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# TUKWILA ARTS



Carolyn Law  
& Framework  
Cultural  
Placemaking



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# INTRODUCTION

**T**ukwila is an energetic, remarkable and varied community comprised of those who live, work and visit. It includes long-time residents and those that have recently arrived from around the world. Its distinct neighborhoods, school system, varied businesses types, employment centers, and regional shopping and entertainment are home to Tukwila's residents and attract people from around the metropolitan area. Tukwila's has an enviable system of parks, with the beautiful Green River and wooded hilly terrain. Tukwila is home to major institutions like the Museum of Flight and Starfire, and is a crossroads of major freeway infrastructure. The people of Tukwila are rightly proud of their city and aspire to having their own community, and the broader public, recognize and partake of its many assets.

The art master plan challenges Tukwila to engage in an intentional, unfolding process that will create / explore / experiment with how arts and cultural activity best engage the broadest part of the community with the social fabric and physical and emotional sense of place. The goal of the process is to establish a distinctive, responsive and flexible mosaic of contemporary cultural expressions and activities. In doing so, a thoughtful network of bridges will be built between diverse cultural expressions to ideas, art forms to people and meaningful locations thereby inevitably enriching the City.

The City of Tukwila has spent a good deal of effort engaging with its citizens on the vision for their community. The Comprehensive Plan, Strategic Plan, the Parks & Open Space Plan, branding efforts and the Community Conversations solicited broad input on the values and priorities of the community. This art plan builds on those key documents, looking for ways that arts and culture can contribute to the ambitions for Tukwila's thoughtfully considered future. This art master plan links priorities for art and culture to the well-considered vision that the community has set out for itself, aspiring to the goal in the City's Strategic Plan: *explore ways of using art to beautify and enrich the community.*

*explore ways of using art to beautify  
and enrich the community  
—Tukwila Strategic Plan*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We would like to thank the many who contributed to a strong grounding of the “who, what, where” of Tukwila that was essential to understand before embarking on crafting a plan that would be specific to this amazing City. City staff and Council, the Tukwila Arts Commission and members of the community all took time to share their stories and views with us. The various planning documents the City has prepared were also invaluable to understanding the larger framework of future civic goals.

## **CITY OF TUKWILA**

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Tracy Gallaway, Project Manager

## **CITY COUNCIL**

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Joe Duffle  
Verna Seal  
Kathy Hougardy  
De'Sean Quinn  
Kate Kruller  
Thomas McLeod

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Sheila Coppola  
Helen Enguerra  
Daniel Humkey  
Brian Kennedy  
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Tanya Taylor, Public Works

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Abbie Anderson, KCLS  
Action Tukwila  
Hamdi Abdulle, Somali Youth & Family Club  
Mette Hanson, Artist, Duwamish Hill

## **CONSULTANTS**

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Lesley Bain, FAIA, Framework

***In honor of  
Steven Mullet,  
1943-2017  
Former Mayor  
and Art  
Commissioner***

# FRAMING THE PLAN'S ROADMAP

This art master plan presents a road map that allows the City—in concert with the community—to explore how arts and cultural activities best achieve the City's newly established vision, mission, and goals for this important component of civic life. The plan creates a matrix of potential art and cultural integration possibilities tied to key locations and/or whole features in Tukwila. The plan's goal is to intentionally contribute to Tukwila's vibrancy and character while supporting and creating new interconnections between community members, workers and visitors to each other and to the place that the people of Tukwila call home.

We interviewed and spoke with staff from Administration, Parks, Planning, Public Works and Fire Department, elected members of the City Council, Arts Commission members and a Park Commissioner, a King County Librarian, Action Tukwila, Somali Youth and Family Club director, and the artist for Duwamish Hill Park.

Everyone was insightful about the direction the city and their civic involvement should be heading to create the most livable community. There was a well-articulated sense of vision, understanding, and unified direction. Many considerations were shared about how best to use arts & culture as a strong ingredient for community building and place-making. There was a desire to foster a greater degree and complexity of cross-over and understanding between various groups invested in working on behalf of the City.

It was understood that engaging artists to explore contemporary cultural artistic expression and insights in ways that would bring the community together and

forge a unique sense of social/cultural equity for Tukwila could do this, but should be described in a way that was specifically "Tukwila".

The desire to take action and springboard off the 1% ordinance is strong. It is also clear that there are wonderful potential partnerships that the City could avail itself of. Yet the City must be in a leadership role and guide developing the overarching structure for the role arts and culture will play on behalf of the community and help strengthen all aspects of a livable, sustainable place to live and work.

In particular, when talking about physical Tukwila, we heard that Tukwila International Boulevard with the new library, gathering space and housing is a focus as it has the potential to gather people together by providing a central spine that demonstrates a concrete sense of caring for a place. The importance of the river was also much mentioned, with acknowledgement that it is not well used or known. "Re-seeing" infrastructure was talked about by purposefully using "tactical urbanism"—side-walk treatments and interesting vertical gestures coupled with other projects to claim the streets as true places rather than merely functional. There was some mention of neighborhoods and amplifying their distinctiveness. And the building of housing and mixed use buildings in the Southcenter District will ultimately change the way that area of the city is inhabited, used and perceived.

Addressing this mix of physical spaces using arts and culture will support a healthy, vital community for the current and future demographic mix.



## WHAT WE HEARD

- Policy should reflect that creative art and cultural expressions are core values of the City.
- The City should support and look for ways to increase the involvement of community members in creative endeavors.
- Artists should be included on design and planning teams, influencing project designs with artistic approaches and art concepts.
- The City should recognize the important part that beautiful and interesting civic and public spaces have to play in the health and vitality of Tukwila's community.
- Artists should be involved in a variety of artist-in-residence situations that contribute to bringing diverse aspects of the community together and expanding the thinking within City departments about infusing arts and culture wherever possible in their work.
- The City should use art and culture to foster a collaborative spirit between departments and staff members.
- Cultural expressions and activities should be visible throughout the City at all scales, including in the rights-of-way, sidewalks, parks, the river trail, and public places.
- City-sponsored performances and festivals should bring locals and non-locals together, seeding ideas for more types of cultural activity and sharing that could come directly from community members and groups.

### ***In Summary:***

***There is an expressed desire to create an overall vital, beautiful integration of physical and cultural/ social environments that ultimately imbues Tukwila with a distinctive appreciation of place and sense of belonging.***

***The City should adopt a policy of engaging the arts and the capacity of artists to devise temporary, permanent and interactive art projects and processes as a key element in creative place-making and community-building.***

***Integrate art throughout the city. —  
Tukwila Parks & Open Space Plan***

# THE ROADMAP

## VISION + GOALS



## VISION

Arts and culture are active and visible in many ways in Tukwila, bringing pleasure and vitality to everyday life. Tukwila's civic identity and pride are strengthened through celebrating arts and culture, engaging and reflecting the multifaceted nature of the community, generating bonds among people and adding meaning to the places where they live and work.



**INTENT** Decisions regarding use of public funds for art and culture will provide a balance of project types and locations, based on the intent and vision of *Tukwila Arts*.

THE SPECTRUM OF ART AND CULTURE IN TUKWILA WILL INCLUDE:

- Art at purposely selected civic buildings
- Art and culture that highlights the particular places that make Tukwila unique
- Community engagement projects that emphasize the creative process
- Community-wide culturally-based gatherings, events and performances



# GOALS

- Provide a balance of project types and locations, based on the intent and vision of *Tukwila Arts*.
- Use resources effectively, leveraging partnerships and additional sources of funding.
- Target projects that will use the arts to strengthen connections to the special places of Tukwila, and among community members.
- Increase a sense of identity for Tukwila that is both visible to the broader public and meaningful to the people who live and work in Tukwila.
- Encourage participation for all in opportunities to make and display creative art in Tukwila.
- Engage artists both within the city and beyond to enrich the cultural dialogue and expression available within Tukwila.
- Encourage City departments to seek opportunities that integrate arts and culture into all aspects of planning and implementation of projects in the built environment.

# WHAT + WHERE

## TYPES OF PROJECTS

This plan encourages City support for a variety of types of projects. These will include permanent physical art projects, temporary projects, civic residencies, community engagement and events focused on culture, with artist involvement.

The spectrum of art and culture in Tukwila will include:

- Art at purposely selected civic buildings
- Art and culture that highlights the particular places that make Tukwila unique
- Community engagement projects that emphasize the creative process
- Community-wide culturally-based gatherings, events and performances



# PRIORITY LOCATIONS

Projects should be located to have the most positive impact for the community and to meet the goals of *Tukwila Arts*. Art is often incorporated into public buildings and spaces, including civic buildings and parks. The art at the library and at the light rail station are excellent examples of permanent public art experienced by a wide segment of community members. Duwamish Hill is an exemplar of incorporating art into parks. Public art is also well located as part of visible civic infrastructure, such as bridges or transit hubs.

Several key districts have been identified as well suited to public art in Tukwila. These include locations along the river, Tukwila International Boulevard, and the Southcenter District. Incorporating art into these special areas would be in keeping with the City's Comprehensive Plan and with multiple outreach efforts.

A third category is less place-based, such as artists in residence programs, where impact is intended to be community-wide, and events that would be designed to draw people from throughout Tukwila.

***Provide prominent public art and interpretive markers at highly visible locations, explaining the history of the Interurban Trolley, the Green/Duwamish River, Duwamish Hill Preserve, and other important buildings, sites, events or persons.***  
**—Comprehensive Plan**



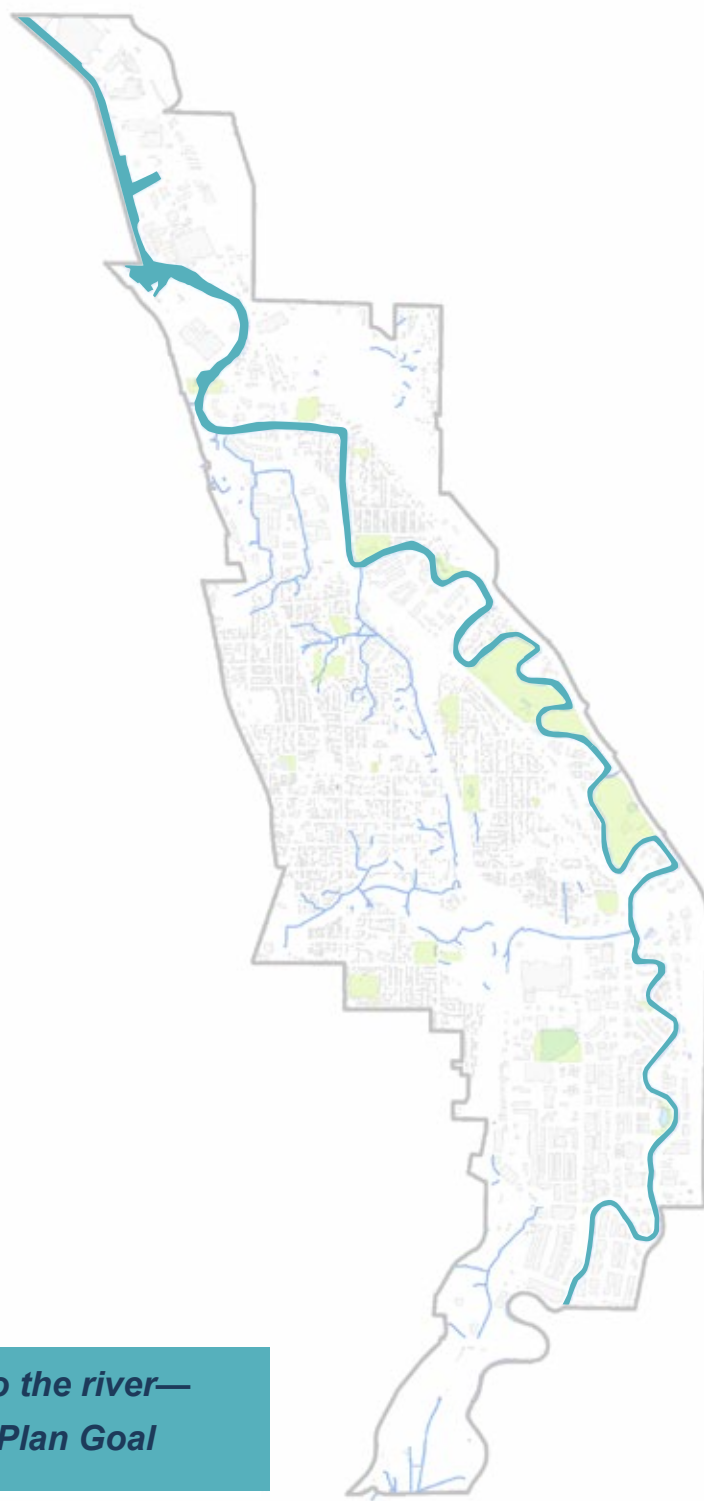
# FOCUS AREAS & PROJECTS

## THE RIVER

The Green/Duwamish River is a defining feature, running through the entire length of Tukwila. The river is not only a highly visible feature of Tukwila's natural systems, it has been central to the city's history and economy. Many of the City's green open spaces lie along the river, connected by the Green River Trail. Already, some of Tukwila's finest art is along the river, such as the work at Duwamish Hill Preserve, and signature community celebrations take place along the river the Community Center and Fort Dent Park. Art, in the form of permanent works and celebratory events, can strengthen the role of the river in Tukwila's identity and community life.

Despite the fact that the Green/Duwamish River is the city's spine, it is hard to reach from many parts of Tukwila. Major changes in topography and heavily trafficked arterials separate many neighborhoods from the river physically and perceptually. Art and cultural events can help reinforce the river as a destination, and focus on connections to the river.

***Increase public access to the river—  
Tukwila Comprehensive Plan Goal***





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## FOCUS AREAS & PROJECTS

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Some of Tukwila's finest art is along the river. The top image is Duwamish Gardens, which is both a salmon habitat restoration site and public park, with interpretive signs and art that help tell the story of the Native Americans who made their home on the river.

Community celebrations take place along the river, such as the 4th of July at Fort Dent Park.

Bottom left is an image of the Chaotic Cartographers (Vanessa de Wolf, Cristen Call, Lydia Swartz) at the Tukwila Revealed event in 2015, a walk along the Duwamish interspersed with performance, storytelling and artmaking, as part of the Duwamish Revealed project funded in part with a national grant by Art Place.

The bottom right image shows Seasonal Rounds, by artist Mette Hanson, at Duwamish Hill Preserve. Seasonal Rounds is a focal point and gathering place in the cultural gardens, which feature native plants and habitats traditionally used by the Puget Sound Salish people.



*Guild of Chaotic Cartographers*



*Seasonal Rounds, Mette Hanson*

# THE RIVER

## WHAT CAN ART DO?

- Art can help people **connect to the river**: Newark staged a parade for neighborhoods to walk to the river together.
- Art can **mark access** points to the river with large scale, joyful installations. This location would be a great place to make the river visible!
- Art can **mark sequence** along the river, like this milestone—one of nine by Jim Collins along the river in Chatanooga Tennessee. The art could also define the Tukwila segment of the Green River Trail
- Increase the attractiveness of the river as a **destination** as a beautiful and humane place
- Build on the successful **events** already taking place near the river





# THE RIVER

## WHAT'S POSSIBLE

*Ideas to jump-start thinking:*

- Art on adjacent buildings
- Mural program
- Creative signage
- Events along the river
- Floating art
- Performances
- Skate, Stroll & Roll
- Treasure hunt
- Parades to the river
- Parades along the river
- Linear sculpture park
- Interactive art



## GOALS FOR ART & CULTURE AT THE RIVER

.....

- Focus the arts on existing public assets along the river, including Duwamish Hill Preserve/Cecil Moses Memorial Parks/North Wind's Weir, Tukwila Community Center, Fort Dent Park and Bicentennial Park. In these locations, consider celebratory events; social practice projects; and temporary or seasonal installations.
- .....
- Look for opportunities to better connect the river to Tukwila's neighborhoods, highlighting access points and routes to the river including Duwamish Gardens, Tukwila Community Center, Codiga Park, BECU Headquarters, Foster Point (57th Ave Mini Park and lookout point), Foster Golf Links, Fort Dent/Starfire Sports Complex, and Bicentennial Park.



*Runoff, Stephanie Beck*





# TUKWILA INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD

with Tukwila Village

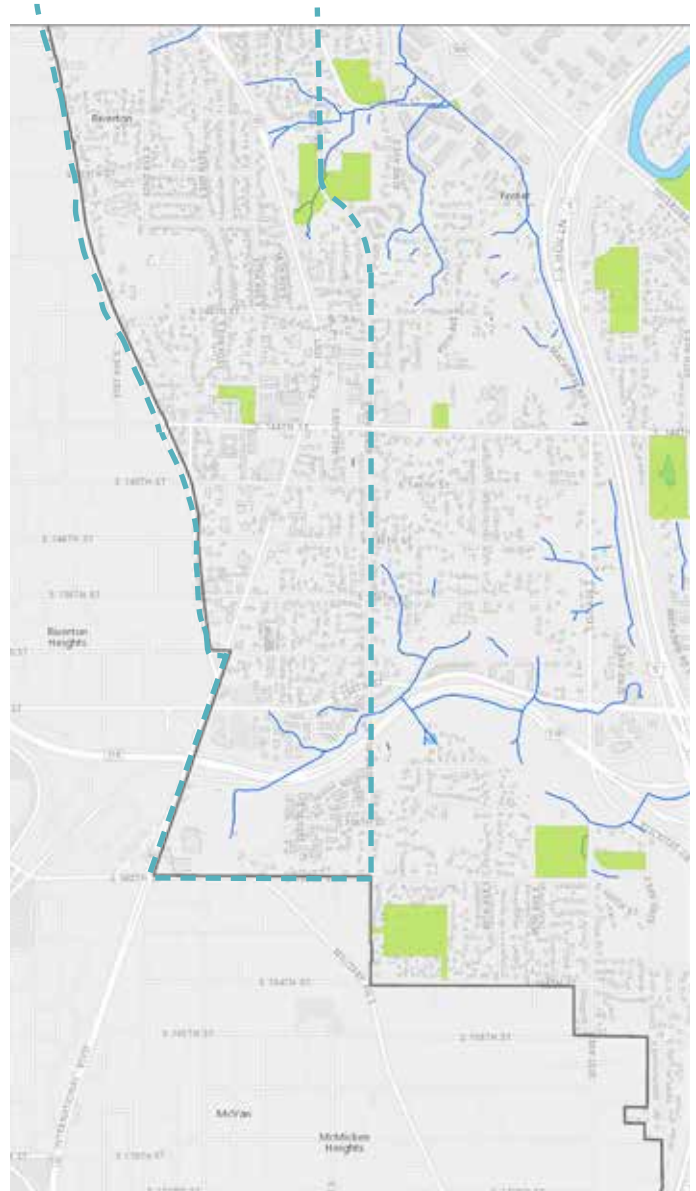
The ambition for Tukwila International Boulevard is as a multicultural district, with small businesses and residences serving diverse communities around the region. Art and culture can contribute to the vision for Tukwila International Boulevard, reflecting and celebrating the rich mix of backgrounds and making the character of the neighborhood visible.

*The vision for the Tukwila International Boulevard District is an area that is a complete neighborhood with a thriving, multicultural residential and business community with vibrant places to live, work, shop, and play for everyone. The District is a safe and walkable destination with an authentic, main street character that is connected to other destinations.*

—Comprehensive Plan, 8-25

*Invest public funds in the infrastructure and public amenities necessary to catalyze private investment, stimulate the location of businesses and housing, and create an attractive neighborhood.*

—Comprehensive Plan, 8-26





# TUKWILA INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD

## WHAT CAN ART DO?

- Art can **give identity** to International Boulevard as a place with a rich culture and home to ethnic businesses
- Art can **jump start** a transformation of International Boulevard, as new businesses and new urban form take shape
- Art **bring color and beauty** to International Boulevard.



*The Tukwila Arts Commission shall ensure that Tukwila's characteristics, such as its history and cultural diversity, are considered in public art projects—Comprehensive Plan 1.3.6*



## WHAT'S POSSIBLE?

*Ideas to jump-start thinking:*

- Art on ground plane—streets and sidewalks
- Art on existing poles
- Sculpture in the right-of-way
- Gathering Places
- Lighting
- Art-based events, festivals and parades
- Distinctive murals



*Banners, created at Camp Winnarainbow*



*Silicon Forest, Brian Borello*



*Come Sit at My Table, Art/Sports/Potluck, Action Tukwila*

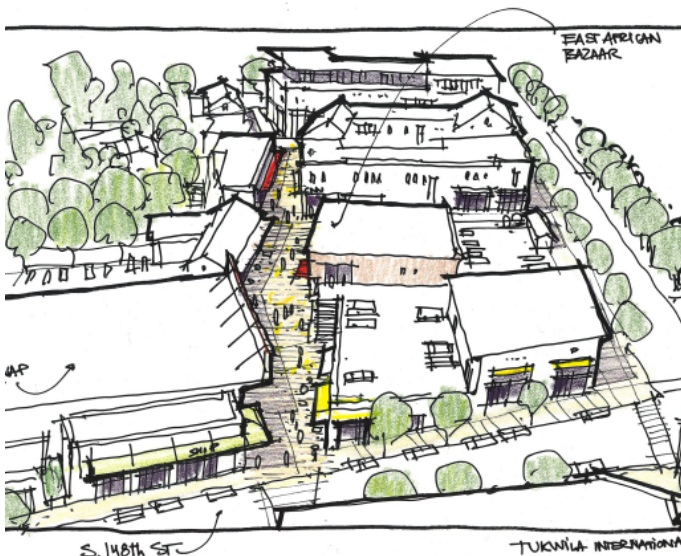


*Roadsmith*



## GOALS FOR ART & CULTURE AT TUKWILA INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD

- .....
- Add art that celebrates the international character of the district and increases its visibility
- .....
- Support social practice projects such as community mapping, walking tours, story gathering, etc



*Vision Sketch of Tukwila International Boulevard, CNU Charrete*

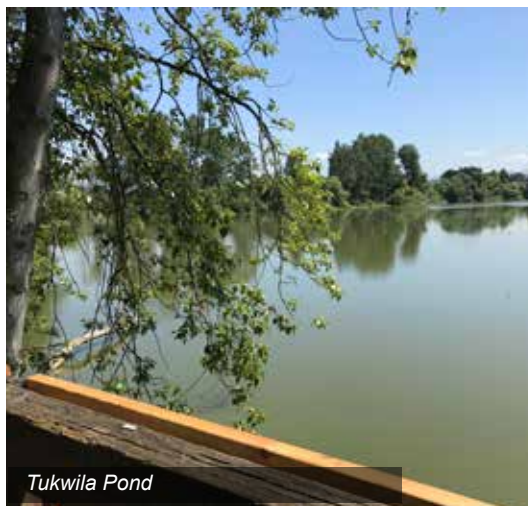
# SOUTHCENTER DISTRICT

The Southcenter District is the city's primary commercial hub, a concentrated center of employment, and a regional destination for shopping and entertainment. The area is also moving from a model of automobile dominance to a paradigm of mixed use, transit access and walkability.

The vision for the Southcenter District is clearly spelled out in the Subarea Plan and the Southcenter Design Manual. The spectrum of arts and cultural opportunities can support the vision, and serve in the near term as a way to help people orient themselves and imagine the positive aspects of its future. These goals are intended as a guide both for prioritizing expenditure of public art funds, and for private investments in art and culture. By coordinating private efforts, the “sum of the parts” will have a greater impact in the district.



*Hotel Interurban*



*Tukwila Pond*



*Southcenter Pedestrian Bridge*

## WHAT CAN ART DO?

- Art can help Tukwila kick-starting their plans and **help people imagine** what the visions might feel like.
- Art can **mark** important places and help people find their way to destinations.
- Art can **create and define space**, making places that attract people and activities.



## WHAT'S POSSIBLE?

*Ideas to jump-start thinking:*

- Large scale or iconic art
- Art that helps wayfinding
- Small scale art that humanizes space
- Events of all sizes
- Artistic treatment of the public right-of-way
- Environmentally-related art at the pond
- Artistic connections to the river





## GOALS FOR ART & CULTURE IN THE SOUTHCENTER DISTRICT

- Use art to help generate an understandable hierarchy of spaces in the developing neighborhood, with gathering places of community significance and intuitive routes to transit
- .....
- Enhance Southcenter District area streetscape/sidewalks in advance of new development
- .....
- Encourage parklets & pop-ups used for events and arts activity spaces
- .....
- Highlight neighborhood parks leading into the river trail system

*“Unearth” Tukwila Pond and the portion of the Green River that passes through Southcenter, restoring their natural health and beauty, and featuring them prominently as amenities that enhance the identity and drawing power of Southcenter.—  
Southcenter Subarea Plan p5*

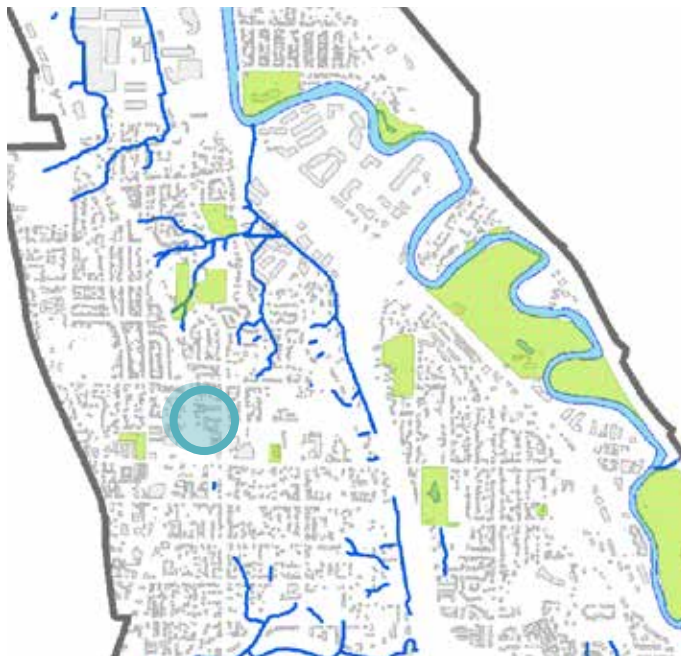


*Diagram of Southcenter District vision, showing connections to the Sounder Station, the Westfield Mall and Tukwila Pond. —Southcenter Subarea Plan p.12*

# TUKWILA VILLAGE

## with Tukwila International Boulevard

The City of Tukwila has led the transformation of six acres near Tukwila International Boulevard and South 144th Street into a heart for the community. Public art is a highlight of the recently opened library, community meeting space, café and plaza. Future development should continue to value the very successful community-based process for public art as Tukwila Village is built out and used, with events and activities drawing on the cultural richness of Tukwila.



***Tukwila Village – the intent (is) that it will catalyze and demonstrate the intensity and quality of development envisioned for the area. Tukwila Comprehensive Plan 8-8***

***Activate public and private community gathering spaces with temporary events including food, art, music, pop-ups and activities that leverage nearby assets, such as schools and cultural facilities, and reflect the international, multicultural character of the TIB area. Tukwila Comprehensive Plan 8-23***



*Twin Sculptures at Tukwila Village, Andersen Studios*



## WHAT CAN ART DO?

- Arts and culture can **enliven and engage** the community at many levels, sharing culture and celebrations with music, dance, art, traditions, and food.
- Arts and culture at Tukwila Village can **be a model of the value of community engagement** for other developments



## WHAT'S POSSIBLE?

*Ideas to jump-start thinking:*

- Community-based art
- Artists in residencies
- Artist-led celebrations, events and performances
- Activation of Tukwila International Boulevard
- Concerts



# GOALS FOR ART & CULTURE IN TUKWILA VILLAGE

.....

- Events that are annual or developed using a themed approach, using a range of artists to conceive of engaging community events

.....

- Temporary participatory art projects that temporarily transform the gathering place for a set amount of time



# COMMUNITY-WIDE PROJECTS

## EVENTS

Art & cultural events draw the people of Tukwila together to celebrate, create shared special occasions and make shared memories. Art-based events can help define community culture: **we are the city that has fun annual activities on the river that are unique to Tukwila.**

Tukwila could have more of these shared, joyful experiences in park space, along the river, or along Tukwila International Boulevard. Such events could be City led, or community-based with City support.

There is already a very successful tradition of events in Tukwila. The City sponsors annual events including the Family 4th at the Fort and the Backyard Wildlife Festival. Community organizations and partnerships also sponsor events, such as Action Tukwila and religious organizations. The schools also have art events and cultural celebrations.

However, there is still room for a wide range of gatherings and events that are specifically generated by artists. Instead of following models from elsewhere, Tukwila could adapt models to serve its community needs. For example, instead of an art walk, there could be a monthly showcase of dance, storytelling, or other creative activities of interest to the community.

Events could:

- Engage with infrastructure in ways that create neighborhood identity or highlight a City amenity
- Incorporate temporary art works
- Highlight connections, such as routes to the river
- Feature cultural traditions, visual and performing arts
- Create annual traditions



## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROJECTS

Involving artists in the community and with City agencies can be a productive way to foster arts and creativity in broad and sometimes unexpected ways. There are interesting models of artists-in-residence energizing public agencies; in Tukwila this could be an artist embedded in the Parks Department to brainstorm and gather ideas for the river, parks, Community Center, etc. with City staff. Other programs have artists-in-residence serve as role models and mentors to local artists and artisans.

Examples of successful residencies include:

### **King County Trail System**

An artist team developed temporary art and a range of engagement activities to showcase the trail system that was underused by county residents. The residency allowed the public art program to see what types of projects would be most successful in adding to the use and meaning of this wonderful asset.

### **Green Infrastructure and Waterways**

#### **Artist-in-Residence Program, Seattle Public Utilities**

Working with SPU staff in a 6-month residency, artist Vaughn Bell developed an art master plan to guide public art commissions that would be integrated into drainage and wastewater projects, showing people how we relate to our environment.

### **Artist-in Residence-Program**

#### **Seattle Department of Transportation**

A two-part Art Plan for Seattle's Department of Transportation was developed by artist Daniel Mihalyo (link provided in Resources). One of the ideas from the plan that has been enacted is a residency at the Fremont Bridge. Outcomes have been a literary work on Seattle's history by Elissa Washuta and a sound installation, "Bridge Talks Back", by Kristen Ramirez.

### **Creative Community Housing Project**

This residency, run by The Creatives Project of Atlanta, offers free studio space and subsidized housing to six artists, with the intent of "nurturing the arts eco-system through arts education service". Artists are nurtured and mentored themselves, and also give back through the Community Arts Program.

# PROJECT MATRIX

	LOCATION	civic buildings	river	tib	tukwila village	southcenter	parks	infrastructure	non-place-based
TYPES OF PROJECT									
permanent		■		■				■	
temporary			■			■	■		
community engagement			■	■	■				
civic residency									■
gatherings/ events			■	■	■				
environmental			■			■			

# THE TOOLKIT

# THE ARTS COMMISSION

With the new % Ordinance, the Arts Commission will have broader responsibility than in the past. Commissioners will work in partnership with staff to uphold the ordinance. They will partner with staff to bring the program to fruition using this plan as a platform to frame and realize the most creative, productive uses of the available % funds in the near future. Additionally, Commissioners effectively become front-line arts and culture advocates within the community, further broadening the program's impact. Commissioners can craft multiple ways to actively build bridges between the community and the arts beyond the projects funded by the % funds.

Developing a specific addendum to Tukwila's standard commissioner handbook will be a very helpful first step in clarifying the Arts Commissioners' roles. Clearly outlining responsibilities establishes an environment that supports members working together effectively. Beyond specific responsibilities, the addendum would outline how the Commission interacts with staff, methodology for picking new members, budget review, project review procedures, etc.

There are many local examples of municipalities Tukwila's size that have developed standards for their arts commissions. Communities such as Shoreline, Edmonds, Kent and Redmond have long-standing programs with arts commissions. There is no reason to reinvent, but rather reviewing and gleaning from these other municipalities would be efficient.

# STAFFING AND CONSULTANTS

For a program such as Tukwila's, it would be best, and even necessary, to have dedicated staff time allotted for the program to thrive and grow. For example, Shoreline has a ½ time FTE that is able to do excellent work continually developing their program and advocating for the arts within the community and City staff. Depending on Tukwila's budgetary ability initially, the City could consider hiring a person experienced in public art for a specific contractual period. This would be very helpful in getting the program off to a strong start in the initial 2-3 year period.

Since the arts are seen as a strong additive to a city's economy, arguments can be made to invest in dedicated staffing. It is very difficult for an existing staff member to take on an arts program along with other responsibilities. Our metropolitan area has a wealth of people in the arts that are looking for just such a job. They come with exceptional skills that will quickly help establish and evolve a program.

Small arts programs, especially if there is not dedicated staff, find it difficult to run artist selection processes and larger art planning efforts. It is more efficient and cost effective to use outside consultants to handle these occasional processes.

We are fortunate to have very good resources within our larger area. One notable resource is 4 Culture's Public Art Program. There are also very competent individual arts consultants that can undertake this work.



## BI-ANNUAL PLANNING

A public art budget is typically tied to the ordinance. Certain projects in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) generate the % dollars. Because CIP projects are based on multi-year projections and then outlined for the next fiscal year, it is possible to plan forward for the % for Art money that will be generated.

The responsible City staff member should outline a 2-year plan for the use of these monies and present this plan of monies tied to project type and schedule for the Arts Commission to make a recommendation for approval, based on the priorities of the Art Plan. Having a clear plan for project types and expenditures is essential to effectively have art that achieves the vision and goals set out by the City. Once the plan gains approval, projects unfold accordingly.

## INITIAL PROJECT FRAMEWORK

This plan proposes the City develops an initial plan that outlines the “What, Where & Budget” of projects for the first 2 years of using the % Ordinance. In this initial framework, an exploratory range of carefully selected arts & cultural projects with desired impacts would be shepherded forward. At the end of each year, it is recommended that the projects be assessed for level of success by staff and Arts Commission. At that point, appropriate tweaks and adjustments would be made based on what is being learned to be particularly effective for the Tukwila community.

***Tukwila Arts allows the arts programming to be flexible and responsive to the unique circumstances at play in Tukwila.***

***The arts program would become a living program that deliberately activates and engages the people and places of Tukwila.***

# ASSESSMENT PROCESS

An assessment matrix, based on the intent, vision and goals of *Tukwila Arts*, should be developed to determine successes, lessons learned, impact and balance of project types that is aligned with the vision and goals of the program. The City would determine the best way get feedback from the community to couple with internal City staff assessment. The finding of the assessment process would be presented to the Arts Commission for discussion and to determine to continue with the remaining projects outlined in the 2 to 3-year planning framework or to make specific, informed changes.

***Public art (including larger scale imaginative sculptures) adds to the ambiance of a place. Little, if any, public art exists in Tukwila.—Tukwila Brand Fieldwork Research***

# BEYOND THE % FOR ART ORDINANCE

## 1% Fund Basics

Public art funds will be regularly generated as outlined by the specifics of Tukwila's ordinance. The funds would be pooled in a general 1% fund. City staff will create an annual plan by developing a list of projects types and locations outlining how funds generated in a specific time period will be allocated. This process determines which funds will stay tied to a specific CIP project and which will be used to fund a range of project types outlined in the plan. The determination of whether funds stay with CIP projects or are used for projects not tied to CIP projects will be based on an assessment process established by the City that upholds the vision and goals of Tukwila Arts.

Staff would present each annual plan to the Arts Commission for review. After discussion, they would vote to formally accept the annual plan at which point staff would oversee the implementation of the various funded projects. The Arts Commission would be part of the review process as artists develop concepts and proposals for every project undertaken.

### **Support cultural understanding of City staff**

Beyond the % for Art money, it is also possible for the City to develop an internal climate where staff sees the value of consistently factoring in arts & culture as a valuable component of how they scope all upcoming City projects, policies and initiatives. This process, once accepted as a seamless practice embraced by all facets of City government, becomes the standard for visioning and scoping. This approach makes allows the City the flexibility to add in a budget line for art & culture activity beyond the % for Art ordinance.

### **Artists on Design Teams**

As stated in the plan's goals, the City could make the decision to request that artists with public art experience be added as full team members for all teams applying to City CIP projects. To insure that the firms understand what the City is looking for, a comprehensive approach stated in a policy with specific language should be developed by the City that would be used in every RFQ the City publishes. There are easily available examples of this approach locally and through the resources provided in the plan.

Additionally, if projects are being developed internally, staff could bring an artist in on contract for a specific amount of time to offer conceptual and aesthetic input, etc. by collaborating directly with staff. Again this cost would be added to the overall project budget as a line item.

### **Funding for creative projects**

There is also the opportunity to use some of the arts funds to seed a range of activity in the City that is generated by groups and neighborhoods. For instance, small City granting programs for various neighborhood initiated projects can be used to evolve community understanding of the role the arts play in strengthening their community. As well, adding someone who is well versed in creative thinking on these types of neighborhood projects would enhance a sense of place, as well as broaden the potential approaches and impacts for community-based projects. This strategic use of a small set-aside fund source can have broad reaching impacts on the built fabric of the City.

### **Collaborations**

With this guiding Art Plan in hand and a staffed Arts Commission, Tukwila will be well placed to take advantage of a variety of partnership opportunities. These may include business owners who are interested in providing public art; institutions such as schools and libraries; community groups and non-profits. Tukwila has already had major successes in the work with community groups such as Action Tukwila and non-profits including Forterra. Again the City can think strategically about how to bring the many diverse constituent groups in Tukwila into contributing to the overall cultural life of the City.



# ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

## CALLS FOR ARTISTS

Calls for artists are generally developed with input from appropriate staff tied to a particular project. They would be advertised with approximately 6-8 weeks to the deadline for submittal of qualifications. For many projects, it is preferable to have artists assigned to projects early on, so that they can incorporate art opportunities into the design of the project. Otherwise, opportunities can be missed, and the art can feel like an afterthought.

There are several options for artist selection. First is an open call, where any artist may apply within a described geographic area. The open call typically includes a description of the project, eligibility and any other requirements, and the budget. There are several services that manage the submissions if Tukwila does not want to coordinate the submission internally. One that is used by many programs is CaFÉ (CallForArtists.org).

The most typical method of artist selection recommended is a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). That allows artists to be selected directly on the strength of past work and expressed understanding and interest in the particular project. RFQ's typically select a short list of artists to interview in order to determine the final selection of the project artist. This process then asks the selected artist to research and interact with the community, the project site, City department staff, etc. The result is that the artist understands more deeply the community and place

where the artwork or art activity will live or happen allowing the development of a concept that will more likely resonate and fully contribute to the cultural life of the community. There is the added benefit of having a richer interactive exchange between artists and community during the concept development phase. This process fully realizes the potential and benefits of having artist working within a community and public spaces.

Over the past several years there has been a return to public art programs using a Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP typically asks a small group of selected artists to submit a proposal or concept for the art; best practice would reimburse artists for creative work done to create a concept for the art. This process is not recommended, as it would not allow commissioned artists to fully explore the complexity of Tukwila before developing a project idea.

Another option is to create an invitational list, with a small number of artists appropriate to the project solicited to apply. The list can be compiled through the recommendations of a panel or contacting other public art programs. This is particularly appropriate if the art project needs someone from a particular discipline or with specific previous project expertise.

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The third option, direct selection from a roster may only be possible for small projects with budgets that do not require a more involved competitive process. For example, for artist-led events or social practice projects the City may put out a call for artists that results in a roster of qualified artists from which artists could be directly selected as different opportunities are planned and scheduled.

## SELECTION PANELS

All selection processes for public art require a selection panel be organized that has the expertise to make a qualified decision. Panels are usually kept reasonably small – 3-4 people. Panel participants usually have a working public artist or artist familiar with art in public places, those from the design professions and perhaps a community member tied to the project location. It is also common to have non-voting members of a selection process that represent the community, the City department, etc. They can offer more insight and information to the voting panel that helps make a beneficial selection.

If possible, panelists should be given a small honorarium for their time.

## CONTRACTS

Once the panel has selected an artist they will need a contract to enable them to commence with the services you have determined in your call, or through discussion with the artist. The contract should address timeline and process for development and acceptance of a concept, payment schedule, copyright, and many other topics.

There are many sample contracts available to adapt for your use. Tukwila can adapt a contract template from another program through the City's legal department. It is suggested that you use a contract from one of the local public art programs with extensive experience.

# PARTNERSHIPS

The reach of the % for Art program could be greatly expanded and energized by developing partnerships with existing organizations that currently have interesting relationships to the community. This would increase the ability of the program to be unique to Tukwila.

A sampling of groups, non-profits and institutions to partner with are:

- Action Tukwila  
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- Tukwila and Highline School Districts  
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- King County Library  
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- Non-profits working with diverse populations  
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- Sounders  
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- Local businesses  
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- SHAG  
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- Museum of Flight  
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- Forterra  
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*Multiplicity, John Fleming*



# RESOURCES

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# ORGANIZATIONS

## GENERAL

### **Forecast Public Art – Public Art Toolkit**

A long time non-profit dealing with public art – wonderful nuts & bolts website

<http://forecastpublicart.org/toolkit/>

### **Americans for the Arts – Public Art Network (PAN)**

PAN has a lot of helpful information on administrative aspects of public art programming

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/>

## LOCAL

### **Seattle Office of Arts & Culture**

<http://www.seattle.gov/arts/programs/public-art>

### **4Culture**

<https://www.4culture.org/>

### **Shoreline Public Art Program**

<http://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-cultural-services/events-arts-and-culture/public-art-program>

### **Edmonds Public Art Program**

<http://www.edmondswa.gov/homepage/explore-more-news/197-government/boards-commissions-committees/arts-commission/1316-edmonds-public-art.html>

### **Redmond Pubic Art Program**

[http://www.redmond.gov/ParksRecreation/artsandculture/visual\\_arts/](http://www.redmond.gov/ParksRecreation/artsandculture/visual_arts/)

### **Artist Trust**

<https://www.artisttrust.org/>

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# PUBLICATIONS

## PUBLIC ART BASICS

### Public Art by the Book

Barbara Goldstein (former head of Seattle and San Jose, CA public art programs)

Public Art by the Book is a nuts and bolts guide for arts professionals and volunteers creating public art in their communities.

**“What is Public Art”**, Association for Public Art, article  
<http://www.associationforpublicart.org/what-is-public-art/>

## CALLS FOR ARTISTS

### Abridged Call for Artists Guidelines

Americans for the Arts

[http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2013/by\\_program/networks\\_and\\_councils/public\\_art\\_network/CallforArtistsGuide\\_Abridged.pdf](http://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2013/by_program/networks_and_councils/public_art_network/CallforArtistsGuide_Abridged.pdf)

## ARTIST RESIDENCIES

### RAAC—Regional Arts and Cultural Council

This public art program, serving Oregon’s Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah’s counties, has a number of different residencies to look at for inspiration. The sample call for a neighborhood artist-in-residence opportunity can be found at:

<https://racc.org/resources/listings/racc-public-art-opportunity-humboldt-neighborhood-artist-residence-portland/>

**Artist Residencies in the Public Realm: A Resource Guide for Creating Residencies and Fostering Successful Collaborations**, Office of Public Art, Pittsburgh, PA

[https://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/storage/documents/Artist\\_in\\_the\\_Public\\_Realm\\_Residency\\_Resource\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.pittsburghartscouncil.org/storage/documents/Artist_in_the_Public_Realm_Residency_Resource_Guide.pdf)

### Seattle Department of Transportation Art Plan

Part 1

<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Arts/Downloads/Arts-Plans/SDOTartplan1.pdf>

Part 2

<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Arts/Downloads/Arts-Plans/SDOTartplan2.pdf>



