

The City of Waco

Public Art Acquisition Policy and Procedures Update

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Amanda Dyer, Beautification, Arts & Culture Program Manager

PUBLIC ART ACQUISITION POLICY AND PROCEDURES UPDATE

Purpose

- Background
- Where We Are Today
- Proposed Artwork Acquisition Policy and Step-by-Step Process
- Recommendations
- Next Steps

BACKGROUND

BRIDGES TO PUBLIC ART

A Strategic Plan for Public Art in Waco, Tx



DECEMBER 2022

BACKGROUND

- Many successful projects have been realized individually rather than through a unified strategy for collection growth; Branding the Brazos, The Doris Miller Memorial, Waco Sculpture Zoo, and new artwork at the Waco Regional Airport
- Artwork acquisitions are currently considered only through the Purchasing Policy and the Donation Acceptance Policy
- Previous Council was forward thinking and established the Public Arts Advisory Committee in 2010, but it is currently inactive
- The City of Waco Public Art Strategic Plan, presented to Council in December 2022, recommends the implementation of a standardized process for accepting public art into the City's collection

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Many successful public art projects have been achieved as a result of:

- Commitment from the City Council
- Strong and trusted partnerships
- Community collaboration and support

The Public Art Strategic Plan was developed to serve as a recommended roadmap for how to create a standardized, systematic process for growing the City's collection

- Planning for the future
- Supporting Council's strategic goals:



Facilitate Economic
Development



Create a Culture
of Equity and Inclusion



Enhance
Quality of Life

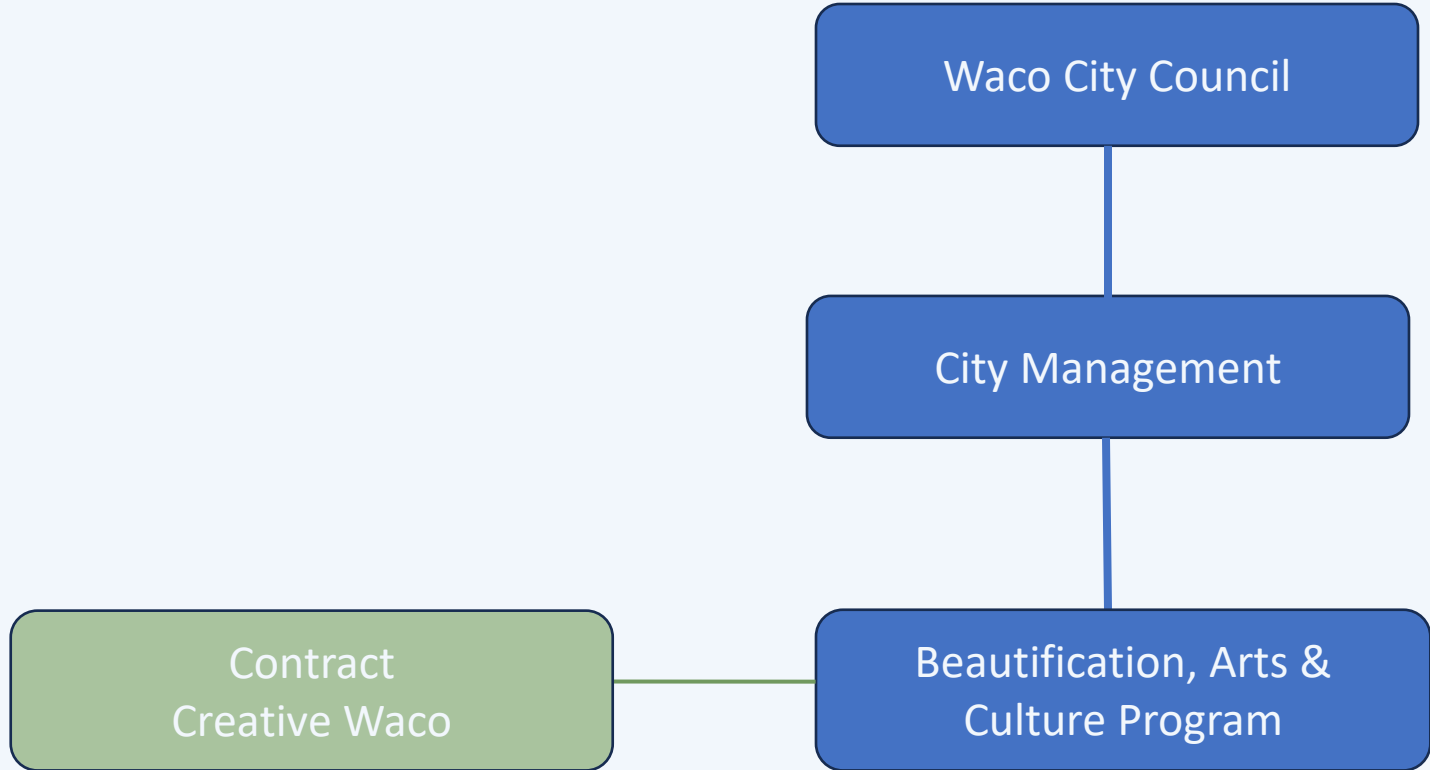
- While public art is meant to be creative and iterative, a standardized process will help with adherence to goals and outcomes identified within the plan

Why?

- Standardized policy and procedures will ensure a clear means by which the City can acquire artwork regardless of how it is made available (through purchase, donation, loan, bequest) and will outline the process through which artwork proposals may be reviewed and accepted or rejected by the City



WHERE WE ARE TODAY



ARTWORK ACQUISITION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

ARTWORK ACQUISITION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Goals

1. Provide uniform procedures for the review and acceptance of acquisitions and loans of works of art for the City
2. Establish consistent review criteria that strike an appropriate balance between quality, high aesthetic standards, and city business use
3. Maintain high artistic standards in works of art displayed by the City of Waco
4. Encourage and facilitate cooperation with and recognition of the artistic community



ARTWORK ACQUISITION POLICY

Methods of artwork acquisition and guidelines for each method

- Commissioning of new artwork
- Purchase of existing artwork
- Donation
- Bequest
- Loan

Artwork Review Criteria

- Aesthetics
- Site
- Installation
- Maintenance
- Financial
- Safety/Liability
- Timeliness
- Special Conditions

ARTWORK ACQUISITION POLICY

- Acquisitions of artwork coordinated by BAC staff, who will ensure that proposal is complete & complies with all Council-adopted policies, City codes and ordinances, and the Public Art Strategic Plan
- Acquisitions valued at \$50,000 or greater and/or proposed for a prominent location will require approval of City Council
- Other artworks, such as those developed through a Signal Box Art Program shall be approved by a Council-appointed body
- Donations of artworks will either require maintenance and repairs at no cost to the City, or a contribution to a new Public Art Fund to support ongoing maintenance

ARTWORK ACQUISITION PROCEDURES



RECOMMENDATION



RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council adoption of the Artwork Acquisition Policy

- Addresses the recommendation for systematic approach to collections growth as outlined in the Public Art Strategic Plan
- Balances Council approval of public art acquisitions with that of a Council-appointed body, supporting appropriate oversight as the collection grows beyond current capacity

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends reactivation of the Public Arts Advisory Committee.

- Adopted in 2010 and inactive; assess scope, decision making authority, and membership and return to City Council Board & Commissions Committee with recommended changes and activation
 - Public Arts Advisory Committee ⇔ Arts and Culture Commission
- Reactivation and change in scope of the Committee aligns with Public Art Strategic Plan
- Allow committee to make decisions about public art projects that do not require City Council approval



RECOMMENDATION

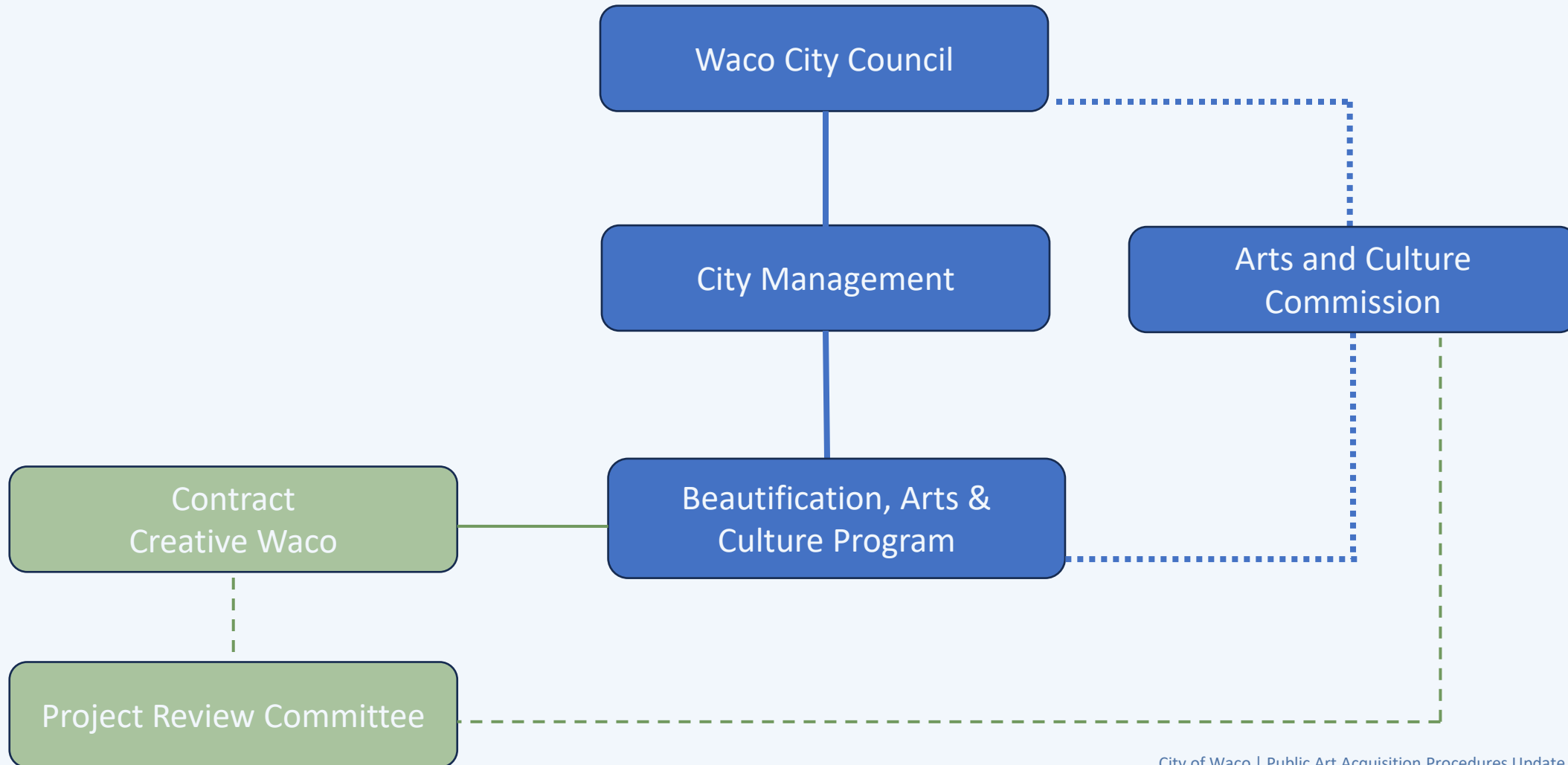
CURRENT PROCESS:

- City Council approves all artworks

RECOMMENDED POLICY MOVING FORWARD:

- Arts and Culture Commission approves:
 - ✓ Recommend approval to City Council for artwork proposed for prominent locations and artwork valued at \$50,000 or greater
 - ✓ Final approval on artwork under \$50,000 in value and not proposed for prominent locations
- City Council approves:
 - ✓ Recommendations from Arts and Culture Commission to approve artworks valued at \$50,000 or greater and artworks proposed for prominent locations

RECOMMENDATION



SUMMARY

Recommend updates to scope and makeup of Public Art Advisory Committee early next year

- Addresses recommendations in Public Art Strategic Plan
- Provides opportunity for Council-appointed body to make final decisions about public art projects that do not require Council approval

Recommend adoption of Artwork Acquisition Policy and Procedures via resolution

- Standardizes guidelines and process for all stakeholders

NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS

- January-February 2025: City Council Boards and Commissions Committee consider recommended changes in scope, authority, and makeup of existing Public Arts Advisory Committee (Arts and Culture Commission)
- Pending Council direction, staff will return to City Council in Spring 2025 to codify committee changes in the form of an ordinance and begin the appointment process, followed by a recommendation to approve the Artwork Acquisition Policy



THANK YOU.

Please contact amandad@wacotx.gov with any questions.

