

One Percent for **ARTS** ORDINANCE



Recommended Actions:

- a). Receive and file an update from the County Office of Arts and Culture regarding the County Percent for Arts Program and County Arts Plan Ordinance;

- b). Direct Staff to either:
 - 1. Return to the Board with an amendment to Chapter 7A of the Santa Barbara County Code to clarify existing provisions to better facilitate its accomplishment of legislative intent, improve interdepartmental workflow efficiency, and support program implementation; or

 - ii. Return to the Board with an amendment to Chapter 7A of the Santa Barbara County Code to effect the clarifications and provisions accomplished by Recommended Action 1 as well as one or more additional provisions designed to increase countywide arts access and fund outstanding deferred capital art maintenance; or

 - iii. Return to the Board with an amendment to Chapter 7A of the Santa Barbara County Code to, in lieu of the current Percent for Arts allocation process, provide for an equivalent annual General Fund appropriation to the County Arts Fund to help reduce administrative impact, stabilize the budget, and enable greater efficiency and planning.

- c). Determine that this item is exempt from CEQA.


Tiny Libraries



Why public art matters

Public Art is Community Art

- Humanizes government spaces
- Builds community pride, expresses their uniqueness
- Statistically increases public safety
- Deters vandalism
- Increases property value
- Galvanizes tourism
- Creates platforms for equitable representation
- Builds intergenerational experiences

A photograph of the Valley of Light sculpture at dusk. The sculpture consists of several white, stylized tree-like structures with glowing, colorful light fixtures in shades of blue, purple, and pink. In the background, there are trees with autumn foliage and a modern building with large glass windows reflecting the sky. A white rounded rectangle with the text "Valley of Light" is overlaid on the top left of the image.

Valley of Light

What is a Percent for Arts policy?

Governments adopt Percent for Arts policies to enhance public spaces by allocating a portion of capital construction or renovation budgets for public art. Through this intentional stewardship, public spaces become more welcoming, relevant, useful and/or accessible.

The percentage allocated generally ranges from 0.5% - 3%, the most common being 1%. Percent policies continue to be adopted in urban, suburban, and rural areas across the country.

2020 Responsive Works Awards



*"Esencial," Acrylic on wood with gold leaf.
Artist: Chanté Glover*

Common goals of Percent for Arts policies

- **Promoting equity** and ensuring that **socially disadvantaged or geographically isolated communities** with fewer resources can also access vibrant public spaces.
- Making **implementation commensurate with the economic conditions** for funding capital projects.
- **Streamlining internal processes** to ensure an efficient and consistent mechanism for developing public art.
- Helping to **commemorate, celebrate, and teach the history of a place** to its community members.

Pianos on State



Our County's Percent for Arts Ordinance

Adopted in 1978 and codified in Chapter 7A of the County Arts Plan.. **Over 100 site-specific art projects have been completed throughout the 5 Supervisorial Districts.**

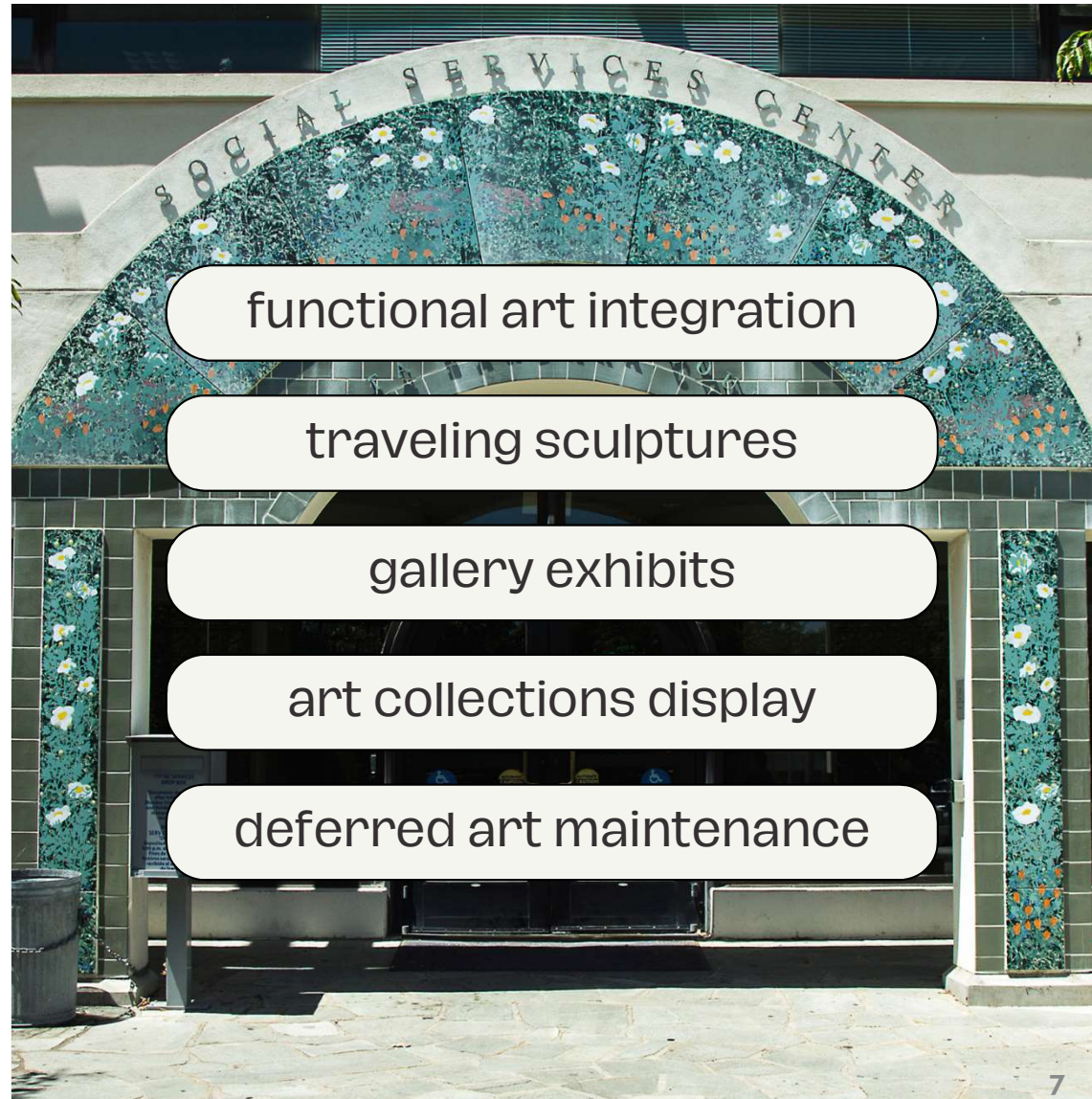
1% allocated to **County Arts Trust #1001**
from estimated capital project budgets

The allocation may be utilized at the project site or other public places. Projects **exceeding \$7.5M** require Board discussion to determine the allocation of funds for public art.

Our Percent for Arts Allocation Supports:

3:1 FUNDING MATCH

from private and government sources, over the last 8 years



Examples of County Public Art



08.28

Did you know...
that this is our
art, too?





Channing Peake Gallery

Challenges under the current policy language

- Conflicting staff interpretations and adherence to the Ordinance
- Varying processes to identify eligible capital projects and calculate appropriation request amounts
- Multi-year gaps in transferring allocated funds to County Arts Trust
- No funding specified for labor costs

Impacts to County

- Delayed and halted projects, including larger site-specific projects and gallery exhibits
- Disrupted workflow and limited staff capacity to undertake new projects
- Increased backlog of capital art deferred maintenance
- Missed grant opportunities without secured match requirements



Examples of Deferred Maintenance Projects

Percent for Arts allocations are the **sole source** of **deferred maintenance funding** for capital artwork—such as floor mosaics, lighting and electric wiring, playground equipment, pedestrian bridges, murals, and stairs.

Staff recently completed the deferred maintenance of the Spectrum Mural - over 3 stories high, requiring a scissor lift, and a telescoping boom lift.

A current project is restoring the *Racial Equity: People of Lompoc* mural on the Lompoc Superior Court building.

Options for Consideration

After dialogues with Parks, General Services, Capital Projects, Public Works, the CEO's Office, and County Counsel, Staff has developed three potential pathways to improving the Ordinance implementation process.

Option 1:

Clarify existing provisions + update administrative processes

Option 2:

Clarify existing provisions + update administrative processes + explore expansion models

Option 3:

Provide for an alternative General Fund appropriation process

Option 1:

Return to the Board with an amendment to Chapter 7A of the Santa Barbara County Code to clarify existing provisions to better facilitate its accomplishment of legislative intent, improve interdepartmental workflow efficiency, and support program implementation, including:

1. Defining “estimated total project cost” and clarifying that the Percent for Arts Program allocation is to be calculated based on such estimated total project cost;
2. Clarifying the definition of “construction project” and the definition of “facility” based on Section 22002 of the California Public Contract Code;
3. Clarifying that funds appropriated for the Program in connection with a construction project are to be deposited into the County Arts Fund concurrently with the authorization and transfer of County funds to the requesting department for such project;
4. Assigning 25% of the total Program appropriations to offset project management and implementation costs;
5. Replacing the requirement for Board discussion of Percent for Arts allocations in connection with construction projects whose construction costs exceed \$7.5M with a \$200,000 dollar cap per capital project; or
6. Providing additional direction to staff.

Option 2:

Return to the Board with an amendment to Chapter 7A of the Santa Barbara County Code to effect the clarifications and provisions accomplished by Recommended Action 1 as well as one or more additional provisions designed to increase countywide arts access and fund outstanding deferred capital art maintenance:

1. Increasing the percentage of funds appropriated for works of art in connection with construction projects (e.g., from 1% to 2%);
2. Directing staff to research public art in private development ordinances from building valuation of eligible commercial or industrial development projects and return with a proposal; or
3. Providing other direction to staff.

Option 3:

Return to the Board with an amendment to Chapter 7A of the Santa Barbara County Code to, in lieu of the current Percent for Arts allocation process, provide for an equivalent annual General Fund appropriation to the County Arts Fund to help reduce administrative impact, stabilize the budget, and enable greater efficiency and planning.



Benefits of Option 3:

A simpler approach to achieve the same goal.

- Enables planning for large-scale deferred maintenance and multi-year/phase art projects
- Aligns project timing with state and federal funding cycles
- Enables readiness to demonstrate match for potential philanthropic investment
- Helps to offset project management and labor costs
- Streamlines art construction for greater efficiency
- Reduces administrative workload across departments

This approach would still follow the ethos of the program, and the total cumulative figure would be about the same.

Betteravia Gallery



Future Sustainability

Any of the suggested provisions will help to offset, but not fully recoup, labor and associated costs to produce, install, and maintain public art countywide.

Historically, the majority of the Arts budget, including the Percent for Art program, has been restricted with no allocation for administrative costs. Much of the Office of Arts & Culture's budget is comprised of restricted pass-through funds, such as the Santa Barbara Bowl Arts Subsidy.

Staff will return to the Board with a separate item to address the structural imbalance during Budget Hearings.¹⁷

Questions?

