

# Alexandria Public Art 2024-2026 Workplan

## Outline of Projects

### Projects Currently in Development

- Old Town North (manhole covers): *Fabrication Stage*
- Colasanto Spray Park: *Fabrication Stage*
- Wilkes Street Park: *Concept Development Stage*
- Site See FY24: *Concept Development Stage*
- Site See FY25: *Artist Selected*
- South Circle Block 32 (Carlyle): *Artist Selection Phase*
- DHCS Mark Center: *Planning Phase*
- West End Transit Corridor (Beauregard): *Planning Phase*
- Torpedo Factory Loading Door: *Planning Phase*

### Projects Carried Over from Past Work Plans

- Duke Street in Motion
- North Potomac Yard Park (developer funded)
- Time and Place: Alexandria 275
- Time and Place: USA 250
- Site See FY26

### New Projects (In Order of Recommended Priority)

#### Priority 1

- Vision Zero

#### Priority 2

- Ewald Park
- Powhatan Park
- Arlandria / Chirilagua Community Project
- Fire Station (either 202, 203, 204, or 210)
- Utility Boxes (Parks and Corridors)

#### Priority 3

- Stevenson Park
- Old Town North Sign Enhancement
- Montgomery Park
- Trails and Paths: Demonstration Trailhead (Chambliss / Dora Kelly)
- Trails and Paths: Temporary

## Projects on FY24-26 Work Plan that are Carried Over from Past Work Plans

### Duke Street in Motion (Carryover)

Several past public art work plans have recommended that public art be incorporated into the infrastructure investments that will be made on two of the three “high-capacity transit corridors” that the City has identified for priority and enhanced bus service (Corridor B along Duke Street and Corridor C, which will connect the West End and Landmark Districts with the Van Dorn Metro to the south and the Skyline area of Falls Church and the Columbia Pike transit corridor in Arlington).

Public art on the BRT can have a significant visual impact. For example, in Crystal City and Columbia Pike in Arlington, artworks have been incorporated into the glasswork of bus shelters.

The Duke Street in Motion Concept Plan was approved in summer, 2023. The long-term plan for the corridor will include center running bus lanes for the entirety of Duke Street with separate spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. Designs will be finalized in 2024 and 2025, and construction would occur in 2026 and 2027. During this time, a Duke Street Corridor small area plan would be undertaken to coordinate public and private investment.

This work plan recommends a small amount of funding for an artist and/or a planner to be retained to participate in the planning and design processes. Potential roles for the artist and/or planner would be:

- serve as a technical advisor and identify possible ways of integrating public art into the infrastructure, along with potential budgets and schedules.
- identify curatorial strategies and/or to collect background information about the communities the transit corridors pass through that could inspire the work of the artists.

In addition, funding should be reserved for FY25 to incorporate artwork into the early phases of construction.

Implementation Plan Theme: Natural and Urban Systems

Collaborator: Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

Proposed Budget: \$15,000 Planning,TBD Implementation

Planning Areas: Eisenhower East, Eisenhower West, Landmark Van Dorn, Seminary Hill, Taylor Run

### North Potomac Yard Park (Carryover)

North Potomac Yard is a burgeoning area of development and redevelopment as a result of Amazon's decision to locate its second headquarters at National Landing in Alexandria and Arlington. North Potomac Yard will include the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and related development. Generally, this involves the redevelopment of an area that is now occupied by a big-box shopping area, anchored by Target, Barnes and Noble, and a defunct movie theatre complex.

The developers of North Potomac Yard have provided a cash contribution for public art to be incorporated into a park that they are building. The park will be an extension of Potomac Yard Park north from the new WMATA station to Four Mile Run. A small extension, called Crescent Park, will run along Four Mile Run and connect to Richmond Highway and Four Mile Run Park.

The North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan has extensive recommendations for public art, including the creation of a "Public Art and History Interpretive Plan to integrate public art and history in a comprehensive way throughout the Plan area." However, it does not include recommendations for public art in the context of this park.

The design of the park is underway, with the first phase of the park planned for opening in fall of 2025 and the later phases (including Crescent Park) as many as three years out from now.

This project will be managed by the Public Art Program on behalf of the developer, with developer funding. It will be managed through the normal public art process, which includes the creation of a task for that will further explore the goals and opportunities for the project.

As the public art will not be integrated into the park during construction, the Public Art Program should wait until the park has been open for a year or so to understand patterns of use and learn from the community how public art could enhance their future use of the space.

Implementation Plan Theme: Gathering Places

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

Proposed Budget: \$350,000 (Developer funds)

Planning Area: Potomac Yard

## Time and Place: Alexandria 275, USA 250

Time and Place is a project in which artists are asked to create temporary, site-specific artworks that explore a facet of Alexandria's history. The installations are organized by a professional curator, using the City's unique locations and resources, under the guidance of a professional public art curator.

The inaugural exhibition featured works by artists Lauren Adams and Stewart Watson (collaborating) and Sheldon Scott. Their works were presented in early 2017, and were recognized by the Public Art Network's Year in Review as one of the most exemplary projects completed that year.

Two major anniversaries are approaching in Alexandria: Alexandria's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024, and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Both offer opportunities for Time and Place installations related to those milestones. In 2026, there will be statewide and national celebrations that Alexandria can connect with as well.

The Task Force recommends funding for temporary commissions in 2024 and 2026, to reflect on those milestones. The Alexandria 275 would be on display for three or four months next year, and the USA 250 project would be scheduled in relation to other activities happening that year (the artist would be selected in later FY25 or early FY26 in order to have ample time to work on the project). Both projects would be managed by one task force.

There are several locations managed by OHA that could be considered for installations, as well as other sites, such as parks, dispersed throughout the city. Funds should also be reserved for planning and coordination with state and national USA 250 efforts, and evaluation of additional opportunities for sesquicentennial projects.

Implementation Plan Theme: Time and Place

Collaborators: Office of Historic Alexandria; Visit Alexandria

Proposed Budget for Alexandria 275: \$25,000 - \$30,000 (FY24)

Proposed Budget for USA 250: \$25,000 - \$30,000 (FY25-26)

Planning Areas: To be determined

#### *FY24: Concept Development Stage / FY25: Artist / FY26 TBD*

Waterfront Park is located at the foot of King Street at the Potomac River. It is a new civic space that gives prominence to the location where the mercantile city meets the river. It was created more than five years ago as an interim space, planned for usage until riverfront flood-mitigation and infrastructure improvements are complete. It serves as a testing ground for designs, furnishing and materials that could be incorporated into the future waterfront development.

As part of the programming of the park, the Office of the Arts has been commissioning a temporary, rotating public art project each year, active March through early November. This is an opportunity for Alexandria to experiment with different approaches to public art, keeping with the spirit of the interim park as a testing ground.

So far, the Public Art Program has completed five commissions at the park (SoftLAB, 2019; Olalekan Jeyifous, 2020; Mark Reigelman, 2021; R+R Studios, 2022; Nina Cooke-John, 2023). It has also selected Studio KCA for 2024 and Nekisha Durrett for 2025.

The temporary artwork program has taken on a life and character of its own, becoming a signature element of the City's Public Art Program, something that is eagerly anticipated throughout the region, recognized in national art and design media, and a highly desirable commission for artists.

As construction of long-term flood improvements in the area approaches, the long-term use of Waterfront Park is in question. The Task Force recommends continuation of Site/See for calendar year 2026, either in Waterfront Park or at a different location, to be determined in the future, if Waterfront Park becomes inaccessible.

Implementation Plan Themes: Gathering Places, Time and Place

Collaborators: Department of Project Implementation, Department of Planning and Zoning,  
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

Proposed Budget: FY24, \$110,000; FY25, \$110,000; FY26, \$110,000

Planning Areas: Old Town, Waterfront

## New Projects

### Vision Zero (Priority 1)

In December 2017, City Council adopted Alexandria's *Vision Zero Action Plan*, with a goal to eliminate fatal and severe traffic injuries by 2028. Several components of the Action Plan provide opportunities to utilize artistic intervention:

- The first involves building safe streets for everyone, emphasizing safety treatments and infrastructure projects. Use of art driven interventions to the streetscape can facilitate slower, calmer, and more attractive streets for residents.
- The second focuses on promoting a culture of safety: educating the public about traffic safety, encouraging city-wide, interdepartmental Vision Zero initiatives, and strengthening enforcement.

The Action Plan acknowledges that artistic intervention is a national best practice in enhancing public knowledge of the subject. Projects that engage the public around safety and commemorate those lost or injured are a means by which public education on the subject can be achieved. Alexandria will be following nearby cities (Baltimore, Washington D.C.) others in utilizing these interventions to help achieve Vision Zero goals.

Artistic interventions can also support Alexandria's GO Alex initiative, which encourages increasing mobility and the improvement of air quality by enhancing walkability, bicycling and public transit usage, thereby reducing automobile dependence. By their nature, artistic interventions that prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety support the experience of non-automobile dominated mobility. These interventions would therefore make the area more comfortable, safe, and accessible to walk or bike.

T&ES's Vision Zero and Complete Street teams are eager to collaborate. They have identified four near-term intersection opportunities (Commonwealth Avenue, Rayburn Avenue/Winston Court, Hickory Street/Kennedy Street, Uhler Avenue/Clyde Avenue), and have suggested placemaking/wayfinding at trailheads and artistic lighting at World Day of Remembrance as additional opportunities.

Examples of opportunities for public art toward to support these initiatives could include:

- Barrier Beautification: Murals painted on protective Jersey barriers beside bike lanes and sidewalks.
- Streetscape Improvements: Asphalt art and hardscape improvements, such as curb extensions; wayfinding and signage, planters, painted utility boxes, and boulders that calm traffic.
- Murals: Themed to commemorate those lost to traffic fatalities and/or encourage roadway safety.
- Events: Commemorating World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims through temporary art installations, performances and events.
- Artists in Residence: Utilizing an artist in residence program to develop artistic interventions such as those above, as well as curriculum and public service materials.

An important opportunity is to collaborate with artists from Baltimore and Washington to develop toolkits or standard techniques that local artists can learn to implement projects. Also, Vision Zero projects are good opportunities to collaborate with schools and community groups.

Implementation Plan Theme: Urban and Natural Infrastructure

Collaborator: Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

Proposed Budget: \$20,000 for a prototype project

Planning Area: TBD

## Ewald Park (Priority 2)

Ewald Park is a neighborhood park on West Duke Street, in the Seminary Hill planning area. It features a playground, a basketball court and an open field. The park is popular for pick-up soccer and basketball, which serve a regional community, but there is no formal programming or league play scheduled for the park. The park's topography and lack of visibility from the adjacent streets raise safety concerns. There is a strong community commitment to the park; Alexandria West Rotary adopted the park and made improvements to fencing and planting areas several years ago.

Ewald Park has been under consideration for renovations for several years; the City's Neighborhood Parks Plan includes recommendations for reorganizing and upgrading the park, including the addition of a new playground and walking trail. There is some public art funding available for the park through a developer contribution by a nearby grocery store, and a philanthropic organization has raised money to upgrade the playground.

Ewald Park is a place where investment in public art can be an extra catalytic factor in reinvigorating the park. A public art project could take a number of directions: it could help improve the visibility of the park from Duke Street, as the park is a gateway to the West End and Landmark areas. It could provide an interactive feature; it could include a water feature that helps to create white noise that blocks the sound of traffic. Or, a public art project could focus on a functional feature, thereby supporting the overall park budget.

Ewald Park has been recommended for public art in the past, but the renovations that would lead to a public art investment have been delayed. Conversely, a public art commitment here could create an incentive to accelerate renovations. Ewald Park should remain a location for a public art project.

Implementation Plan Theme: Gathering Places

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

Proposed Budget: \$200,000

Planning Area: Seminary Hill

## Powhatan Park (Priority 2)

Powhatan Park is a neighborhood park between North Henry Street and North Douglass Street, a block north of where traffic on Henry Street splits into a one-way couplet through the center of the city. The park is in an area that is experiencing upscale redevelopment; it is also surrounded by Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority properties that could one day be redeveloped for mixed-income housing.

The park features a recently refurbished basketball court, playground and multi-sport (pickleball, soccer, tennis) hard-surface court. It includes a passive open space that is popular for dog walking. However, it is hard to access from the street and visibility into the park is poor.

The City's Neighborhood Parks Plan for Powhatan Park (2015) includes recommendations for additional improvements: creating a plaza at the end of Douglas Street and adding a shade structure and game tables. It also recommends new edge treatments, such as a green alley on Douglas Street, and a better landscape barrier between the park and Henry Street.

Powhatan Park has been adopted by the Northeast Citizens' Association

Powhatan Park is an anchor in a community undergoing change, a welcome public space in an areas where developers are creating privatized spaces for their residents. The Task Force recommends that public art be added to the park, in consultation with the community, potentially to further the goals of creating a shade structure, plaza or game tables. The project goals should include not only physical improvements, but also supporting the resiliency of the community by involving them in the public art process.

Implementation Plan Theme: Neighborhoods and Gathering Places

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Proposed Budget: \$100,000

Planning Area: Northeast

Web site: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/location/powhatan-park>



## Arlandria-Chirilagua Project (Priority 2)

Alexandria's Latino community has grown steadily over the years, in total and as a percentage of the city's population, reaching more than 22,500 (16 percent of the population) in 2010. This population is concentrated in Arlandria-Chirilagua, and largely consists of people who are from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Bolivia (this area is also a historically Black community).

There is no public art in Arlandria-Chirilagua, though past public art workplans have identified this area as having potential for a new project, and the recently adopted Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan includes numerous recommendations for future projects. Because of this, Arlandria-Chirilagua should remain a high priority.

The Task Force recommends an incremental approach to working in this neighborhood, as the Public Art Program does not have strong roots in this community and will need to get to know the community, partnering organizations and their interests first. The best course of action is to start with a small project that can be used as a way of starting a longer-term conversation about the possibilities for public art in this neighborhood. Then, when people are engaged and ideas emerged, the Public Art Program can identify priorities for additional projects.

The most likely candidates for short-term projects are related to utility box wraps and artwork integrated into one or more bus shelters. This work plan recommends funding for those projects and reserves funding for a follow-up project later.

Implementation Plan Theme: Gathering Places

Collaborators: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs; Casa Chirilagua

Budget: \$25,000 for preliminary project; \$150,000 for follow-up project.

*Note: There is \$16,725 in developer funds for this area.*

Planning Area: Potomac West / Arlandria-Chirilagua

## Alexandria Fire Department (Priority 2)

The Alexandria Fire Department has a history of service to the City of Alexandria since 1774. Today, it operates a network of ten stations throughout the city and employs more than 300 professional personnel, which include firefighters, paramedics, fire prevention staff and administrative support. The existing fire stations are distributed in neighborhoods throughout the City, and the department prides itself on values of community, professionalism, dedication, equity, preparedness, and unity.

Alexandria's existing fire stations should be considered for future public art opportunities. Artworks can not only reflect on the service that the fire department provides to the community but also provide public art investments in areas of the city that do not yet have projects.

The Task Force recommends that Office of the Arts staff work with the Alexandria Fire Department on choosing the most appropriate fire station for public art, focusing on one public art project for this annual work plan period. The specific public art opportunity will depend on the site that is chosen.

Based on preliminary discussion with the fire department, the primary fire stations that should be considered for this annual work plan are Station 202, 203, 204, or 210:

- Fire Station 202 at 213 E Windsor Ave is located in the Del Ray area. Alexandria maintains its health and wellness clinic at this location.
- Fire Station 203 at 2801 Cameron Mill Road is located in the Beverly Hills area. This location is distant from existing public art.
- Fire Station 204 is located at 900 Second Street in Northeast Alexandria. The Alexandria Fire Department headquarters are also on the second floor.
- Fire Station 210 at 5255 Eisenhower Ave is located in the Eisenhower area. This location is distant from existing public art.

While only one site is recommended at this time in the annual work plan, future sites should be considered as funding is made available for additional projects.

Implementation Plan Theme: Gathering Places

Collaborator: Alexandria Fire Department

Proposed Budget: \$150,000

Planning Area: Potomac West, Northeast Alexandria, Northridge/Rosemont or Eisenhower West

## Utility Boxes (Priority 2)

In FY15 and FY19, the Public Art Program commissioned artists to produce designs for vinyl wraps that were placed on utility boxes along Duke Street, Beauregard Avenue, and Seminary Road. The projects were highly visible and received enthusiastically by the community. The Duke Street utility box wraps have reached the end of their useful lifespan and will need to be removed and/or replaced.

The Task Force recommends that the Public Art Program continue its efforts to retrofit the ubiquitous features of Alexandria's infrastructure with public art.

One option is to consider a new round of wraps on utility boxes in park property. This will enable the artworks to be dispersed into different areas of the city, and will enable people to have a more close-up experience with the boxes than they tend to have with boxes on busy arterials. These locations will also allow artists to explore new themes and ideas that reflect the park settings where they are located.

Another option would be to replace the wraps on the utility boxes on Duke Street, or to identify a new corridor for wraps.

The timing and location can be determined at a future date.

Implementation Plan Theme: Natural and Urban Systems

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

Proposed Budget: \$25,000 (10 to 12 utility box installations)

Planning Area: Various

### Stevenson Park (Priority 3)

Stevenson Park is a neighborhood park in the Landmark area at the extreme western edge of the City near the Fairfax County border. It is situated in one of the densest areas of the City and is the only public park for nearly a mile around. It is also in an area that is distant from existing public art.

One of the park's unique features is approximately five acres of high-quality forest with numerous old-age trees; the stand of old-age Southern Red Oak along the south-facing slope is perhaps the finest remaining in an Alexandria park. Though there are no formal walkways through the wooded area, and dog walkers and pedestrians have created unofficial paths through the wooded area.

The Neighborhood Parks Plan for Stevenson Park (2015) recommends three improvements that present opportunities for public art:

- The creation of soft surface trails through the wooded area to help channel pedestrian flow. These would provide an opportunity to increase access to nature and could improve functional connections to neighborhoods just to the south of the park. These trails would provide a unique location for public art in Alexandria. Artworks would have to be created sensitively to enhance, rather than overwhelm, people's experience of the forest.
- The creation of additional shading around a barbeque area. This could be provided through an artistically-designed pavilion.
- The creation of a feature that interests teens, potentially in an under-used hard surface area ("four-square area"). The feature would be determined through outreach to teenagers.

The priority for a public art program should be determined by the Project Task Force in consultation with the community.

Implementation Plan Theme: Natural and Urban Systems

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

Proposed Budget: \$30,000 - \$100,000

Planning Area: Landmark

### Old Town North Sign Enhancements (Priority 3)

The recently approved Old Town North Small Area Plan includes several proposals for supporting a creative, innovative economy. One of them is to establish an arts and culture district along North Fairfax Street.

The arts and culture district would focus on three main strategies: creating incentives for creative economy uses along the ground floors of new buildings, creating incentives for developers to include space for anchor arts organizations in their buildings, and incorporating public art into streetscapes and public spaces. In particular, the plan recommends:

- Create a visual link through the implementation of public art between various parks, plazas and arts and cultural facilities.
- Promote public art that respects the identity of Old Town North and tells the story of its unique history.
- Encourage a varied media of art as defined in the Public Art Implementation Plan.
- Explore ways in which to identify the area as a special place with streetscape improvements such as, but not limited to special lighting, banners, planting, and art work.

These recommendations will be followed through over a long period of time. In all cases, public art should be managed through the processes outlined in the Public Art Implementation Plan.

In the short run, a key opportunity would be to incorporate public art into the streetscape infrastructure in a way that gives an early signal of the establishment of an arts district and the changes to come. The Task Force recommends creating street signs or markers that would help communicate the presence of the arts corridor along North Fairfax Street, from Wythe Street to the street end north of Second Street.

Implementation Plan Theme: Natural and Urban Systems

Collaborator: Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

Proposed Budget: \$30,000 (\$5,000 for prototype research, \$25,000 for implementation)

Planning Area: Old Town North

### Montgomery Park (Priority 3)

Montgomery Park is a Neighborhood Park in North Old Town. Its tennis courts and dog park are especially popular.

The Neighborhood Parks plan for Montgomery Park (2015) recommends upgrades to the tennis courts and a playground area, the creation of a more nicely designed passive lawn in the center of the park, better internal connections, and green infrastructure to replace some of the existing parking area.

The park is along Fairfax Street, in an area designated as an arts corridor / arts walk in the Old Town North Small Area Plan (2017), which suggests that public art should be located along the corridor. Also, community leaders have expressed an interest in playful public art features like those recently incorporated into Simpson Park. Since the playground area is near Fairfax Street, it may be possible to accomplish both goals at once.

The current CIP includes funding for renovating the tennis courts and for design work that could lead to playground and overall site design improvements.

Public art should be incorporated in this park, to complement the renovations that are being planned and to create an important moment along the Fairfax Avenue art walk. The scale and scope of the project should be explored in the design phase of the project.

Implementation Plan Theme: Gathering Places

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

Proposed Budget: \$100,000

Planning Area: Old Town North

### Trails and Paths Demonstration: Trailhead (Priority 3)

*For more on Alexandria's plan for public art in trails, see the Appendix.*

In 2019, the Commission for the Arts approved a plan for public art in the city's off-street trail network. The plan called for four types of projects Trail Infrastructure / Permanent System-wide Projects, Site-Specific Opportunities, Temporary Projects, and Special Place Opportunities.

Past public art workplans have explored the idea of developing a prototype trailhead. Recently, the city completed a new trailhead design at the southern endpoint of the Potomac Yard Trail, near the Braddock Road Metro station, indicating an interest in improving the connections between the city streets and the multi-use trail network.

The program should continue to work with RPCA to identify a trail project or trail location where a prototype, artist-designed trailhead feature could be tested. Two options could be Dora Kelley Nature Park and the Old Cameron Run Trail.

The most recent public art work plan (FY23-25) recommended that a prototype, artist-designed trailhead feature be created at the Chambliss St. entrance to Dora Kelley Nature Park; that project was not undertaken, but should be considered as a future project. In previous years, another opportunity was identified with the proposed Old Cameron Run Trail.

Dora Kelley Nature Park was established in 1973 as a nature preserve and wildlife sanctuary. It also provides a connection to and serves as an extension of Holmes Run Park, and is thereby an endpoint of the City's linked trail system.

One of the issues identified in a recent evaluation of Chambliss Park is that vehicles drive on parkland near the Dora Kelley Park trailhead. The 2020 Work Plan Task suggested that the Dora Kelley trailhead could be upgraded, thereby helping to address issues of vehicle encroachment, providing for a prototype trailhead marker, and providing a symbolic gateway to the entrance to the City's trail system.

The Old Cameron Run Trail project consists of a new half-mile long trail segment between South Payne Street and Mill Road. It is scheduled for construction in 2025. Both the Mill Road and Payne Street endpoints are possible trailhead locations.

Implementation Plan Theme: Natural and Urban Systems

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

Proposed Budget: \$5,000 for preliminary research, \$50,000 for prototype.

Planning Area: West End, Eisenhower East

Website: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/transportation-planning/old-cameron-run-trail-project>

### Trails and Paths: Temporary (Priority 3)

*For more on Alexandria's plan for public art in trails, see the Appendix.*

In 2019, the Commission for the Arts approved a plan for public art in the city's off-street trail network. The plan called for four types of projects Trail Infrastructure / Permanent System-wide Projects, Site-Specific Opportunities, Temporary Projects, and Special Place Opportunities.

In 2021, the Public Art Program commissioned three projects in a temporary exhibition, "Winter Passages" (<https://www.alexandriava.gov/public-art/winter-passages-in-parks-trails>). Three artworks were presented: Cristina Fletcher, *Flock* (Holmes Run Trail), Alexander Rudd, *Rock Cairn* (Four Mile Run Trail) and Thomas Sterner, *Life of a Seed* (Potomac Yard Trail). The lesson learned from this project was that the timeframe for artist recruitment and project development was too compressed, the timeline started too late to take advantage of deep winter weather, the budgets were relatively small, and that significant staff project management assistance is necessary to help artists with the hurdles they are likely to encounter.

With these lessons in mind, the Public Art Program could consider another round of "Winter Passages," with a few modifications. First, give strong consideration to selecting one artist, through a concept-based process. This will give the Public Art Program a better opportunity to pick a strong project and focus on developing it as fully as possible and in the best possible location. Second, provide a larger budget so the project can involve more time in concept development and scale up to a larger installation. Third, start the process earlier so the piece can be installed at the beginning of the new year, in the darkest months of winter.

Winter Passages can provide a counterpoint to the summer "Site See" exhibition.

Implementation Plan Theme: Natural and Urban Systems

Collaborator: Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

Proposed Budget: \$40,000

Planning Area: Various



## Appendix: Contingencies and Reserves

### Contingency for Unexpected Projects

The Public Art Program should carry a reserve to respond to short-term opportunities that occur after the workplan is completed. A new project would require approval of the Commission for the Arts. The reserve should carry over from year to year if it is not used in any given year, or replenished if it is used.

### Reserve for implementation of West End SAP (Alexandria West)

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$63,000 in this fund.

### Reserve for implementation of Braddock Road Metro SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$14,622 in this fund.

### Reserve for implementation of Eisenhower West SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$75,000 in this fund.

### Reserve for implementation of Landmark / Van Dorn SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$40,308 in this fund. This funding could be applied to the Stevenson Park project.

### Reserve for implementation of Northeast SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$10,983 in this fund.

### Reserve for implementation of Northridge/Rosemont SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$22,263 in this fund.

### Reserve for implementation of Old Town North SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$33,112 in this fund. After funds are used to pay for arts district signage, there will be \$3,120 in this fund.

### Reserve for implementation of Potomac West / Arlandria-Chirilagua SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$16,725 in this fund. This funding could be applied to the Arlandria/Chrialagua project

#### Reserve for implementation of Potomac Yards SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$34,392 in this fund, and another \$350,000 is expected.

#### Reserve for implementation of Seminary Hill SAP

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this small area plan. Currently there is \$44,084 in this fund. Of these funds, at least \$5,192 (Aldi) should be applied to the Ewald Park Project.

#### Reserve for Southwest Quadrant

Developer funds accumulated in this planning area should be held in reserve to implement public art recommendations in this area. Currently there is \$20,349 in this fund. There is a request that these funds be used for a project related to the Alexandria National Cemetery.

## Appendix: Projects and Budgets

	FY24	FY25	FY26
<i>Funding</i>			
CIP	\$110,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
<i>Project</i>			
Carried Over from Prior Work Plans			
North Potomac Yard Park			\$350,000
Duke St Transitway	\$15,000 for planning, project amount TBD Should occur during final planning phase		
Time and Place: Alexandria 275	\$30,000		
Time and Place: USA 250			\$30,000
Site/See	\$110,000 <i>Presented calendar 24</i>	\$110,000 <i>Presented calendar 25</i>	\$110,000 <i>Presented calendar 26</i>
New Projects			
Vision Zero (Priority 1)	\$20,000	TBD	TBD
Ewald Park (Priority 2)	\$200,000		
Powhatan Park (Priority 2)	\$100,000		
Chirilagua Community Project (Priority 2)	\$25,000 + \$150,000		
Fire Station (Priority 2)	\$150,000		
Utility Boxes (Priority 2)	\$25,000		
Stevenson Park (Priority 3)	\$30,000 - \$100,000		
Old Town North Sign Enhancement	\$30,000		
Montgomery Park	\$100,000		
Trails and Paths: Demonstration (Dora Kelly Nature Park or Cameron Run Trail)	\$50,000		
Trails and Paths: Temporary	\$40,000		

## Note: Alexandria Trails Public Art Plan

Alexandria's off-street trail network covers 15.4 miles and with proposed extensions will one day cover 21 miles. The major trails are Four Mile Run, Potomac Yard, Old Cameron Run, Eisenhower Avenue, Backlick Run and Holmes Run. In addition, the Mt. Vernon Trail runs along land managed by the National Park Service.

Off-street trails connect the city's major parks as well as a wide variety of communities, from Arlandria and Potomac Yard to Old Town, from Cameron Run to Landmark and the West End. Altogether, these trails are envisioned to create one day a "green crescent" that connects the waterways that form Alexandria's boundaries and extend into the city along Holmes Run; they also provide regional connections to trails in Arlington and Fairfax.

Currently, the trails welcome a diverse group of users: commuters, recreational bicycling, walkers, joggers and people out to use exercise equipment along the way. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities would like to draw more attention to these trails as a resource, and attract more users.

In 2019, the Commission for the Arts approved a plan for public art in the city's off-street trail network. The plan called for four types of projects Trail Infrastructure / Permanent System-wide Projects, Site-Specific Opportunities, Temporary Projects, and Special Place Opportunities. So far, Public Art Program has prototyped a temporary project, Winter Passages."

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2024  
TO: ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS  
FROM: DIANE RUGGIERO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL  
ACTIVITIES, OFFICE OF THE ARTS  
RE: AMENDMENT TO FY24 – FY26 PUBLIC ART ANNUAL WORKPLAN

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#### **Background**

On October 17, 2023, in accordance with the approved Public Art Implementation Plan, the Arts Commission approved the FY24-26 Public Art Annual Workplan. The Workplan outlines which new projects the program will initiate, indicating where the projects are located, and what the proposed budgets will be.

The Workplan outlines which new projects the program will initiate, indicating where the projects are located, and what the proposed budgets will be. The Workplan takes a multi-year view, in that it indicates which projects are being carried over from previous year and identifies three years into the future what goals and projects should be considered, even though future-year projections are subject to change.

Since the Art Commission's approval of the FY24 – 26 Public Art Annual Workplan was approved, new projects have come forward for consideration and inclusion in the Workplan.

#### **Discussion**

##### **Waterfront Flood Mitigation**

The City of Alexandria is currently undertaking a Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project which aims to reduce the frequency and severity of the three types of flooding, replace aging and failing shoreline infrastructure, improve public accessibility and public amenities, and actualize the goals of the Waterfront Small Area Plan. This multi-year endeavor is expected to launch in 2026 and will have significant impacts on people's experiences along the waterfront and along Union Street and will suspend the annual Site See public art installations at North Waterfront Park.

In an effort to mitigate these impacts, the Office of the Arts has been approached and asked to develop placemaking strategies that will activate the area by creating engaging experiences through efforts such as temporary public art installation, performances, projections, festivals, and pop ups. These initiatives will draw residents and visitors to the area, continuing to engage people in Alexandria's unique waterfront areas while also help to encourage economic activity such as dining and shopping in the numerous businesses in this corridor.

Adding this project to the annual workplan will ensure that opportunities for public art and other placemaking efforts can be implemented throughout the construction.

## **City Hall & Market Square**

The current City Hall, built in 1871, is a great source of community pride and serves as a workplace for more than 300 City employees. After many years of service, major updates are needed throughout City Hall to repair aging building components, improve operating systems, optimize space utilization, improve building circulation and wayfinding, enhance security, and facilitate community engagement. The current Market Square Plaza and Garage require significant structural repairs, resulting in an opportunity to evaluate the design and function of the garage and plaza alongside City Hall. City Hall will require HVAC, plumbing and electrical upgrades along with more modern workspaces for City staff to serve residents and visitors.

Managed by the Department of General Services (DGS), the design team for these projects includes the international design firm LEO A DALY, who will take the lead on the renovation of the 153-year-old City Hall building. Long-established Alexandria firms Rust Orling Architecture and LandDesign will bring local knowledge to the design of Market Square. Design is anticipated through early 2026, with construction taking place 2026-2028.

The Office of the Arts has been approached by DGS and the design team and asked to incorporate public art into the designs for City Hall and Market Square. While design input is being sought by the community, it is not too late to engage artists in the overall design process to ensure the best outcome.

Adding this project to the annual workplan will allow staff to begin the process of forming a task force to ensure an artist is engaged at the appropriate time.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends adding these projects to the FY24-26 Public Art Annual Workplan.