

# Public Art Program

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Hampton City Council Meeting  
October 8, 2025

# Hampton Public Art Program

## Goal:

To cultivate a fun, vibrant, and creative community by implementing a multiple pathway approach that supports and expands the creation of public art throughout the City.

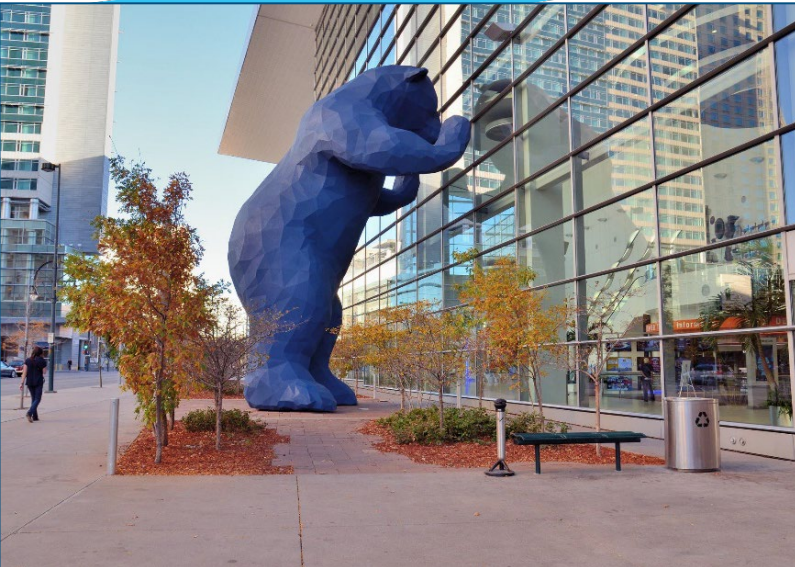
- Available Funds: \$250,000
- \$100,000 allocated annually, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)



# Public Art Guidance



- Commission on the Arts - June 2025
  - Recommend public art theme and locations
  - Locations to consider: Buckroe Beach, Phoebus Library, Downtown Hampton/Hampton University, and Virginia Peninsula Community College corporate area



- City Council - July 2025
  - Statement pieces - powerful, attention grabbing, impactful
  - Consider the Arts Districts - Downtown and Phoebus
  - Start before the winter, if possible



# Public Art Theme



# Theme Considerations



- **Reflect** who we are as a city — a welcoming community shaped by water, people, history, and shared experiences.
- **Embrace** the beauty of our waterfront, the richness of our history, the diversity of our people, and the significance of our landmarks
- **Highlight** our deep ties to the water, the communities it sustains, and the stories it carries through time
- **Showcase** a city surrounded by water, rooted in fishing and boating traditions, and distinguished by our legacy of exploration and innovation

# Proposed Theme

## *From the Sea to the Stars: Past, Present, Possible*

- Ensures cohesion and connectivity between the public art commissioned
- Offers a broad, unifying vision that artists can interpret in their own unique ways
- Encourages storytelling through vibrant, dynamic works that reflect Hampton's identity







# Public Art Locations



# Locations Considered

- Buckroe Beach
- Phoebus
- Downtown Hampton
- Downtown Hampton @ Hampton University
- Other Key Gateways:
  - Neil Armstrong Parkway - VPCC area
  - Mercury Boulevard at City Line/Newmarket
  - Mercury Boulevard at Coliseum Drive
  - I-64 at Rip Rap Road







# Location Selection Process

- **Reviewed** maps highlighting City-owned sites
- **Received** updates from staff on current and upcoming initiatives
- **Identified** opportunities to complement and amplify other improvements
- **Focused** on sites that foster community connection in addition to beautifying public spaces
- **Evaluated** locations where public art would create the greatest impact

# Proposed Location - Downtown Hampton

## Site 1: Settlers Landing Parking Garage

Located near the Hampton History Museum and the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, this site offers opportunities for exterior murals as well as creative treatments in the interior stairwells

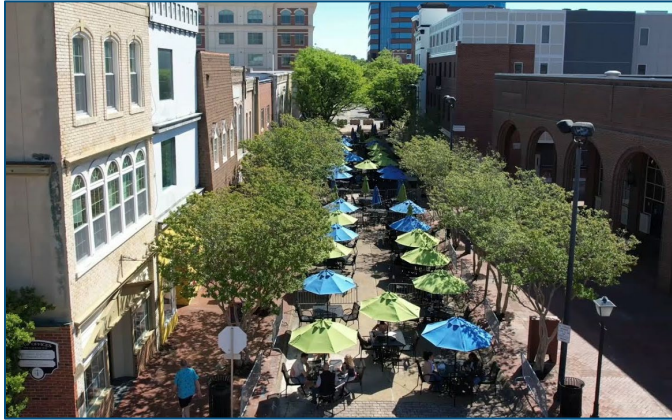




# Proposed Location - Downtown Hampton

## Site 2: Queens Way (between Kings Way and Wine Street)

A pedestrian-only corridor at the heart of Downtown, Queens Way serves as a hub for events, festivals, and community activity. This site is ideal for sculptural or installation-based artworks that animate the space and invite interaction.



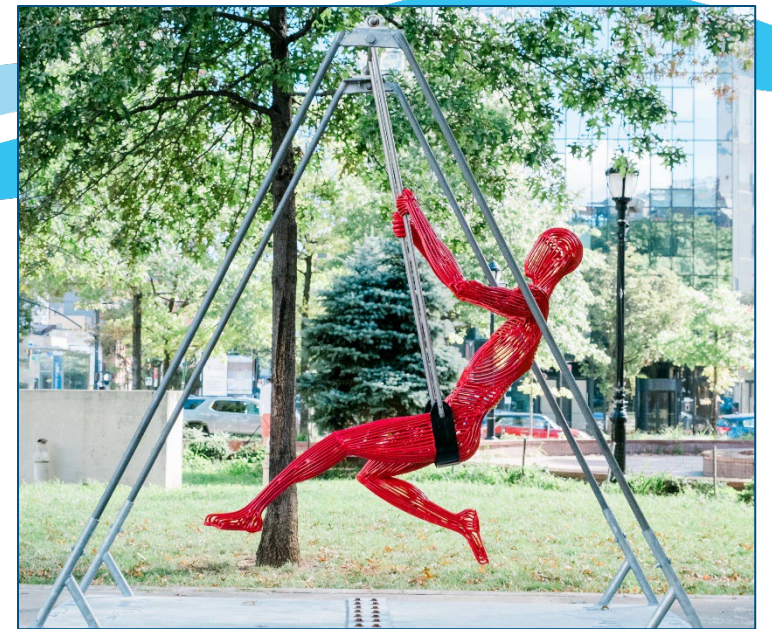


# Future Public Art Sites

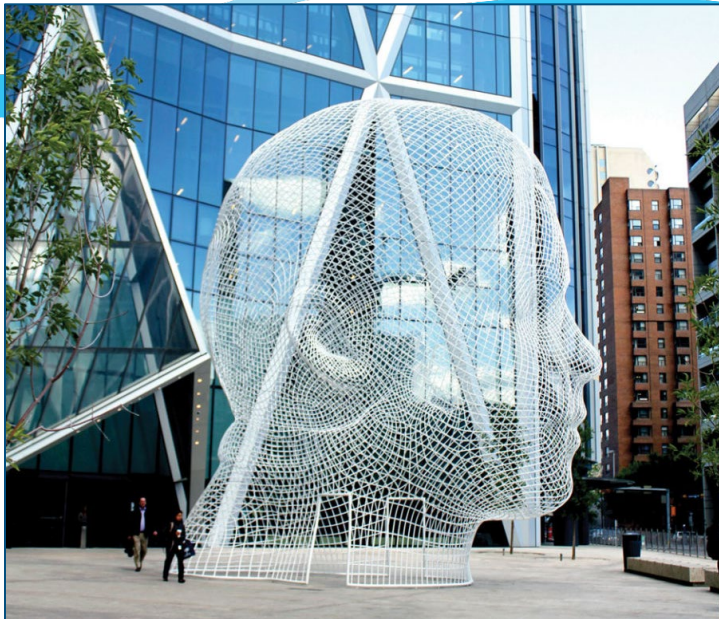
- Phoebus
  - Intersection of County & Mallory Street (asphalt art)
  - Intersection of E. Mellen & Mallory Street (asphalt art)
  - Intersection of E. Mellen & S. Hope Street (asphalt art)
  - Walkway between Lancer Street parking lot and County Street parking lot (sculpture or installation)
- Site visible from Interstate-64



# Request for Proposals (RFP)







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- Required for projects over \$30,000
- Consistent with the Commission on the Arts Process for Solicited and Unsolicited Public Art Proposals
- Scope includes:
  - Location and Theme
  - Size/Medium
  - Project Cost
  - Ownership and Copyright
  - Submission Requirements
  - Selection Criteria and Award Considerations
  - Timeline - Spring 2026



# Public Art Selection Panel

- City staff representation
- Members of Commission on the Arts/Public Art Sub-Committee
- Art Professionals
- Area Stakeholders - Will vary based on the area selected
  - Neighborhood Commission District Representative
  - Downtown Hampton Development Partnership Representative



# Marketing



- The Request for Proposals (RFP) will be sent to following:
  - Charles Taylor Artist List
  - Hampton University Artist List
  - Posted on artist sites - Café, Entry Thingy
  - Commission on the Arts/Public Art Sub-Committee
- Request assistance from Marketing to help spread the word about the opportunity

# Questions?

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