made and how community feedback influenced project outcomes. Transparent communication helps strengthen public trust and demonstrates that engagement is substantive rather than symbolic.

Communications & Promotion

Successful engagement depends on clear, visible, and repeated communication. Residents are more likely to participate when opportunities are promoted through multiple trusted channels.

A coordinated communications strategy may include:

- City newsletters and municipal communications
- Parks & Recreation outreach
- School and library networks
- Neighborhood organizations and civic groups
- Posters and flyers in local businesses and gathering spaces
- Social media campaigns and project web pages
- Partnerships with local organizations and community ambassadors

Consistent communication helps maintain visibility, participation, and long-term public awareness of the Public Art Program.

Closing the Loop

Community engagement should continue through project completion and public celebration. Residents should see how their feedback contributed to final outcomes and be invited to participate in the unveiling and stewardship of completed projects.

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Closing the loop should include:

- Public summaries of engagement findings
- Ongoing project updates during design and installation
- Community celebrations, ribbon cuttings, and artist talks
- Reflection on lessons learned and opportunities for improvement

This final phase reinforces shared ownership, strengthens civic trust, and helps build long-term support for future public art initiatives.

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SECTION 5: Site Identification & Public Art Placement Strategy

Identifying appropriate locations for public art is essential to building a successful, visible, and sustainable Public Art Program. Thoughtful site selection helps ensure that public art contributes meaningfully to placemaking, strengthens civic identity, supports economic vitality, and enhances everyday public experiences throughout the City of Stow.

Public art opportunities may exist within parks, civic spaces, trails, transportation corridors, commercial districts, community facilities, infrastructure systems, and other publicly accessible environments. Site selection should consider visibility, accessibility, community relevance, long-term stewardship, and the potential for public interaction.

In addition to distributing public art throughout the city, Stow should also strategically develop areas of concentrated public art activity, or "Art Clusters," where multiple artworks, creative interventions, and cultural experiences can work together to create highly recognizable cultural destinations and civic gathering spaces.

SITE SELECTION PRINCIPLES

Public art site identification should be guided by several core principles that support both artistic excellence and community impact.

Visibility & Accessibility

Public art should be located where residents and visitors can easily encounter and experience it. High-visibility locations with strong pedestrian activity, vehicular exposure, recreational use, or community gathering potential provide opportunities for greater public engagement and long-term cultural impact.

Priority visibility considerations include:

- Major corridors and intersections
- Parks and recreational destinations
- Commercial districts and pedestrian-oriented spaces
- Civic facilities and gathering areas
- Trail systems and gateway locations

Community Significance

Sites with cultural, historical, environmental, or social importance offer strong opportunities for storytelling and placemaking. Public art in these locations can celebrate local identity, reinforce neighborhood character, and create meaningful connections between people and place.

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Integration with Public Space

Successful public art projects respond thoughtfully to their surrounding environment. Site selection should consider how artwork interacts with architecture, landscape, infrastructure, lighting, circulation patterns, and community activity.

Public art should feel integrated into the experience of a place rather than added as an afterthought.

Safety, Infrastructure & Long-Term Stewardship

Public art sites must support safe installation, accessibility, maintenance, and long-term durability. Site evaluation should consider:

- Structural integrity and infrastructure conditions
- Pedestrian and vehicular safety
- Lighting and nighttime visibility
- Maintenance access and conservation needs
- Utility coordination and environmental exposure

Equity & Geographic Distribution

The Public Art Program should strive to distribute public art throughout multiple neighborhoods, parks, districts, and community spaces to ensure broad public access and representation across the city.

At the same time, strategic concentration of public art in select high-impact areas can help establish recognizable cultural destinations and strengthen civic identity.

ART CLUSTERS & CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

While citywide distribution remains important, community engagement and best practices in placemaking suggest that Stow should also prioritize the development of concentrated public art areas, or “Art Clusters,”where multiple artworks and creative experiences exist within walkable or highly visible districts.

Art clusters help create:

- Stronger visual identity and destination appeal
- Increased pedestrian activity and social interaction
- Opportunities for festivals, performances, and events
- Greater economic and tourism impact
- Memorable civic gathering spaces
- Stronger cumulative cultural presence

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Rather than relying solely on isolated artworks dispersed across the city, these concentrated areas create a sense of cultural critical mass that can elevate public awareness and community engagement.

Potential Art Cluster Opportunities May Include:

- The new Amphitheater and surrounding public gathering spaces
- Commercial districts and mixed-use corridors with high pedestrian visibility
- Parks and recreation destinations
- Civic campuses and community facilities
- Trail intersections and gateway corridors
- Public plazas and event-oriented spaces

These locations offer opportunities for murals, sculpture, lighting installations, artist-designed seating, wayfinding systems, temporary installations, performance spaces, and integrated placemaking elements that work collectively to create immersive public experiences.

PRIORITY SITE TYPES

Gateways & City Entrances

Gateway public art can create strong first impressions while reinforcing Stow's civic identity and sense of arrival. These projects may include sculpture, landscape-integrated artwork, signage features, lighting installations, and placemaking interventions located along major corridors and entrances into the city.

Potential gateway locations may include:

- Major roadway entrances
- High-visibility intersections
- Bridge crossings and medians
- Corridor entry points and district transitions

Parks, Trails & Recreation Spaces

Stow's parks and trail systems are among the city's strongest community assets and provide natural opportunities for integrating public art into everyday recreation and outdoor experiences.

Potential opportunities include:

- Sculpture trails and environmental installations
- Interactive play-based artworks
- Artistic seating, shelters, and gathering areas

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- Nature-based and ecological interpretation projects
- Artistic trail markers and wayfinding systems

Public art within parks and trails should complement the natural environment while encouraging exploration, wellness, and community interaction.

Civic Facilities & Community Spaces

City buildings and civic facilities provide highly visible opportunities for public art that reflects community pride and civic identity.

Potential locations may include:

- City Hall and municipal campuses
- Libraries and recreation facilities
- Public safety buildings
- Amphitheater and event spaces
- Community centers and gathering areas

Integrated murals, sculpture, lighting, seating, and functional public art elements can help create more welcoming and engaging civic environments.

Commercial Districts & High-Visibility Corridors

Commercial districts, mixed-use areas, and high-traffic corridors provide strong opportunities for public art to support economic vitality, placemaking, and destination-making.

Public art within these areas should prioritize visibility, walkability, and cumulative impact by encouraging the development of concentrated cultural experiences and “critical mass” public art environments.

Potential opportunities include:

- Large-scale murals and façade projects
- Streetscape-integrated artwork
- Outdoor seating and gathering spaces
- Alley activations and underutilized spaces
- Utility box wraps and infrastructure-based interventions
- Lighting and nighttime activation projects

Strategically clustering public art within business districts and high-visibility corridors can help create recognizable destinations while supporting local businesses, pedestrian activity, and tourism.

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Infrastructure & Utility Surfaces

Existing infrastructure throughout the city offers opportunities for creative interventions that improve visual character and transform overlooked spaces into community assets.

Potential locations include:

- Bridge underpasses and retaining walls
- Utility cabinets and signal boxes
- Fencing, barriers, and service structures
- Transit-related infrastructure and streetscape elements

These locations are often ideal for murals, graphic installations, lighting interventions, and artist-designed functional elements.

Temporary & Event-Based Sites

Temporary public art installations can activate public spaces, support emerging artists, and create flexible opportunities for experimentation and seasonal programming.

Potential temporary sites may include:

- Festival and event spaces
- Parks and plazas
- Trail systems and pop-up locations
- Commercial districts and gathering areas

Temporary projects allow the City to test new ideas while building community excitement and participation.

SITE MAPPING & PLANNING TOOLS

The Public Art Toolkit accompanying this Master Plan include:

- Citywide public art opportunity maps
- Site inventories and visibility assessments
- Potential mural walls and sculptural locations
- Park and trail opportunity zones
- Infrastructure and gateway opportunities
- Site assessment worksheets and feasibility tools
- Project planning checklists and maintenance considerations

These resources are intended to help City staff, artists, and community partners identify viable locations and evaluate project feasibility over time.

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ZONING & PUBLIC ART INTEGRATION

The City of Stow Zoning Code already establishes a strong foundation for supporting public art throughout the community. Current zoning language recognizes murals and sculptures as permitted accessory uses across all primary zoning districts, including residential, commercial, industrial, conservation, and public/institutional areas.

This broad allowance creates significant flexibility for integrating public art into a wide variety of community settings.

Key Zoning Considerations

Public Art as a Permitted Use

Murals and sculptures are permitted throughout the city as accessory uses, creating opportunities for:

- Neighborhood-based public art
- Commercial corridor activation
- Public art within parks and civic facilities
- Artist-designed infrastructure and placemaking features

Integration Into Planned Developments

The zoning code encourages Major Planned Developments (PDs) to incorporate distinctive identity and branding elements, including public art, streetscape enhancements, and placemaking features.

This language creates opportunities to:

- Integrate public art into future development projects
- Encourage developer partnerships and cultural investment
- Establish public art expectations within redevelopment areas
- Create cohesive district identity and destination environments

Future zoning updates may further strengthen these efforts by encouraging:

- Public art incentives within redevelopment districts
- Public art integration into streetscape and infrastructure projects
- Design standards supporting creative placemaking
- Public art review procedures within development approvals

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Visibility & Protection of Public Art

Current zoning provisions also recognize the importance of protecting visibility and sightlines related to existing public art installations, particularly within public rights-of-way and infrastructure systems.

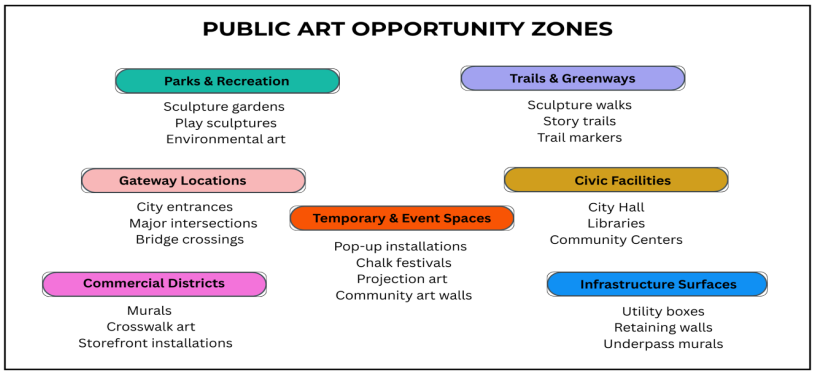
As the Public Art Program grows, future planning efforts should continue integrating public art considerations into:

- Streetscape planning
- Transportation improvements
- Utility coordination
- Corridor redevelopment
- Public realm design standards

A FLEXIBLE & EVOLVING APPROACH

While this Master Plan identifies broad categories of priority sites and placement strategies, site identification should remain flexible and responsive to future redevelopment, infrastructure improvements, community partnerships, and emerging opportunities.

As Stow evolves, new opportunities for public art will continue to emerge. Through thoughtful placement, strategic clustering, equitable distribution, and long-term planning, the City can build a Public Art Program that strengthens community identity, enhances public space, and contributes meaningfully to the cultural landscape of Stow for generations to come.



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SECTION 6: Types of Public Artworks

The City of Stow Public Art Program encourages a wide range of artistic approaches that enhance public space, strengthen community identity, and create opportunities for cultural engagement and creative participation. Public art may take many forms, including murals, sculpture, environmental works, artist-designed infrastructure, interactive installations, lighting projects, and temporary interventions.

Supporting diverse artistic formats allows the City to respond thoughtfully to different sites, neighborhoods, parks, civic spaces, and community needs while creating a dynamic and evolving cultural landscape throughout Stow.

TEMPORARY, SEMI-PERMANENT & PERMANENT PUBLIC ART

Public art projects in Stow may be temporary, semi-permanent, or permanent depending on project goals, funding, site conditions, and long-term planning priorities.

Temporary Public Art

Temporary public art is designed for short-term display and may remain in place from a single event to several months or years. These projects allow the City to:

- Experiment with new ideas and artistic approaches
- Activate spaces quickly and affordably
- Support emerging artists and community participation
- Create seasonal or event-based cultural experiences
- Test locations for future long-term investments

Temporary projects often utilize lightweight, experimental, or ephemeral materials and generally require minimal long-term maintenance.

Semi-Permanent Public Art

Semi-permanent installations may remain in place for several months to multiple years and often serve as transitional or pilot projects. These works may require limited permitting and can provide flexibility while evaluating long-term site potential.

Permanent Public Art

Permanent public artworks are intended for long-term placement and are typically designed to remain in place for 10–20 years or longer. These projects become part of the City's civic infrastructure and require careful planning related to engineering, safety, accessibility, permitting, durability, and long-term stewardship.

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Permanent projects should prioritize:

- Durable and weather-resistant materials
- Professional fabrication and installation
- Maintenance and conservation planning
- Site integration and long-term visibility
- Accessibility and public safety considerations

A balanced Public Art Program should include both temporary experimentation and long-term cultural investments to ensure flexibility, innovation, and sustained community impact.

DURABILITY & MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Material selection plays a critical role in the long-term success of public art projects.

Temporary works may incorporate paint, textiles, natural materials, projections, or lightweight structures requiring limited maintenance. Permanent installations should utilize durable materials capable of withstanding Northeast Ohio's climate conditions, seasonal changes, and public use.

Artists and project teams should consider:

- Lifecycle and conservation needs
- Environmental exposure and weather conditions
- Maintenance access and repair requirements
- Safety, vandalism resistance, and durability
- Long-term stewardship responsibilities

Maintenance planning should be integrated into project development from the earliest design phases.

CATEGORIES OF PUBLIC ART

Public art in Stow may take many forms depending on site conditions, community goals, artistic vision, and public interaction opportunities. The following categories represent common public art approaches that may be incorporated throughout the city.

Murals & Two-Dimensional Works

Murals are among the most visible and accessible forms of public art and can help activate building facades, infrastructure, streetscapes, and gathering spaces while reinforcing community identity and placemaking goals.

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Potential mural and two-dimensional approaches may include:

- Traditional painted murals
- Large-scale gateway murals
- Selfie or backdrop murals
- Ground murals and painted intersections
- Painted utility boxes and signal cabinets
- Mosaic or tile murals
- Printed or photo-based installations
- Window graphics and storefront activations
- Augmented reality (AR) mural experiences

Murals are particularly effective in commercial districts, pedestrian corridors, underutilized spaces, and high-visibility locations where clustered public art can create strong destination identity.

Sculpture & Three-Dimensional Installations

Three-dimensional artworks create physical landmarks and memorable visual anchors within public space. Sculptural works may be temporary or permanent and can range from iconic civic features to small-scale neighborhood interventions.

Examples may include:

- Freestanding sculpture
- Kinetic and wind-activated works
- Light-based and illuminated sculpture
- Sound or interactive installations
- Totems and carved works
- Recycled-material sculpture
- Community-built installations
- Temporary sculptural interventions

Sculpture is especially effective in parks, gateways, plazas, civic campuses, and clustered cultural destinations.

Environmental & Landscape-Based Art

Environmental artworks integrate artistic expression with natural systems, ecology, and outdoor recreation. These projects often strengthen connections between public art, sustainability, wellness, and environmental education.

Potential approaches may include:

- Land art and earthworks
- Sculpture gardens

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- Pollinator and ecological art gardens
- Artist-designed community gardens
- Living walls and planted installations
- Nature-based sculptural interventions
- Interpretive environmental trails

These projects are particularly well suited for parks, trails, waterways, and conservation areas throughout Stow.

Lighting & Technology-Based Art

Lighting and digital technologies can activate public space during evening hours while creating immersive and interactive experiences.

Potential projects may include:

- Illuminated sculptures and installations
- Projection mapping and digital media art
- Interactive lighting pathways
- LED and neon artworks
- Light tunnels and canopy features
- Solar-powered installations
- Motion-activated experiences
- Seasonal lighting environments

Technology-based works can help activate gateways, amphitheater districts, event spaces, commercial corridors, and nighttime gathering areas.

Interactive & Participatory Public Art

Interactive public art encourages residents and visitors to actively engage with public space through movement, touch, sound, participation, or digital interaction.

Examples may include:

- Community mural walls
- Interactive sculptures
- Musical installations and sound environments
- Chalk walls and drawing stations
- Digital storytelling and AR experiences
- Creative kiosks and participatory installations
- Interactive wayfinding systems

These projects can strengthen community participation while creating memorable and playful public experiences.

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Functional Public Art

Public art can also be integrated directly into civic infrastructure and everyday public amenities, combining artistic design with practical community use.

Examples may include:

- Artist-designed seating and benches
- Bike racks and transit shelters
- Shade structures and pergolas
- Decorative planters and tree guards
- Artistic signage and wayfinding systems
- Bridge railings and retaining wall treatments
- Decorative paving and crosswalks

Functional public art allows creativity to become part of the everyday experience of the city.

Trails, Corridors & Pathway Art

Public art integrated into trails and corridors can create connected cultural experiences throughout the city while encouraging walking, cycling, exploration, and recreation.

Potential opportunities include:

- Sculpture walks and art trails
- Underpass galleries and mural corridors
- Story walks combining literature and art
- Interpretive and historical markers
- Artistic trail markers and wayfinding systems
- Sensory pathways and immersive installations

Trail-based public art can help connect parks, neighborhoods, civic spaces, and cultural destinations throughout Stow.

Temporary & Event-Based Installations

Temporary projects and event-based public art can activate spaces during festivals, seasonal events, and community celebrations while allowing the City to support experimentation and emerging artists.

Examples may include:

- Pop-up installations
- Chalk art festivals
- Textile and yarn-based interventions
- Ice and snow sculpture events

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- Projection art and temporary media installations
- Floating artworks and temporary environmental projects
- Mobile and parade-based artworks

Temporary projects create flexibility and allow the Public Art Program to remain dynamic and responsive over time.

Play & Recreation-Based Public Art

Public art can support recreation, wellness, and play—particularly within parks, playgrounds, youth-oriented spaces, and recreational facilities.

Examples may include:

- Play sculptures and climbing elements
- Artistic playground features
- Musical play installations
- Interactive fountains and water features
- Art-integrated skate parks and courts
- Recreation-based creative environments

These projects help strengthen family engagement and create playful, accessible public experiences.

Community-Created & Youth-Led Public Art

The City of Stow should continue encouraging opportunities for community-created public art and youth engagement initiatives that foster creative participation, skill development, and community ownership.

Potential initiatives may include:

- Collaborative murals led by professional artists
- School and youth-centered public art projects
- Artist residencies and mentorship programs
- Community workshops and creative placemaking activities
- Public art projects integrated into festivals and civic events

These initiatives help cultivate future artists while strengthening civic pride and long-term community investment in the Public Art Program.

Supporting a Diverse & Evolving Public Art Program

A successful Public Art Program should remain flexible, responsive, and reflective of the community it serves. By supporting a broad range of artistic approaches, from murals and sculpture to environmental installations, temporary interventions, and artist-designed

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infrastructure, the City of Stow can create a layered and evolving cultural landscape that strengthens identity, activates public space, and encourages ongoing community engagement.

Combining temporary experimentation, permanent cultural investments, interactive experiences, and community-led initiatives will help ensure that public art remains visible, accessible, and meaningful throughout the city for generations to come.

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SECTION 7: Artist Engagement, Selection & Procedures

A successful Public Art Program depends on transparent processes, equitable access, clear communication, and thoughtful stewardship of artists' work and labor. The City of Stow is committed to establishing artist engagement procedures that are fair, accessible, replicable, and aligned with the broader goals of the Public Art Master Plan.

This framework outlines the City's approach to artist recruitment, selection, evaluation, compensation, and long-term collaboration while supporting artistic excellence, community engagement, and inclusive participation.

ARTIST SELECTION METHODS

To support projects of varying scale, budget, complexity, and community impact, the City of Stow may utilize multiple artist selection methods.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) are used when the City seeks artists based on demonstrated experience, portfolio quality, technical expertise, and professional qualifications. RFQs typically shortlist finalists who may then be invited to develop site-specific concepts or proposals.

RFQs are generally most appropriate for:

- Large-scale permanent installations
- Highly visible civic projects
- Technically complex or engineered works
- Major gateway, infrastructure, or destination projects

Shortlisted finalists should receive compensation for proposal development whenever possible.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are used when project goals, themes, sites, and budgets are already clearly defined and the City seeks conceptual proposals at the outset of the process.

RFPs are often appropriate for:

- Site-specific murals
- Gateway features and district identity projects
- Defined thematic commissions
- Temporary or permanent installations with established parameters

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Open Calls

Open calls encourage broad participation and create accessible entry points for emerging artists, local creatives, students, and first-time public artists.

Open calls are especially effective for:

- Temporary installations
- Rotating exhibitions
- Community-based projects
- Youth initiatives and artist residencies
- Small-scale creative interventions

These opportunities help cultivate local creative capacity while expanding participation in the Public Art Program.

Invited Artists

In select cases, the City may directly invite artists for projects requiring specialized expertise, accelerated timelines, pilot initiatives, or unique artistic approaches.

Invited artist processes should:

- Remain clearly documented and transparent
- Align with program equity and accessibility goals
- Include defined scopes, budgets, and contractual agreements
- Be used strategically and thoughtfully rather than as a default process

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ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Artist selection should balance artistic quality, technical feasibility, site responsiveness, community relevance, and long-term sustainability.

Evaluation criteria may include:

- Artistic excellence and originality
- Relevance to site and community context
- Experience with public art or collaborative processes
- Technical feasibility and durability
- Budget alignment and project management capacity
- Maintenance and conservation considerations
- Ability to collaborate with stakeholders and project partners
- Commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and community engagement

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Selection criteria may vary depending on project scale, complexity, and intended outcomes.

Artist Selection Panels

Artist selection panels should include a combination of artistic, technical, civic, and community perspectives to support balanced and informed decision-making.

Selection panels may include:

- Arts Commission representatives
- City staff and department representatives
- Community stakeholders and residents
- Design professionals and subject matter experts
- Site stewards or project partners

The Public Art Toolkit should include standardized scoring rubrics, evaluation forms, and documentation procedures to support consistency, fairness, and transparency across future projects.

Supporting Local, Emerging & Underrepresented Artists

The City of Stow recognizes that public art functions not only as cultural infrastructure, but also as an important economic and professional opportunity for artists.

The Public Art Program should actively work to:

- Prioritize artists who live or work within Stow and Northeast Ohio
- Create opportunities for emerging and early-career artists
- Expand access for historically underrepresented artists and communities
- Support mentorship and collaborative artist models
- Encourage youth participation and creative workforce development
- Provide educational resources related to RFQs, RFPs, portfolio preparation, and public art processes

Equity and inclusion goals should be integrated into outreach strategies, communications, jury composition, artist recruitment, and evaluation procedures.

Artist Compensation & Contract Standards

The City of Stow is committed to valuing artists as professionals and supporting fair compensation practices within all public art initiatives.

The City should:

- Establish artist fees that align with regional best practices and project scope

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- Clearly separate artist fees from fabrication, materials, and installation budgets
- Compensate shortlisted finalists for proposal development whenever possible
- Utilize written contracts outlining scope, deliverables, timelines, payment schedules, insurance requirements, intellectual property rights, and maintenance responsibilities
- Define documentation, reproduction, and image usage policies
- Establish clear maintenance and deaccession procedures for long-term stewardship

Transparent compensation standards help strengthen trust, professionalism, and long-term sustainability within the artist community.

Transparency & Communication

Clear communication and transparent procedures are essential to building strong relationships with artists, community partners, and the public.

The City should strive to:

- Publicly distribute artist opportunities through accessible channels
- Clearly communicate budgets, expectations, timelines, and evaluation criteria
- Maintain consistent communication throughout project development
- Provide updates regarding project status and selection processes
- Offer feedback to applicants whenever feasible
- Ensure that artist calls, selection processes, and decisions remain well-documented and publicly accountable

A documented Artist Selection Process, including templates, scoring tools, contracts, and procedural guidelines, should be maintained within the Public Art Toolkit to support future commissions and long-term program consistency.

ARTIST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The City of Stow recognizes that artists retain important intellectual property rights related to their original creative work. Public art commissions should respect the moral rights, authorship, and creative ownership of artists while also establishing clear agreements regarding the City's ability to promote, document, maintain, and steward publicly funded artworks.

Artist contracts should clearly define ownership, copyright, usage permissions, maintenance responsibilities, and procedures related to modification, relocation, conservation, or deaccessioning of artworks.

Intellectual Property Policies May Include:

- Artists retain copyright ownership of original artwork designs unless otherwise negotiated in writing.

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- The City receives a non-exclusive license to display, document, reproduce, and promote commissioned artworks for educational, archival, marketing, tourism, and non-commercial municipal purposes.
- Artists should be credited whenever artworks are reproduced in publications, media, websites, exhibitions, maps, or promotional materials whenever feasible.
- Significant alteration, relocation, or destruction of artworks should involve communication with the artist whenever possible and consistent with applicable law.
- Contracts should clearly define ownership of preparatory materials, sketches, models, digital assets, and final artwork documentation.
- Public artworks should comply with applicable federal copyright protections and provisions related to the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA) when applicable.

Clear intellectual property policies help protect both artists and the City while supporting respectful long-term stewardship of public artworks.

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS & DOCUMENTATION

Documentation and reproduction of public artworks play an important role in education, promotion, tourism, archives, community engagement, and long-term program visibility. The City of Stow should maintain clear policies regarding photography, videography, digital reproduction, and archival documentation of public art projects.

Professional documentation should occur throughout project development, fabrication, installation, and completion whenever possible.

Documentation Practices May Include:

- Professional photography and video documentation of completed artworks
- Process documentation during fabrication and installation
- Archival records including artist statements, sketches, specifications, maintenance instructions, and project histories
- Public art maps, digital archives, and interpretive materials
- Educational and promotional materials related to public art projects

Reproduction Rights Policies May Include:

- The City may reproduce images of public artworks for non-commercial municipal purposes, including websites, tourism materials, educational publications, reports, presentations, social media, and promotional campaigns.
- Artists should receive attribution whenever practical and appropriate.
- Commercial reproduction or merchandising of artworks beyond standard promotional use should require additional written agreement with the artist.
- Artists may retain the right to reproduce images of their own work for portfolios, exhibitions, websites, publications, grant applications, and professional promotion.

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- Drone photography, film production, or third-party commercial use involving public artworks may require separate permissions depending on project scope and applicable policies.

Consistent documentation and reproduction policies help preserve the history of the Public Art Program while increasing public visibility, educational value, and long-term community engagement.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ARTIST ECOSYSTEM

Beyond commissioning individual projects, the Public Art Program should contribute to building a stronger creative ecosystem within Stow and the surrounding region. By supporting artists through equitable processes, meaningful partnerships, mentorship opportunities, and professional development, the City can help cultivate long-term cultural vitality while positioning public art as an ongoing civic and economic asset.

A thoughtful and transparent artist engagement process will help ensure that future public art projects reflect the creativity, diversity, and evolving identity of the Stow community.

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SECTION 8: Partnerships & Stakeholders

Successful public art programs are built through collaboration. The City of Stow Public Art Program is intended to function as a shared civic effort that brings together residents, artists, community organizations, businesses, educators, cultural institutions, and municipal leadership to support the planning, creation, activation, and long-term stewardship of public art throughout the city.

Strong partnerships help expand opportunities for artistic projects, strengthen community engagement, increase funding and visibility, and ensure that public art reflects the identity, values, and aspirations of the Stow community.

By cultivating relationships across sectors, Stow can build a connected and sustainable public art ecosystem that supports both cultural vitality and long-term community investment.

Role of the City of Stow

The City of Stow serves as the primary steward and coordinating body for the Public Art Program. City leadership and municipal departments play an important role in project planning, site coordination, public engagement, implementation, communications, and long-term maintenance.

City responsibilities may include:

- Overseeing public art policies, procedures, and approvals
- Coordinating site selection and permitting processes
- Supporting artist selection and project management
- Facilitating partnerships and public engagement efforts
- Assisting with communications, promotion, and documentation
- Coordinating maintenance and long-term stewardship of artworks
- Integrating public art into broader planning and infrastructure initiatives

Collaboration among departments such as Planning & Development, Parks & Recreation, Public Service, Engineering, Communications, and the Mayor's Office helps ensure that public art projects align with broader municipal goals and public space improvements.

The Role of Stow Arts Commission

The Stow Arts Commission serves as an important advisory and cultural leadership body within the Public Art Program. The Commission may assist with identifying opportunities for public art, reviewing proposals, supporting artist selection processes, and helping guide cultural initiatives that benefit the community.

The Arts Commission also plays an important role in strengthening communication between artists, city leadership, and residents while helping support public engagement and creative programming throughout the city.

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Potential responsibilities may include:

- Advising on public art policy and planning
- Reviewing artist proposals and project concepts
- Assisting with artist selection processes
- Supporting community engagement initiatives
- Identifying partnership and funding opportunities
- Promoting arts and cultural programming throughout Stow

The Role of Community Organizations & Civic Groups

Community organizations, neighborhood groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools, and civic associations are valuable partners in shaping public art initiatives and connecting projects to local identity and community priorities.

These organizations help ensure that public art remains community-driven, accessible, and responsive to the people and stories that define Stow.

Community partners may assist with:

- Identifying potential public art sites and opportunities
- Contributing local knowledge and storytelling perspectives
- Hosting workshops, meetings, and engagement activities
- Supporting project promotion and public celebrations
- Assisting with volunteer coordination and programming

Strong community partnerships help deepen public participation while strengthening neighborhood-level ownership and stewardship of public art projects.

The Role of Artists & Creative Professionals

Artists are essential collaborators in shaping the visual and cultural identity of the city. The Public Art Program should support both local and regional artists while creating opportunities for creative experimentation, collaboration, and professional growth.

Artists may contribute by:

- Designing and fabricating public artworks
- Leading community engagement activities and workshops
- Collaborating with residents and project partners
- Mentoring youth and emerging artists
- Supporting temporary installations, festivals, and creative placemaking initiatives

Supporting artists strengthens the regional creative economy while bringing diverse artistic perspectives into public space.

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The Role of Schools & Educational Partners

Schools, libraries, universities, and educational organizations can play an important role in expanding access to arts experiences and strengthening long-term community engagement with public art.

Educational partnerships may include:

- School-based mural and sculpture projects
- Artist residencies and mentorship programs
- Youth workshops and creative learning initiatives
- Student participation in community art projects
- Public art curriculum connections and educational programming

Engaging young people in public art initiatives helps cultivate future artists, strengthen civic pride, and encourage long-term investment in Stow's cultural landscape.

The Role of Businesses & Private Partners

Local businesses, property owners, developers, and commercial districts can play a significant role in supporting public art throughout the city. Partnerships with private stakeholders create opportunities for murals, sculpture, streetscape enhancements, temporary installations, and district-level placemaking initiatives.

Business partnerships may include:

- Providing sites or wall space for public art
- Sponsoring or funding projects and events
- Supporting public programming and artist initiatives
- Integrating public art into redevelopment or placemaking efforts
- Collaborating on district identity and gateway projects

Strategic partnerships within commercial districts can help strengthen economic vitality, increase visibility for local businesses, and contribute to the development of recognizable cultural destinations and public art clusters throughout the city.

The Role of Regional & Cultural Partners

Stow's location within Northeast Ohio provides access to a broad regional network of cultural institutions, universities, arts organizations, and creative professionals. These partnerships can expand opportunities for funding, artist recruitment, exhibitions, educational programming, and collaborative initiatives.

Potential regional partners may include:

- Universities and art schools

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- Museums and galleries
- Regional arts nonprofits and cultural organizations
- Tourism and placemaking organizations
- Arts funding agencies and foundations
- Creative industry and design professionals

Regional collaborations help connect Stow's Public Art Program to broader cultural networks while increasing visibility and access to resources.

The Role of Community Members & Volunteers

Residents are among the most important stakeholders within the Public Art Program. Community members contribute ideas, stories, feedback, participation, and long-term stewardship that help shape the direction and success of public art initiatives.

Residents may participate through:

- Community engagement activities and surveys
- Collaborative art projects and workshops
- Volunteer support during installations and events
- Public celebrations, unveilings, and programming
- Storytelling and local history initiatives

By involving residents throughout project development and implementation, the City can foster stronger community ownership, civic pride, and long-term public investment in shared spaces.

BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC ART ECOSYSTEM

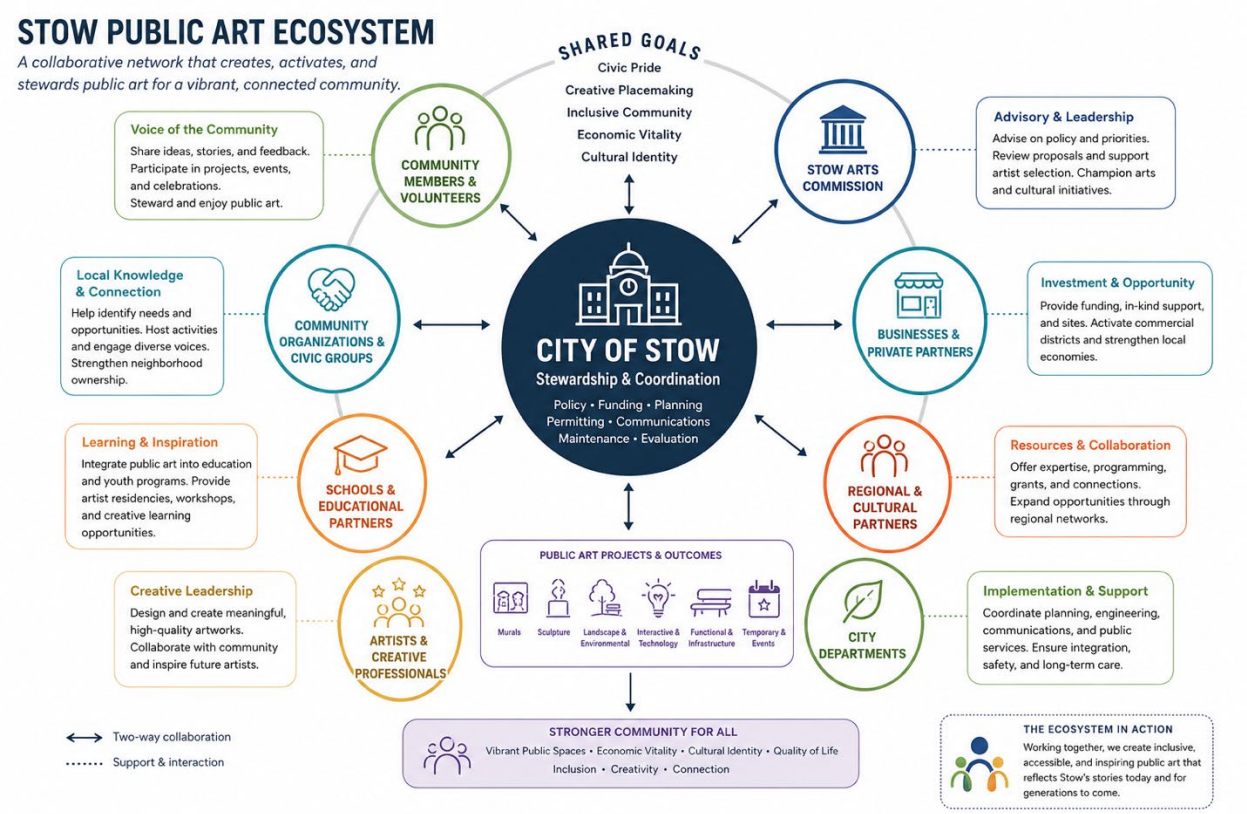
The long-term success of the Public Art Program depends on sustained collaboration among artists, residents, civic leaders, educators, businesses, and community organizations. Each stakeholder contributes expertise, resources, creative perspectives, and community knowledge that help shape the cultural landscape of the city.

Together, these partnerships create a collaborative public art ecosystem that:

- Supports artists and creative participation
- Strengthens civic identity and community connection
- Enhances public spaces and neighborhood vitality
- Expands cultural opportunities throughout the city
- Encourages shared stewardship of public art and public space

Through continued collaboration and community investment, public art can become an enduring civic asset that reflects the evolving identity, creativity, and aspirations of the City of Stow.

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PUBLIC ART ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & PURPOSE

The City of Stow Public Art Program depends on collaboration among artists, City leadership, community stakeholders, and project partners. The following framework outlines the primary responsibilities of key participants involved in planning, commissioning, implementing, and stewarding public art projects throughout the city.

This section is intended to provide a practical operational overview that complements the broader role definitions established in Section 1.

Arts Commission / Public Art Administration

The Arts Commission serves as the primary advisory and coordinating body for the Public Art Program. Working in collaboration with City departments and community stakeholders, the Commission helps guide project development, artist selection, public engagement, and long-term program direction.

Primary Responsibilities

- Establish project goals, themes, scope, budget, and timelines
- Identify potential public art opportunities and priority sites
- Develop Calls to Artists, RFQs, and RFPs
- Coordinate artist outreach and communications
- Support artist selection and panel coordination
- Present recommendations and project approvals to City leadership as needed
- Assist with project oversight, implementation, and reporting
- Support long-term planning, partnerships, and program development

As the program grows, some administrative and project management responsibilities may transition to a dedicated Public Art Coordinator or Project Manager position.

Artist Selection Panel / Public Art Selection Committee

Artist Selection Panels provide project-specific review and evaluation of artist qualifications, proposals, and conceptual designs. Panels are intended to support fair, transparent, and community-responsive artist selection processes.

Primary Responsibilities

- Review artist qualifications and application materials
- Evaluate submissions using established scoring criteria and rubrics
- Participate in panel discussions and proposal review meetings
- Shortlist finalists for interviews or concept development when applicable
- Participate in artist interviews and presentations
- Recommend selected artists or proposals for City approval
- Represent artistic, technical, and community perspectives throughout the review process

Panel Expectations

Selection panel members are expected to:

- Review materials in advance of meetings
- Maintain confidentiality throughout the selection process
- Evaluate submissions objectively and without favoritism
- Respect diverse artistic perspectives and approaches
- Follow established conflict of interest and ethical conduct policies

Panel composition may include representatives from:

- The Arts Commission
- City departments
- Community organizations and stakeholders
- Design professionals or technical advisors

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- Artists or arts professionals

Site Stewards

Site stewards are responsible for supporting the long-term care, visibility, accessibility, and community connection of public artworks within specific locations or districts.

Primary Responsibilities

- Monitor artwork condition and site accessibility
- Coordinate routine maintenance, cleaning, and repairs
- Assist with conservation and stewardship efforts
- Maintain project documentation and condition records
- Support public awareness and educational engagement related to artworks
- Serve as community contacts for site-related concerns and updates

Site stewardship may involve collaboration between City departments, community organizations, property owners, and project partners.

Marketing & Communications

Marketing and communications efforts help increase visibility, public engagement, and community awareness related to public art initiatives throughout the city.

Primary Responsibilities

- Document projects through photography, video, and written storytelling
- Promote artist features, milestones, and installation updates
- Coordinate social media and digital communications
- Support press releases, public announcements, and media outreach
- Maintain consistency with City branding and communications standards
- Assist with public art maps, interpretive materials, and online resources

Strong communications strategies help reinforce public pride, participation, and long-term support for the Public Art Program.

Public Artists

Public artists are responsible for designing, developing, fabricating, and installing artworks that respond to community identity, site context, and project goals.

Primary Responsibilities

- Develop original artistic concepts and proposals
- Refine concepts through collaboration and review processes

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- Coordinate fabrication, installation, and project delivery
- Maintain project schedules, budgets, and technical requirements
- Collaborate with City staff, contractors, and community stakeholders
- Provide maintenance recommendations and final project documentation
- Participate in engagement activities or educational programming when appropriate

Artists play a critical role in shaping the visual and cultural identity of public space throughout Stow.

City Representatives & Municipal Departments

City leadership and municipal departments provide oversight, coordination, and technical support to ensure that public art projects are safely, legally, and effectively integrated into public space.

Primary Responsibilities

- Review projects for zoning, permitting, and code compliance
- Coordinate approvals related to infrastructure and public property
- Review contracts, insurance requirements, and legal agreements
- Support coordination across departments and project partners
- Assist with maintenance planning and long-term stewardship
- Integrate public art into broader planning, development, and infrastructure initiatives

Key departments may include:

- Mayor's Office
- Planning & Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Engineering and Public Service
- Legal Department
- Communications and Economic Development staff

CONFLICT OF INTEREST & ETHICAL REVIEW PRACTICES

To maintain fairness and public trust, all artist selection processes should follow established conflict of interest and confidentiality procedures.

Conflict of Interest Standards

All individuals involved in the public art planning, review, selection, approval, funding, management, or decision-making process are expected to disclose any personal, professional, or financial relationships that could compromise—or appear to compromise—the fairness, objectivity, or integrity of the process.

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Potential conflicts of interest may include:

- Family or close personal relationships
- Previous artistic or professional collaborations
- Financial or business relationships
- Shared employment, organizational affiliations, or gallery representation
- Direct financial interest in a project outcome
- Any circumstance that could create perceived bias or undue influence

When a conflict of interest exists, the individual may be required to recuse themselves from discussions, evaluations, scoring, recommendations, approvals, or other decision-making activities related to the project or applicant.

Ethical Practices & Professional Conduct

All participants involved in the Public Art Program should support a process that is transparent, equitable, respectful, and community-centered.

Individuals participating in public art review or decision-making processes are expected to:

- Evaluate projects and proposals fairly and objectively
- Avoid favoritism, lobbying, or undue influence
- Respect diverse artistic perspectives and community viewpoints
- Maintain confidentiality of sensitive materials and discussions when appropriate
- Support equitable access and transparent procedures
- Conduct themselves professionally throughout all phases of project development and review

These standards help ensure integrity, accountability, and public trust within the City of Stow Public Art Program.

BUILDING A COORDINATED PUBLIC ART PROCESS

A successful Public Art Program depends on clear communication, defined responsibilities, and strong collaboration among all participants. By establishing transparent procedures and coordinated partnerships, the City of Stow can support public art projects that are professionally managed, community-centered, and reflective of the city's evolving identity and long-term cultural goals.

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SECTION 9: Maintenance, Conservation & Deaccession

Public art is a long-term civic investment that requires ongoing stewardship, maintenance, documentation, and lifecycle planning. To protect that investment, preserve artistic integrity, and ensure public safety, the City of Stow establishes clear standards related to maintenance responsibility, conservation practices, durability, and deaccession procedures.

This framework outlines recommended approaches for caring for murals, sculptures, installations, environmental works, and integrated public art projects throughout the city.

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY & STEWARDSHIP

All public art projects approved through the City's Public Art Program should include a documented Maintenance Plan outlining care expectations, responsible parties, anticipated lifespan, and long-term stewardship needs.

Maintenance responsibilities may vary depending on ownership, project type, location, and contractual agreements.

Property Owners or Responsible Parties

Property owners—or designated responsible parties—are generally responsible for routine care and maintenance of artworks located on their property unless otherwise specified through agreement.

Responsibilities may include:

- Routine cleaning and upkeep
- Graffiti removal within established response timelines
- Monitoring for damage, deterioration, or safety concerns
- Structural and surface repairs
- Maintenance of lighting, electrical, or interactive systems when applicable
- Landscape stewardship for environmentally integrated projects
- Maintaining records of maintenance activities and repairs

Failure to maintain public artwork may result in corrective notices, review procedures, or potential deaccession evaluation.

Artists

Artists play an important role in supporting long-term stewardship by providing documentation and technical guidance related to the care of their work.

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Artists may be asked to provide:

- Material specifications and finish schedules
- Fabrication drawings and installation details
- Touch-up guidance and coating recommendations
- Maintenance and conservation recommendations
- Documentation related to lighting, structural systems, or specialty materials

When feasible, artists may also be consulted regarding major restoration, conservation, relocation, or deaccession decisions involving their work.

City of Stow

The City provides oversight and coordination related to maintenance planning, conservation review, and public safety within the Public Art Program.

City responsibilities may include:

- Reviewing maintenance plans during project approval
- Maintaining archival records and project documentation
- Conducting periodic inspections when appropriate
- Coordinating notices related to safety hazards or maintenance concerns
- Supporting conservation and deaccession review procedures
- Assisting with stewardship planning for City-owned artworks

Unless otherwise designated, the City is not typically responsible for routine maintenance of privately owned public art installations.

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS & CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Maintenance standards should reflect the realities of Northeast Ohio's environmental conditions, including freeze-thaw cycles, moisture exposure, road salt, UV exposure, seasonal temperature fluctuations, and public use.

Initial Installation & Documentation

At the time of installation, projects should establish baseline documentation and protective measures appropriate to the artwork type and materials.

Murals

- Professional-grade UV and anti-graffiti coatings
- High-resolution photographic documentation

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- Archival records of paint systems, coatings, and materials

Sculpture & Three-Dimensional Works

- Structural anchorage verification
- Protective coatings and corrosion prevention systems
- Documentation of fabrication details and maintenance requirements
- Electrical and lighting system verification when applicable

Landscape & Environmental Works

- Irrigation and drainage verification
- Planting schedules and species documentation
- Soil stabilization and erosion control measures when necessary

Routine Maintenance & Inspection

Public artworks should be visually inspected regularly for damage, deterioration, vandalism, and safety concerns.

Routine maintenance practices may include:

- Graffiti removal and surface cleaning
- Inspection of coatings, finishes, and structural systems
- Monitoring for corrosion, cracking, fading, or moisture damage
- Electrical and lighting maintenance
- Landscape pruning, irrigation, and environmental care
- Documentation of repairs and conservation activities

Maintenance schedules should be scaled appropriately to artwork type, materials, exposure conditions, and public interaction levels.

Mid-Cycle Conservation Review

For long-term installations, periodic conservation review may be appropriate to assess structural integrity, surface conditions, coatings, substrate performance, and restoration needs.

Conservation review may involve:

- Artist consultation
- Structural assessment
- Coating replacement or resealing
- Surface stabilization or repainting
- Conservator review for complex or deteriorating works

These evaluations help extend artwork lifespan while protecting public safety and artistic quality.

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MATERIAL & DURABILITY STANDARDS

Public art projects should utilize materials and fabrication methods appropriate to site conditions, expected lifespan, maintenance capacity, and public interaction.

Projects should demonstrate consideration of:

- Weather resistance and durability
- UV exposure and moisture protection
- Structural integrity and anchorage systems
- Vandalism resistance and maintenance accessibility
- Surface drainage and freeze-thaw conditions
- Public safety and accessibility requirements

Projects involving lighting, kinetic systems, digital components, or environmental integration should include additional technical review and long-term maintenance planning.

DEACCESSION & LIFECYCLE PLANNING

Public art is not automatically intended to remain permanently in place unless specifically designated as permanent through contract or program policy. Over time, artworks may require relocation, replacement, conservation, or removal due to changing conditions, redevelopment, deterioration, safety concerns, or evolving community needs.

The City of Stow should maintain a clear and transparent deaccession process that respects artists, property owners, community investment, and long-term planning goals.

Grounds for Deaccession

Deaccession may be considered under conditions including:

- Safety hazards or structural instability
- Irreparable damage or severe deterioration
- Persistent maintenance failure
- End of project term or temporary installation period
- Redevelopment, infrastructure, or site changes
- Relocation opportunities
- Significant changes in community context or site use

Deaccession should not occur arbitrarily and should involve documented review procedures whenever possible.

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Deaccession Review Process

The City should maintain a documented process for evaluating potential removal, relocation, or retirement of artworks.

The process may include:

1. Initiation of review by City staff, property owner, or artist
2. Administrative review and condition assessment
3. Notice to property owner and artist with opportunity for response
4. Evaluation by appropriate City representatives or advisory bodies
5. Documentation of decisions and final disposition
6. Coordination of removal, relocation, or conservation efforts

Artists should be notified and given the opportunity to participate in removal or relocation discussions whenever feasible and consistent with contractual agreements.

Alternatives to Removal

When restoration or preservation is impractical, alternatives may include:

- Conservation or partial restoration
- Relocation to another site
- Collaborative refresh or reinterpretation of the artwork
- Commissioning successor artworks
- Neutral surface restoration or adaptive reuse of the site

These approaches allow the City to balance stewardship, artistic legacy, and evolving community needs.

BUDGETING FOR LONG-TERM CARE

Long-term stewardship should be considered during project planning and budgeting. Maintenance reserves help ensure that artworks remain safe, visible, and well-maintained over time.

Recommended considerations may include:

- Annual inspection and maintenance costs
- Graffiti response and surface cleaning
- Mid-cycle conservation or restoration
- Electrical and lighting maintenance
- Structural review and coating replacement
- Landscape and environmental care for integrated works

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More complex installations—including illuminated, kinetic, interactive, or environmental works—may require additional long-term maintenance resources.

DOCUMENTATION & ARCHIVAL RECORDKEEPING

To support continuity, transparency, and professional stewardship standards, the City should maintain digital records for all approved public art projects.

Documentation may include:

- Original applications and contracts
- Artist statements and design materials
- Fabrication drawings and specifications
- Maintenance plans and inspection records
- Conservation and restoration history
- Photographic documentation
- Deaccession and relocation records when applicable

Comprehensive recordkeeping helps preserve the history, impact, and legacy of the Public Art Program over time.

LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP

A successful Public Art Program extends beyond commissioning new artworks. Long-term stewardship ensures that public art remains safe, accessible, meaningful, and integrated into the civic life of the community.

Through thoughtful maintenance planning, conservation practices, documentation, and lifecycle management, the City of Stow can protect its public art investments while supporting a resilient and evolving cultural landscape for future generations.

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SECTION 10: Budget, Funding & Financial Stewardship

The long-term success of the City of Stow Public Art Program depends on a sustainable and diversified funding strategy that supports not only the creation of new artworks, but also long-term stewardship, maintenance, programming, and community engagement.

Stow's Public Art Program should utilize a braided funding approach that combines municipal investment, grants, sponsorships, partnerships, infrastructure integration, donations, and community-supported initiatives. This layered funding model creates flexibility, expands opportunities for projects of varying scales, and helps ensure that public art remains a sustainable civic asset over time.

Public art should be viewed as long-term civic infrastructure that contributes to economic vitality, placemaking, tourism, recreation, environmental stewardship, transportation safety, and quality of life—not solely as an arts expenditure.

The City should actively identify and layer diverse funding streams beyond traditional "arts funding" by exploring transportation, safety, infrastructure, technology, landscape, sustainability, environmental education, wellness, tourism, and placemaking-related funding opportunities. By aligning public art initiatives with existing community assets, infrastructure projects, environmental goals, recreation systems, and identified community needs, Stow can position public art as a multi-benefit civic investment capable of leveraging a broader range of internal and external funding sources.

PART I. BUDGETING FOR PUBLIC ART

PROJECT BUDGET TIERS

Public art budgets vary significantly depending on project scale, site conditions, engineering requirements, fabrication complexity, and anticipated lifespan. The following ranges provide general planning guidance and may be adjusted based on project scope and funding availability.

Temporary Public Art Projects

Approximate Range: $3,000–$8,000

Temporary projects allow the City to experiment with new ideas, activate spaces quickly, support emerging artists, and build visibility for the Public Art Program.

Potential projects may include:

- Temporary installations
- Community-based art projects

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- Pop-up activations
- Projection and lighting events
- Festival and event-based public art

Typical budget considerations include:

- Artist stipends and fees
- Materials and fabrication
- Installation and removal
- Community engagement activities
- Documentation and promotion

Mid-Scale Public Art Projects

Approximate Range: $10,000–$50,000

Mid-scale projects may include:

- Permanent murals
- Small- to medium-scale sculpture
- Gateway and identity features
- Trail and park enhancements
- Functional public art elements
- Community-centered installations

Many municipal public art projects fall within this range depending on site complexity and fabrication requirements.

Large-Scale & Signature Public Art Projects

Approximate Range: $50,000–$300,000+

Large-scale projects are typically intended to serve as long-term cultural landmarks, gateways, or destination public artworks.

Potential projects may include:

- Major gateway installations
- Amphitheater district public art clusters
- Large-scale sculpture or integrated infrastructure projects
- Environmental or illuminated installations
- Destination murals and district-wide placemaking initiatives

These projects often require:

- Engineering and structural review

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- Specialized fabrication and installation
- Extensive site preparation
- Long-term conservation planning
- Multi-source funding partnerships

Signature projects may exceed these ranges depending on scope and infrastructure requirements.

PROJECT COST CONSIDERATIONS

Public art budgets should account for all phases of project development—not solely fabrication costs. Comprehensive budgeting helps ensure projects are realistic, durable, and sustainable over time.

Project budgets may include:

- Artist design and project fees
- Proposal development stipends
- Community engagement and outreach activities
- Materials and fabrication
- Engineering or structural review
- Permitting and insurance
- Site preparation and infrastructure improvements
- Installation equipment, labor, and contractor coordination
- Lighting, electrical, or technology systems
- Documentation, photography, and archiving
- Marketing and promotional materials
- Contingency funding
- Long-term maintenance and conservation planning

Projects involving interactive, illuminated, digital, or environmental components may require additional operational and maintenance considerations.

STANDARD PROJECT BUDGET ALLOCATION

The following example illustrates how project funds may typically be allocated within a municipal public art project.

Budget Category	Typical Range	Description
Artist Design Fee	10–20%	Concept development, drawings, revisions, coordination

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Community Engagement	2–5%	Workshops, meetings, surveys, engagement materials
Materials & Fabrication	35–50%	Fabrication, studio work, subcontractors, materials
Engineering / Technical Review	2–10%	Structural review, safety review, consultation
Site Preparation	5–10%	Foundations, electrical access, infrastructure adjustments
Installation	10–20%	Equipment rental, labor, installation coordination
Permits & Insurance	1–5%	Permitting and compliance requirements
Documentation & Promotion	1–3%	Photography, signage, communications
Maintenance Reserve	5–10%	Conservation, cleaning, repair reserve

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MAINTENANCE & STEWARDSHIP FUNDING

Long-term stewardship should be integrated into every public art project from the earliest stages of planning. Sustainable public art programs account for conservation, repair, cleaning, and lifecycle management as part of overall project budgeting.

Maintenance funding considerations may include:

- Routine inspections and cleaning
- Graffiti removal and surface repair
- Protective coatings and resealing
- Structural assessment and conservation review
- Electrical and lighting maintenance
- Landscape maintenance for integrated environmental works
- Documentation and archival recordkeeping

The City should consider establishing maintenance reserves or lifecycle planning allocations to protect long-term public art investments.

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS & ASSET MANAGEMENT

To support long-term stewardship and continuity, the City should maintain a digital inventory and archival record of public artworks including:

- Artwork locations and identification records
- Artist information and contracts
- Material specifications and maintenance instructions
- Conservation and repair history
- Photographic documentation and condition reports

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Asset management systems support transparency, continuity, maintenance planning, and stewardship across future administrations and project teams.

ARTIST EQUITY & PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The Public Art Program should prioritize equitable artist compensation and accessible project opportunities that strengthen the regional creative economy.

Recommended practices may include:

- Open Calls and regional artist invitations
- Proposal development stipends for finalists
- Fair artist fee structures aligned with professional standards
- Mentorship and emerging artist opportunities
- Community engagement and educational partnerships

Supporting artists as professional collaborators strengthens both the cultural and economic impact of the Public Art Program.

PART II. FUNDING & SUSTAINING PUBLIC ART

FUNDING FRAMEWORK

Public art funding may come from a combination of:

- Municipal appropriations and capital improvement allocations
- Percent for Art policies and public art trust funds
- Grants from local, state, regional, and national organizations
- Transportation and infrastructure funding programs
- Environmental and sustainability initiatives
- Tourism and placemaking partnerships
- Corporate sponsorships and redevelopment partnerships
- Donations and fundraising initiatives
- Educational and wellness-based funding programs
- Community partnerships and in-kind contributions

As the program evolves, Stow may also explore additional funding mechanisms tied to redevelopment, infrastructure improvements, district identity initiatives, and long-term cultural investment strategies.

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Existing Assets & Immediate Opportunities in Stow

The City of Stow already possesses several strong assets and funding pathways that can support public art implementation immediately.

Existing Municipal Assets

Current municipal investments and infrastructure systems that may support public art integration include:

- Parks and Recreation capital projects
- Trail and greenway improvements
- Streetscape and gateway enhancements
- Amphitheater and public gathering space development
- Civic facility improvements
- Corridor redevelopment and beautification projects

By integrating public art into projects already planned or funded, the City can reduce standalone project costs while embedding creativity into existing infrastructure investments.

Existing Community & Institutional Assets

Stow also benefits from:

- An active Arts Commission
- Strong Parks & Recreation programming
- Regional access to universities, artists, and cultural organizations
- Existing event infrastructure and community festivals
- Strong regional transportation and trail connectivity
- Existing commercial corridors with high visibility potential

These assets create opportunities for partnerships, sponsorships, and collaborative funding strategies.

MUNICIPAL FUNDING STRATEGIES

Percent for Art Policy

The City may establish a Percent for Art policy allocating approximately 1%–1.5% of eligible municipal Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budgets toward public art initiatives.

Eligible projects may include:

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- Public buildings and civic facilities
- Parks and recreation improvements
- Streetscape and corridor enhancements
- Infrastructure and gateway projects
- Trail and transportation improvements

Percent for Art allocations may be pooled across projects to support larger cultural investments or distributed across multiple initiatives citywide.

Public Art Trust Fund

The City may establish a dedicated Public Art Trust Fund to support:

- Artist commissions and acquisitions
- Fabrication and installation
- Conservation and maintenance
- Temporary programming and events
- Community engagement initiatives
- Matching funds for grants and partnerships

A restricted and non-lapsing fund structure allows the City to strategically accumulate resources for high-impact or long-term projects.

DEVELOPMENT, SPONSORSHIP & PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES

As redevelopment opportunities emerge, the City may explore:

- Voluntary developer contributions
- Public-private placemaking partnerships
- Corporate sponsorships
- Naming opportunities where appropriate
- Community fundraising initiatives
- Redevelopment-linked cultural investments
- In-kind donations of materials, equipment, or services

Potential partners may include:

- Chamber of Commerce initiatives
- Business Improvement District collaborations
- Community foundations
- Regional placemaking organizations
- Local businesses and redevelopment groups

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These partnerships can help support murals, gateway projects, district branding, utility box programs, temporary installations, and amphitheater district public art clusters.

IN-LIEU CONTRIBUTIONS & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

As redevelopment opportunities emerge, the City may explore public art partnership models tied to zoning incentives, redevelopment agreements, or public-private partnerships.

Potential approaches may include:

- Voluntary developer contributions to the Public Art Trust Fund
- Public art integration within redevelopment projects
- Public-private sponsorship and placemaking partnerships
- Incentive-based cultural investment opportunities

These strategies can help expand cultural investment while supporting district identity and placemaking goals.

ALTERNATIVE REVENUE STREAMS

The City may also explore supplemental revenue opportunities connected to tourism, recreation, entertainment, and community programming.

Potential sources may include:

- Admissions or event-related revenue
- Tourism and hospitality-related funding
- Community fundraising initiatives
- Sponsorships and donor-supported projects
- Special events and cultural programming partnerships

Diversified revenue streams help strengthen long-term program sustainability.

CURRENT STATE, REGIONAL & FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Stow is well positioned to leverage a broad range of existing funding programs, grants, partnerships, and infrastructure-based investments to support public art, placemaking, and creative civic initiatives. Public art projects can often compete successfully for non-traditional

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funding sources when positioned as tools for transportation safety, wellness, tourism, environmental education, neighborhood revitalization, and economic development.

Rather than relying solely on traditional "arts funding," Stow should strategically align public art projects with existing community assets, infrastructure priorities, parks systems, transportation improvements, environmental initiatives, and cultural development goals.

Ohio Arts Council Grants

The Ohio Arts Council currently offers multiple grant programs that could support Stow public art initiatives, including:

- Public art commissions
- Murals and placemaking projects
- Artist residencies
- Community engagement initiatives
- Arts learning and youth programming
- Capacity-building and organizational development

Relevant opportunities include:

- Arts Partnership Grants
- ArtSTART Grants
- Capacity Building Grants
- Individual Artist Support Programs
- Project Support Grants

The Ohio Arts Council approved more than $23 million in statewide arts funding for FY2026, signaling continued investment in arts and culture across Ohio communities.

Strong Stow Funding Alignment

- Amphitheater district activation
- Community mural initiatives
- Park and trail-based artwork
- Artist residency and youth engagement programs
- Public art planning and pilot projects

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

The National Endowment for the Arts continues to fund public art, creative placemaking, and community arts projects nationwide through:

- Grants for Arts Projects (GAP)
- Our Town creative placemaking grants
- Arts engagement and wellness initiatives

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- Arts education and community development programs

NEA grants commonly support:

- Public art installations
- Creative placemaking districts
- Community engagement initiatives
- Artist residencies
- Trail and environmental art
- Cultural tourism and destination projects

Typical funding ranges often fall between approximately $10,000–$150,000 depending on project scale and program category.

Strong Stow Funding Alignment

- Amphitheater arts district development
- Public art clusters and gateway projects
- Trail-based public art systems
- Community storytelling initiatives
- Historic interpretation projects
- Arts and wellness programming in parks

Transportation, Safety & Infrastructure Funding

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) administers transportation and infrastructure funding programs throughout Northeast Ohio that can support placemaking, streetscape enhancements, pedestrian safety, trail connectivity, and corridor improvements.

Relevant funding categories may include:

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure grants
- Safe Streets and Roads for All initiatives
- Corridor enhancement and connectivity programs
- Streetscape and placemaking improvements

Public art may be eligible when integrated into:

- Trailheads and greenways
- Crosswalks and asphalt art
- Streetscape enhancements
- Gateway improvements
- Underpass and bridge activation
- Trail connectivity projects

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Strong Stow Funding Alignment

- Trail art and wayfinding systems
- Artistic pedestrian crossings
- Gateway corridor enhancements
- Underpass murals and lighting
- Bike and pedestrian connectivity projects
- Graham Road and Fishcreek corridor activation

This strategy positions public art as part of broader transportation safety and connectivity improvements.

Parks, Environmental & Sustainability Funding

Stow's extensive parks and recreation system creates strong opportunities for environmental, recreation, and wellness-based funding partnerships.

Potential funding categories may include:

- Clean Ohio Funds
- Environmental education grants
- Parks and recreation grants
- Watershed and conservation initiatives
- Pollinator and ecological restoration programs
- Health and wellness partnerships

These funds may support:

- Environmental sculpture
- Trailhead placemaking
- Living sculpture gardens
- Rain gardens and artist-designed bioswales
- Ecological interpretation projects
- Nature-based educational installations

Strong Stow Funding Alignment

- Silver Springs Park environmental interpretation and sculpture
- Trail-based art systems
- Ecological and wellness-focused installations
- Amphitheater landscape integration
- Interactive park-based artwork

Tourism, Historic Preservation & Community Identity Funding

Public art projects tied to local history, tourism, and community identity may qualify for:

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- Heritage tourism grants
- Historic preservation funding
- Main Street and downtown revitalization programs
- Community foundation support
- America 250 initiatives and mural programs

Ohio's statewide "Murals Across Ohio" initiatives connected to America 250 continue supporting murals celebrating local history, culture, and community identity throughout 2026.

Strong Stow Funding Alignment

- Historical storytelling murals
- Community gateway projects
- Amphitheater district branding
- Historic interpretation and placemaking
- Destination mural initiatives

Business & Redevelopment Partnerships

Commercial districts and redevelopment areas create opportunities for:

- Chamber of Commerce partnerships
- Business Improvement District collaboration
- Public-private placemaking partnerships
- Corporate sponsorships
- Redevelopment and façade improvement integration

Potential public art opportunities include:

- Large-scale murals
- District identity signage
- Utility box programs
- Temporary installations and activations
- Lighting and corridor enhancement projects

Strong Stow Funding Alignment

- Commercial corridors with high visibility
- Amphitheater district public art clusters
- Transitional redevelopment areas
- Mixed-use and business district placemaking

Strategically concentrating public art within high-visibility commercial areas can help create recognizable cultural destinations and strengthen economic vitality.

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Education, Health & Community Wellness Funding

Public art increasingly intersects with wellness, education, and public health initiatives.

Potential funding partnerships may include:

- School partnerships and youth grants
- Community wellness initiatives
- Arts and mental health programming
- Hospital and healthcare partnerships
- Youth development and after-school programs

Research increasingly supports public art as contributing to:

- Community wellness
- Mental health and emotional well-being
- Social cohesion and belonging
- Active transportation and outdoor recreation

Strong Stow Funding Alignment

- Youth mural initiatives
- Interactive wellness-based installations
- Public art integrated into recreation spaces
- Community engagement and arts education programming

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATION FOR STOW

Rather than viewing public art as a standalone arts initiative, the City of Stow should position public art as multi-benefit civic infrastructure that supports:

- Economic development
- Tourism and destination-making
- Transportation safety and connectivity
- Parks and recreation
- Environmental sustainability
- Community wellness
- Historic preservation
- Neighborhood revitalization
- Cultural identity and placemaking

By aligning projects with broader municipal priorities and existing community assets, Stow can significantly expand the number of funding opportunities available for public art while building a more sustainable and resilient Public Art Program.

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A FLEXIBLE & SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MODEL

A diversified funding strategy allows the Public Art Program to remain adaptable, resilient, and responsive to changing community needs and opportunities. By combining municipal investment, partnerships, grants, infrastructure integration, and long-term stewardship planning, the City of Stow can build a sustainable public art ecosystem that enhances public space, strengthens civic identity, and contributes to the cultural vitality of the community for generations to come.

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SECTION 11: Implementation Timeline

The success of the City of Stow Public Art Program depends on a clear, phased implementation strategy that balances early visible impact with long-term sustainability, administrative capacity, and community trust.

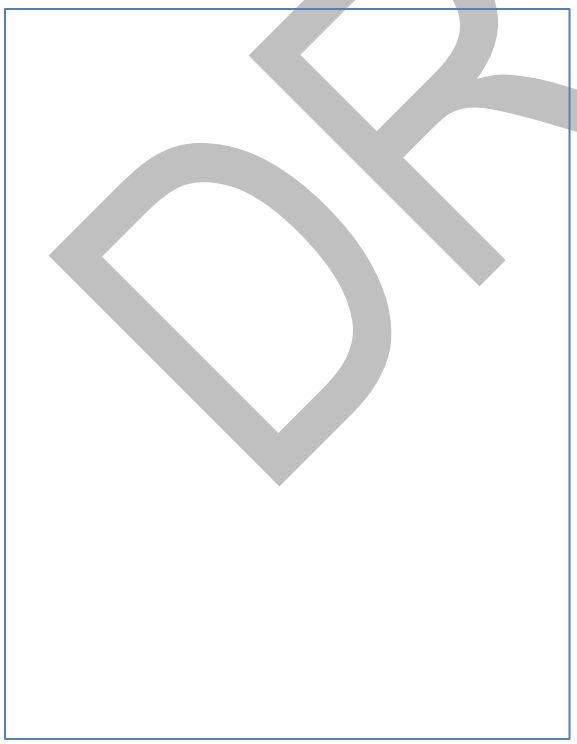
Implementation is organized into three phases:

- **Phase 1 — Foundation & Quick Wins (Year 1)**
- **Phase 2 — Expansion & Infrastructure (Years 2–3)**
- **Phase 3 — Institutionalization & Long-Term Growth (Years 4–5)**

Each phase builds upon the previous one to support responsible growth, operational refinement, and long-term cultural investment. The City may accelerate, expand, or adjust implementation priorities based on funding availability, staffing capacity, partnerships, and emerging community opportunities.

Public Art Implementation & Workflow Overview

The following workflow diagram illustrates the collaborative structure, decision-making process, and lifecycle of public art projects within the City of Stow Public Art Program. The diagram demonstrates how planning, artist selection, project implementation, maintenance, stewardship, and evaluation operate together as an interconnected system involving City representatives, artists, site stewards, selection panels, communications staff, and the Arts Commission.



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PHASE 1 — FOUNDATION & QUICK WINS (YEAR 1)

Goal

Establish administrative structure, launch highly visible pilot projects, and build early public awareness, trust, and momentum.

The first year should focus heavily on transparency, communication, and achievable projects that demonstrate the value of public art within the community.

Administrative Foundation

The City should prioritize development of core policies, procedures, and operational tools necessary to support long-term program growth.

Recommended first-year actions include:

- Finalize and adopt Public Art Permit procedures
- Adopt Maintenance & Conservation standards
- Finalize Deaccession procedures
- Establish Artist Registry and artist outreach systems
- Develop RFQ and RFP templates
- Launch a Public Art webpage and/or social media platform
- Adopt a Public Art Communications & Engagement Strategy
- Develop internal project review workflows and approval procedures
- Establish public art inventory and documentation systems

These foundational tools create consistency, transparency, and administrative readiness for future growth.

Quick-Win Projects

Quick-win projects are small-to-mid scale initiatives that:

- Require limited infrastructure
- Have high public visibility
- Demonstrate immediate community impact
- Build public excitement and participation
- Help test permitting, maintenance, and communication workflows

Potential early projects may include:

- Utility box art program
- Temporary mural pilot projects
- Park-based small sculpture installations
- Crosswalk or pavement art initiatives

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- Youth or community-driven murals
- Temporary event-based installations

These projects provide opportunities to refine administrative procedures while generating visible community engagement early in the implementation process.

Potential sites should align with recommendations outlined in the Public Art Toolkit Site Identification & Rating Framework.

Public Communication & Community Awareness

Strong communication strategies are essential during the first year to build visibility, encourage participation, and establish public trust in the program.

Recommended first-year communication efforts may include:

- Press releases announcing initial projects
- Public unveiling events and ribbon cuttings
- Community engagement activities and workshops
- Artist information sessions and RFQ workshops
- Social media storytelling and project updates
- Digital public art maps and educational content

The City should emphasize transparency, accessibility, and community participation throughout early implementation.

PHASE II — EXPANSION & INFRASTRUCTURE (YEARS 2–3)

Goal

Expand program reach, refine administrative processes, and introduce larger-scale permanent projects integrated into broader civic and infrastructure initiatives.

During this phase, the City should begin transitioning from pilot projects toward more coordinated and strategically distributed public art investments.

Geographic Expansion & Public Art Clusters

The City should begin identifying priority districts, gateways, corridors, and community gathering spaces for expanded public art investment.

Recommended priorities may include:

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- Equitable geographic distribution across wards and neighborhoods
- Gateway corridors and highly visible intersections
- Parks, trails, and recreation systems
- Redevelopment and mixed-use districts
- Amphitheater and entertainment areas
- Commercial corridors with strong pedestrian and driver visibility

Where feasible, Stow should strategically develop concentrated “public art clusters” that create critical mass cultural destinations rather than isolated individual artworks.

Potential cluster opportunities may include:

- Amphitheater district placemaking
- Commercial business districts
- Trailhead and recreation hubs
- Civic gathering spaces and public plazas

Concentrated public art investment can strengthen visibility, identity, tourism potential, and economic impact.

Larger-Scale Commissions

As administrative capacity and public confidence grow, the City may begin issuing larger RFQs and RFPs for more permanent and technically complex projects.

Potential projects may include:

- Permanent murals
- Sculptural installations
- Landscape-integrated artwork
- Artist-designed gateway features
- Environmental and trail-based public art
- Integrated infrastructure and streetscape artwork

These projects may involve expanded engineering review, fabrication coordination, and multi-source funding partnerships.

Funding Strategy Development

During this phase, the City should continue expanding and formalizing long-term funding strategies.

Recommended actions include:

- Identifying cross-departmental funding opportunities
- Exploring infrastructure-integrated public art funding

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- Pursuing grant opportunities and regional partnerships
- Exploring public-private partnerships and sponsorships
- Assessing feasibility of a Percent for Art mechanism
- Developing sponsorship and donor recognition guidelines
- Establishing long-term maintenance reserve strategies

The City should continue positioning public art as multi-benefit civic infrastructure connected to transportation, parks, wellness, sustainability, tourism, and placemaking goals.

Process Refinement & Evaluation

As projects expand in scale and complexity, the City should continue evaluating and refining operational procedures.

Recommended review areas include:

- Permit workflow efficiency
- Maintenance compliance and stewardship performance
- Artist selection procedures and scoring criteria
- Community engagement effectiveness
- Equity and geographic distribution
- Funding performance and partnership development

This phase should focus on building operational consistency while maintaining flexibility and responsiveness.

PHASE III — INSTITUTIONALIZATION & LONG-TERM GROWTH (YEARS 4–5)

Goal

Establish long-term program stability, evaluate community impact, and position Stow as a regional leader in creative placemaking and public art integration.

By this phase, the Public Art Program should function as an integrated component of broader civic planning and cultural development efforts.

Comprehensive Program Review

In alignment with Section 12: Evaluation & Adaptation, the City should conduct a comprehensive review of program performance and long-term sustainability.

Review areas may include:

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- Community listening sessions and stakeholder feedback
- Artist participation and equity metrics
- Geographic distribution of projects
- Maintenance and conservation performance
- Funding sustainability and partnership development
- Public engagement and tourism impact

This review should help guide future policy updates and long-term planning priorities.

Long-Term Initiatives

Potential long-term initiatives may include:

- Signature gateway sculpture programs
- Public art along major corridors
- Integrated artwork within Capital Improvement Projects
- Multi-site thematic art trails
- Artist-in-residence partnerships
- Expanded amphitheater district placemaking
- Regional cultural tourism initiatives

These projects should reinforce Stow's evolving identity while strengthening regional visibility and cultural infrastructure.

Policy & Governance Refinement

As the program matures, the City may consider:

- Updating zoning and development language
- Formalizing governance structures
- Expanding funding mechanisms
- Updating maintenance reserve requirements
- Integrating public art into long-term capital planning

Substantive policy changes should follow Arts Commission review and City Council approval processes.

EVALUATION & REPORTING TIMELINE

Implementation and evaluation should occur simultaneously throughout all phases of the Public Art Program.

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Annual Review (Every Year)

Recommended annual actions include:

- Publish an Annual Public Art Report
- Review maintenance and conservation performance
- Track artist participation and project metrics
- Assess funding and budget performance
- Identify operational improvements and partnership opportunities

Mid-Plan Checkpoint (Year 3)

The City should conduct:

- Internal program assessment
- Community feedback review
- Geographic distribution analysis
- Funding and staffing evaluation
- Adjustment of project priorities or implementation scale if necessary

Five-Year Formal Review (Year 5)

Recommended five-year review activities include:

- Comprehensive Public Art Master Plan review
- Public engagement and listening sessions
- Funding and partnership analysis
- Policy update recommendations
- City Council presentation of findings
- Long-term implementation recommendations

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE SUMMARY

Phase	Focus	Project Scale	Administrative Action
Year 1 — Phase I	Foundation & Quick Wins	Small / Temporary	Adopt policies, launch pilot projects, establish communication systems
Years 2–3 — Phase II	Expansion & Infrastructure	Medium–Large	Issue major RFQs/RFPs, expand geography, develop public art clusters
Years 4–5 — Phase III	Institutionalization & Growth	Signature Projects	Conduct formal plan review, expand long-term initiatives and funding mechanisms

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GUIDING IMPLEMENTATION PRINCIPLES

The City of Stow Public Art Program should remain guided by the following principles throughout implementation:

- Start manageable and scale strategically
- Build public trust through transparency and communication
- Ensure maintenance capacity matches program growth
- Prioritize quality, visibility, and community relevance
- Evaluate continuously and refine procedures over time
- Support equitable access and geographic distribution
- Integrate public art into broader civic planning initiatives
- Build long-term sustainability through diversified partnerships and funding strategies

Through phased implementation, thoughtful stewardship, and strategic investment, the City of Stow can build a resilient and community-centered Public Art Program that strengthens civic identity and contributes to the cultural vitality of the city for generations to come.

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SECTION 12: Evaluation & Adaptation

A successful public art program must remain dynamic, accountable, and responsive to community needs. The City of Stow recognizes that public art is not static infrastructure, but a living cultural system that evolves alongside the community.

Evaluation should support transparency, operational improvement, long-term stewardship, and continued alignment with community priorities. This section establishes measurable indicators of success, outlines procedures for regular review, and defines how the Public Art Master Plan may adapt over time.

Evaluation should be collaborative and may involve the Arts Commission, City staff, site stewards, project partners, and other designated representatives depending on project type and administrative structure.

METRICS FOR SUCCESS

To support continuous improvement and long-term accountability, the City should evaluate the Public Art Program using both quantitative and qualitative measures.

Evaluation should focus on four primary categories:

- Community Impact
- Artist Participation & Equity
- Visibility & Economic Vitality
- Operational & Administrative Performance

Community Impact

Public art exists for the benefit of the community. Evaluation should consider how projects contribute to civic pride, neighborhood identity, public engagement, accessibility, and overall quality of life.

Potential indicators may include:

- Community surveys and feedback forms
- Public meeting participation
- Attendance at unveilings and related events
- Online engagement and social media interaction
- Feedback from adjacent property owners and businesses
- Informal testimonials and documented public responses
- Participation in artist talks, workshops, or engagement activities

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Where appropriate, the City may distribute annual digital surveys to gather resident input regarding:

- Perceived neighborhood improvement
- Sense of civic pride and belonging
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Visibility and awareness of public art projects
- Public perception of safety, vibrancy, or placemaking impact

Artist Participation & Equity

Tracking artist participation helps evaluate whether outreach, accessibility, and equity goals are being achieved over time.

Potential indicators may include:

- Number of artists applying to RFQs and RFPs
- Participation of local and Northeast Ohio artists
- Participation of emerging artists
- Representation of historically underrepresented artist groups
- Repeat engagement of artists in City projects
- Artist satisfaction surveys following project completion
- Participation in workshops, information sessions, or artist registries

The City should continue refining outreach strategies to support equitable access and professional opportunity within the Public Art Program.

Visibility, Tourism & Economic Vitality

Public art contributes to civic identity, tourism, placemaking, and economic development. Evaluation should consider how projects support visibility, activation, and public perception of the city.

Potential indicators may include:

- Press releases and media coverage
- Social media reach and engagement metrics
- Inclusion in tourism and visitor materials
- Mentions by regional arts and cultural organizations
- Cross-promotion with economic development or Chamber of Commerce initiatives
- Increased visibility of commercial districts or public spaces
- Visitor engagement at public art destinations or cultural events

Positive visibility reinforces Stow's identity as a welcoming, creative, and culturally vibrant community.

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Operational & Administrative Performance

In addition to public-facing outcomes, the City should evaluate the internal health and sustainability of the Public Art Program.

Potential indicators may include:

- Number of projects completed annually
- Geographic distribution of public art throughout the city
- Permit and approval workflow efficiency
- Compliance with maintenance agreements
- Maintenance response and conservation performance
- Budget adherence and funding diversification
- Deaccession cases and resolution outcomes
- Effectiveness of partnerships and sponsorships

Operational evaluation helps ensure the program remains manageable, equitable, transparent, and fiscally sustainable over time.

ANNUAL REVIEW & REPORTING

To maintain accountability and support ongoing improvement, the City should implement a structured annual review process with findings summarized in a brief Annual Public Art Report shared with City leadership, stakeholders, and the public when appropriate.

The annual review may be coordinated by the Arts Commission, designated City staff, or other assigned program representatives depending on administrative structure.

Annual Program Review

Each year, designated evaluators should:

- Review completed projects and installations
- Assess maintenance and stewardship performance
- Evaluate artist participation and equity data
- Review community engagement and feedback
- Assess budget and funding performance
- Identify operational challenges and opportunities
- Recommend procedural or administrative refinements when necessary

The Annual Public Art Report may also include:

- Project highlights and photographs
- Funding and partnership summaries

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- Conservation and maintenance updates
- Community engagement metrics
- Strategic recommendations for future implementation phases

FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN REVIEW

Every five (5) years, the City should conduct a formal review of the Public Art Master Plan to evaluate long-term effectiveness, community impact, and implementation priorities.

This review may include:

- Community listening sessions
- Artist roundtables and stakeholder meetings
- Arts Commission and City leadership input
- Review of funding strategies and partnerships
- Assessment of zoning or policy effectiveness
- Evaluation of geographic distribution goals
- Review of maintenance and stewardship capacity
- Assessment of emerging community needs and redevelopment trends

Findings from the five-year review should help guide future policy updates, implementation priorities, and long-term cultural planning initiatives.

ADAPTIVE FRAMEWORK

The City acknowledges that public art planning must evolve in response to changing community conditions, redevelopment patterns, funding opportunities, and cultural priorities.

The Public Art Program should remain adaptable and responsive to:

- Community growth and redevelopment
- Infrastructure and capital improvement projects
- New funding opportunities and partnerships
- Policy and zoning updates
- Cultural and demographic shifts
- Climate and environmental considerations
- Emerging technologies and creative practices

Minor procedural updates—including fee structures, permit refinements, maintenance templates, and administrative workflows—may be adopted administratively when appropriate.

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Substantive changes—including governance restructuring, Percent for Art adoption, expanded funding mechanisms, or major policy revisions—should undergo Arts Commission review and City Council approval.

CONTINUOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Evaluation should not be limited to formal review periods. Ongoing community engagement is essential to maintaining trust, transparency, and responsiveness within the Public Art Program.

The City and designated program representatives should:

- Maintain accessible channels for public feedback
- Provide clear reporting methods for maintenance concerns
- Engage artists in reflective post-project discussions
- Encourage collaboration with schools, businesses, civic groups, and community organizations
- Continue public education and storytelling efforts related to public art projects
- Utilize social media, public meetings, and digital platforms to support communication and transparency

Consistent engagement helps strengthen community ownership, stewardship, and long-term support for public art initiatives.

INDICATORS OF LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Over time, the Public Art Program should demonstrate:

- Increased geographic distribution of public art throughout the city
- Strong participation from local and regional artists
- Expanded partnerships and diversified funding sources
- Reduced maintenance conflicts due to clear standards and stewardship practices
- Successful integration of public art into infrastructure and redevelopment projects
- Increased visibility of public spaces, trails, parks, and commercial districts
- Enhanced civic pride and community identity
- Positive public perception of Stow as a welcoming, creative, and culturally vibrant community

Through ongoing evaluation, adaptation, and community engagement, the City of Stow can build a resilient Public Art Program that continues evolving alongside the community while strengthening civic identity, public space, and cultural vitality for future generations.

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Appendix A

DEFINITIONS

Public Art
Original works of art installed or displayed in locations accessible to the public. Public Art may include murals, sculptures, mosaics, functional elements, artist-designed infrastructure, lighting, digital or projection-based works, landscape-integrated art, environmental art, and temporary installations. Public Art is not considered a "sign" unless it meets the sign code's objective criteria for commercial advertising such as brand names, logos, pricing, or calls-to-action.

Public Art Collection
The City's Public Art Collection consists of all publicly owned, commissioned, donated, or accepted artworks maintained, documented, or stewarded by the City of Stow as part of the Public Art Program.

Temporary Public Art
Temporary Public Art refers to artworks intended for short-term display or installation. These projects may include seasonal installations, projections, performance-based works, pop-up exhibitions, community-based projects, or temporary murals intended to activate spaces, test ideas, or support emerging artists.

Permanent Public Art
Permanent Public Art refers to artworks intended for long-term installation within public space. These works are typically fabricated using durable materials and require maintenance, conservation planning, and lifecycle stewardship.

Integrated Public Art
Integrated Public Art refers to artwork embedded directly into architecture, infrastructure, landscape design, streetscapes, trails, parks, or civic improvements. Examples may include artist-designed seating, paving, lighting, railings, gateways, stormwater features, or transportation infrastructure.

Functional Public Art
Functional Public Art combines artistic design with practical civic use. Examples may include artist-designed benches, bike racks, shade structures, signage, lighting, fencing, trail markers, or gathering spaces.

Mural
A painted, tiled, printed, or otherwise applied work of art on a façade, wall, fence, or retaining wall that does not depict commercial messages regulated by the sign code. (Cross-reference Chapter 1183 for sign criteria.)

Commercial Message (Sign Code)
Any message proposing a commercial transaction or identifying a business brand, logo, phone number, pricing, or website primarily intended to advertise goods or services.

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Creative Placemaking
Creative Placemaking is the intentional integration of arts, culture, and creativity into community planning, public space design, economic development, transportation, environmental initiatives, and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Public Art Cluster
A Public Art Cluster refers to a concentrated grouping of artworks, installations, murals, sculptures, or placemaking elements located within a walkable or highly visible area. Clusters are intended to create cultural destinations, strengthen civic identity, increase visibility, and encourage pedestrian activity and economic vitality.

Artist Commission / Public Art Commission
A formal contractual process through which an artist or artist team is selected to design, fabricate, and/or install a site-specific artwork for a publicly accessible location. Public art commissions are typically administered through the City, Arts Commission, or designated selection panel and may involve community engagement, technical review, permitting, and long-term stewardship requirements.

Artist Registry
An Artist Registry is a publicly accessible database of artists interested in participating in City of Stow public art opportunities. The registry may include artist qualifications, portfolios, contact information, and areas of artistic specialization.

RFP (Request for Proposals)
A formal solicitation issued when a commissioning body seeks specific project concepts or design proposals from artists. An RFP typically identifies the site, project goals, budget, timeline, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria.

RFQ (Request for Qualifications)
A formal solicitation used to identify artists based on qualifications, portfolio strength, and relevant experience prior to requesting a site-specific proposal or design concept.

Call to Artists
A public announcement inviting artists or artist teams to apply for a public art opportunity. Calls to Artists may utilize RFQ, RFP, Open Call, or invitational formats.

Site-Specific Artwork
Artwork intentionally designed for a particular location, environment, or community context where the meaning, scale, materials, or experience of the work is directly connected to the site itself.

Site Steward / Stewardship
Site stewardship refers to individuals, organizations, or programs dedicated to the responsible long-term care, monitoring, documentation, and protection of artworks and cultural resources located in public or shared spaces. Site stewards act as liaisons between the public, artists, and managing departments while supporting maintenance, education, and community awareness.

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Community Engagement
Community Engagement refers to the process of involving residents, stakeholders, businesses, artists, schools, and community organizations in the planning, development, review, implementation, and stewardship of public art projects.

Maintenance Plan
A Maintenance Plan is a written document detailing the procedures, tools, schedules, materials, and responsibilities necessary for cleaning, repairing, conserving, and preserving an artwork throughout its lifecycle.

Conservation
Conservation refers to professional activities intended to stabilize, preserve, restore, or prolong the lifespan and integrity of public artworks while respecting the artist's original intent and material integrity.

Relocation
Relocation refers to the approved movement of a public artwork from its original installation site to another location due to redevelopment, safety concerns, environmental conditions, accessibility needs, or other public interest considerations.

Deaccession
The formal process used to remove, relocate, retire, or dispose of public artwork from the City's Public Art Collection. For murals, deaccession may include replacement, repainting, restoration, or wall preparation if full conservation is not feasible.

Public Art Maintenance Reserve
Funds designated specifically for long-term maintenance, conservation, repair, restoration, relocation, or deaccession activities associated with public artworks.

Public Art Lifecycle
The Public Art Lifecycle refers to the complete process through which a public artwork moves from concept to long-term stewardship. Typical phases may include:

- Planning and site identification
- Artist selection
- Design development
- Community engagement
- Fabrication and installation
- Documentation and maintenance
- Conservation or deaccession

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Appendix B

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