



To: Beautification Commission Members
From: Elise Sorum-Birk, Commission Staff Liaison
Re: Summary of Discussion Around Public Art Policy Working Group

Below is a summary of the discussion from the Monday, January 12, 2026, Beautification Commission regular meeting on the topic of putting together a working group to develop a draft Public Art Policy for the City of Valdez.

There was consensus from the commission to hold a special meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at noon to officially move forward with establishing this group.

- **Size and composition of the working group:**
 - 4 to 6 individuals including
 - 1 city staff representative (Martha Barberio, Economic Development Director)
 - 1-2 residents with professional experience in art, design or exhibitions (Caren Oberg, in her capacity of a private citizen)
 - 1-2 Beautification Commission Members (Commissioner Greene and Commissioner Miner)
 - Beautification staff to assist with scheduling and coordination for the group.
 - The desire was for the group to be informal in composition with those interested in participating being invited to help by commissioners.
- **Timeline:**
 - There is a desire to move forward quickly with this project and commission staff will help coordinate a schedule for the working group.
 - The working group will meet as needed (minimum of 4 meetings).
 - The goal would be for the commission to review the draft policy during the Monday, April 20, 2026, regular meeting.
 - Deadline for finalizing the draft policy by the working group to allow adequate time for review by commissioners: Monday, April 13, 2026.
- **Core components of policy and major considerations include:**
 - Definitions.
 - Criteria for art project review.
 - Possible grant program structures.
 - Maintenance requirements for artwork.
 - Considerations for privately owned property v. city owned buildings.
 - Designation of a reviewing body.
 - Guidance on applicability to non-local group or artists.
 - Funding mechanisms and considerations on use of public funds.
 - Accessioning and deaccessioning process.
 - Ownership, licensing and copyright considerations.
- **Additional considerations:**
 - The draft policy should be broad but still useful – providing clear guidance without being too restrictive.
 - The working group may also reach out to stakeholders and coordinate community outreach to take place during the policy development process.
 - Format of the policy should align with COV policy template and guidelines.

