



# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686

## Meeting Agenda Beautification Commission

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Thursday, January 15, 2026

12:00 PM

City Council Chambers

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### Special Meeting - Establishing Public Art Policy Working Group

#### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA - 12:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. [Action Item: Establishing a Public Art Policy Working Group](#)

IV. ADJOURNMENT



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 26-0014, **Version:** 1

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**ITEM TITLE:**

Action Item: Establishing a Public Art Policy Working Group

**SUBMITTED BY:** Elise Sorum-Birk, Deputy City Clerk

**FISCAL NOTES:**

Expenditure Required: n/a

Unencumbered Balance: n/a

Funding Source: n/a

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Establish a Public Art Policy Working Group and appoint initial members.

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

At the regular meeting of January 12, 2026, the commission discussed a desire to establish a Public Art Policy Working Group to assist with developing a draft policy for the City of Valdez on public art.

Since the item was noticed for discussion purposes only, and the commission has a desire to move forward quickly with this project, the commission requested that a special meeting be held to formally establish the group and appoint initial members.

Attached is a summary of commission discussion and recommendations for this working group.



**To: Beautification Commission Members**

**From: Elise Sorum-Birk, Commission Staff Liaison**

**Re: Summary of Discussion Around Public Art Policy Working Group**

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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.