

If you like public art in places like Seattle, WA; Tempe, AZ; Austine, TX; New York City; Los Angeles; the whole state of Maine and Ohio and many other cities, counties and states, then that's what we can do here in Ann Arbor with the city Percent for Art Program. But City Council is nervous about funding art when other city funds that start with so much more are being cut by maybe 10%. **Only the public art program is being threatened with a 50% cut.** The pity is **this cut will generate NO NEW REVENUE for the city.** Cut funds will never go to pay for the salaries of police and firemen.

Could this 4 year old program work better? Yes, with more administrative funding. Could more public art come faster? Yes, if the all volunteer commission is not expected to do a professional's job as it has been doing for much of the last 4 years. Attached is basic information about this program

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

1. Write to every City Council member and the Mayor and tell them why public art matters to you. If you don't live in the city but work here, or come to art events here, tell them how much those arts and cultural events mean to you, your family and your community. Especially in hard times, art lifts our spirits and gives imagination and joy to our children and all of us. Be sure to tell your own council person know that you are in their district and you care deeply about this.

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2. Come to the Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 5 at 7pm to witness the proceedings. Bring a sign, a T-shirt, an art work. Make it fun, it is definitely an interesting process to watch. And numbers of supports really makes a difference during the discussion.

3. Speak directly to City Council on Monday, Dec. 5 at 7pm. Please email me if you can do this. There are only 10 slots available. We want a range of people (not all arts related) to speak simply about why public art in Ann Arbor is important to you.

WE HAVE ALREADY MADE A DIFFERENCE. Art is on the agenda of the Ann Arbor City Council and they are funding it. Remember to thank them for that!

Margaret Parker

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