Celebrating Culture



Successfully **Competing for Public Art Projects**

ROUE



cultural services

PUBLIC ART IN ALBUQUERQUE



What is Public Art?

"Public art is a field of inquiry, similar to science or medicine, a realm of exploration, experimentation, and collaborative practice. There are specialists and general practitioners, team efforts and rogue solo innovators, highly trained professionals and visionary folk artists."

Jack Becker, Executive Director, Forecast
Public Art + Public Art Review

What is Public Art?

"Public art represents an ongoing reaffirmation by the people of a city of who and what they are and what they value. The public art process is an important way for the people in a city to define their identity beyond constructing streets, buildings, and parks."

 Gordon Church, former Manager of the Albuquerque Public Art Program



Gordon Church Portrait, Leo Neufeld, 2007

Successful Public Art



Public Art in Albuquerque

Why do we have Public Art in Albuquerque?

IT'S A LAW.

Cruising San Mateo I, Barbara Grygutis, 1991, San Mateo & Gibson



Public Art in Albuquerque

The City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and the State of New Mexico all have Public Art Programs by law, as do over 450 other cities, counties, and states around the country.

Governments are tasked with providing goods and services for their people – things for the common good, and services to protect the things and ideals we're invested in.

Cruising San Mateo I, Barbara Grygutis, 1991, San Mateo & Gibson

The 1% for Art Ordinance



Albuquerque's Art in Municipal Places Ordinance was established in 1978. It created the purpose of the **Public Art Program** and the **Arts Board**, as well as the funding mechanism for purchasing public artworks. The purpose of the ordinance is to promote awareness of and interest in fine arts and crafts, to encourage the integration of art into architectural and municipal structures, and to create job opportunities in the arts.

Harry E. Kinney Memorial, Reynaldo "Sonny" Rivera, 2009 Mayor Kinney was a major proponent of the 1% for Art Ordinance

The Arts Board

The <u>Albuquerque Arts Board</u> is an 11-member volunteer group of residents from within the city – one from each City Council District and two at-large members – who are responsible for promoting and encouraging programs to further development, public awareness, and interest in the visual arts, fine crafts, and cultural properties. The board members work on a number of arts-focused planning and

policy committees, and make recommendations for the selection of public artworks to the mayor.

Arts Board meetings currently occur on the 3rd Wednesday of every month and are open to the public.



Dedication of Flyway by Robert Wilson

Public Art Processes

Because <u>the public</u> is directly involved in choosing public artworks, those works reflect the values, styles, and tastes that a particular segment of the population held at the time the work was commissioned.

The City of Albuquerque Public Art Program has three primary methods for artwork acquisition:

- Open Competition
- Invitational Call
- Direct Selection



Public Art Open Competitions



Flyway, Robert Wilson, 2011, Open Space Visitors Center

What is the level of preparedness for the scope your considering?





Robert Wilson's SketchUp model and maquette for his Flyway proposal.

Collaboration at all levels is key!



Installation of Fire Rocket by Gordon Huether

Public Art is created in a number of ways, and for a numerous reasons. Public artists may work alone, with other artists, with contractors and fabricators, or with organizations (like nonprofits).

Opportunities for creating Public Art can include Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Requests for Qualifications (RFQs), calls for art (for the purchase of existing works), direct selections, and unsolicited proposals.

Public Art Invitational



Reach by Mark Horst, HB Construction Nob Hill, © 2016

Public Art Invitational





Temporary Public Art Works: Direct Selection



Transient Animals in Clay, Niya Lee, 2012, Multiple Locations (temporary)

Community Organized Public Art



Revivir, Friends of the Orphan Signs, 2012, east Central



Public artists create their work in a number of different ways, which can vary based on what kind of work they are creating, what their own backgrounds and skillsets are, and the legal requirements for a specific project.

An artist may conceptualize, design, and build an artwork from start to finish, may work with one or more artists with diverse skills, or work with contractors and fabricators who can bring the artists' vision to life.



Yamilette Duarte's original designs, 3D renderings, wax casts, and one of the final markers as installed

One piece that exemplifies the many different paths artists take to complete a public artwork is "Sky Portal" by Randy Walker.

Walker is an artist and architect, and was able to conceptualize his idea and design detailed engineering drawings for "Sky Portal." These drawings were inspected by engineers to ensure that his design was sound and the piece could be built safely, and provided specifications for the contractors and fabricators who helped build the piece.





The large, polished steel cylinder was fabricated by Walker himself in his home studio, and shipped to the project site.

Many other elements of "Sky Portal" were manufactured by local companies including:

- JPG Engineering (Structural Engineering)
- Heads Up Landscaping Contractors, Inc. (Site Preparation and Landscaping)
- Valmont Industries (Steel Poles)
- Lamoreux Crane Services (Rigging)
- IMSCO Supply (Fasteners)
- Resource Lighting (Lighting)
- SRS Electrical, LLC (Electrical)





Randy Walker and a number of local contractors and fabricators worked together to create his monumental public artwork, "Sky Portal."



"Sky Portal" by Randy Walker at the Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum

Never Ending Opportunities

Once works of art are accepted into the collection, it becomes the responsibility of the Public Art Program to take care of these works, keeping them in good condition, and maintaining artists' visions and the integrity of their artworks.

This continual maintenance of artworks may include simple things like removing trash and graffiti, to more complex processes such as major repairs to the structure of an artwork caused by reasons that vary from weather damage to traffic accidents.



Cruising San Mateo undergoes major maintenance work