

Source

TO: City Council  
 FROM: City Manager and Staff *MB*  
 DATE: February 14, 2005  
 SUBJECT: Percent for Art Funding Sources

Hunter

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**COUNCIL SUMMARY**

As directed by Council, staff of the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) has researched additional funding sources for Percent for Art projects.

**DISCUSSION**

Nationwide, funding for municipal public art projects is similar to Columbia's Percent for Art program in that it is generally included as a percentage of an overall project.

An inquiry seeking information from programs that have success seeking outside funding for projects was posted through the Public Art Network, a national program of Americans for the Arts that the OCA subscribes to. It resulted in no new information other than the suggestion to increase the set-aside from 1% to 1½% or 2% as in some other communities.

OCA staff researched grant possibilities as well and confirmed that the Missouri Arts Council (MAC) does not fund permanent installations, though it will support programs and services related to public art projects. The OCA has had three such grants, in the arts education category, from MAC. Likewise, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is similarly focused on funding programs -- it no longer has an "Art in Public Places" grant category -- though like MAC, the NEA will provide funding for programming associated with a public art project, such as a residency or community planning.

The involvement of corporate or private donors is a possibility though it would involve careful consideration of ownership and design issues as the city would want to be certain that design, placement and long-term collections management issues were not compromised. The current "Share the Light" program allows for donors to contribute to existing projects. And while funds collected have been relatively limited, they have been helpful in the restoration of the *Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial* and have been used to establish a small maintenance fund for the Percent for Art project at the Eighth and Cherry Parking Garage.

Foundation funding is another possibility that has been explored from time to time by the OCA. Such opportunities are fairly limited, usually by geography, and those that staff has been aware of were not a good fit for our program. Two exceptions are the funding provided by the Boone County Community Trust for the *Jamboree* sculpture at Courthouse Square and the allocation made by the Boone Electric Community Trust in support of the *Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial* restoration. Such local examples could be pursued in the future.

It is important to note, as well, that significant efforts to fund raise would impact current OCA staff levels. As the OCA's programming grows, so, too, do long range needs, such as monitoring of regular maintenance schedules, implementation of multi-year contracts and development of public education tools.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTION:**

No action required.

Fiscal Impact

Yes

No

Other Info.