



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

May 8, 2025
Agenda Item No. 4

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

TITLE: Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park – Phase X Timeline

RECOMMENDATION:

The Sculpture Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommends the City Arts Commission approve a timeline for Phase X of the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park.

DISCUSSION:

The Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park is an ongoing public art display that is a primary feature of the Newport Beach Civic Center. The City Arts Commission (Commission) determined that a rotating exhibition was the optimal approach for bringing a variety of sculpture to Newport Beach in a cost-efficient manner. In August 2013, the City Council authorized the Commission to implement an inaugural rotational sculpture exhibit in Civic Center Park. Since 2014, the City has exhibited nine sculpture phases in the park.

Admission is free and the exhibition continues to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. The exhibition offers the temporary display of public art and allows the City to avoid the obligation and expense of owning public art. The Commission selects a well-balanced representation of public art that appeals to a diverse audience, while including artistic merit, durability, practicality, and site responsiveness as criteria in the selection. The rotational nature of the exhibit ensures that residents and guests are exposed to a variety of work.

ARTS ORANGE COUNTY:

Arts Orange County (ArtsOC) was established in 1995 as the nonprofit, countywide arts council of Orange County, California. The organization has been recognized by the California Arts Council as a model agency based on the quality of its work. It has served as the officially designated arts agency and state-local partner of the County of Orange since inception.

ArtsOC has provided public art coordination and site management services for all previous phases of the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park. A professional services agreement with ArtsOC will be prepared for the project management of Phase X.

TIMELINE

ArtsOC developed the following timeline for Phase X:

**City of Newport Beach Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park Timeline
Phase X – FY 2025-26**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TASK</u>
<u>July 2025</u>	
July 8	CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING City Council to approve Arts Orange County contract
<u>August 2025</u>	
August 1	Phase X Call for Artists Opens
<u>September 2025</u>	
September 29	Deadline for Submissions
September 30	Open Online Review and Ranking by CAC and Guest Jurors
<u>October 2025</u>	
October 5	CLOSE Online Review & Ranking by City Arts Commission & Guest Jurors
October 9	CITY ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING Present City Arts Commission & Guest Juror Rankings APPROVE QUALIFIED SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLIC SURVEY
October 15	OPEN Public online survey of Finalists
<u>December 2025</u>	
December 5	CLOSE Public online survey of Finalists
December 11	CITY ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING Presentation of Public survey rankings, Approval of recommended selections and alternates for presentation to City Council

December 12	Civic Center Park Siting ArtsOC, City staff, and CAC Sculpture Exhibition Subcommittee walkabout to review ArtsOC's sculpture placements in Civic Center Park
<u>January 2026</u>	
January 13	CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – Present City Arts Commission recommendations for Approval
January 14	Inform artists of selection Provide City Attorney with all necessary information for Artists Loan Agreements
<u>February 2026</u>	
February 17	Artist Loan Agreements provided to ArtsOC to send to artists
<u>March 2026</u>	
March 16	ArtsOC delivers all Artist Loan Agreements to City with Phase IX FIRST invoices and Phase VIII FINAL invoices
<u>March 2026 – May 2026</u>	Site preparation Delivery Coordination
<u>June 2026</u>	
June 1-19	De-Installation of Phase VIII artworks INSTALLATION OF PHASE X ARTWORKS
June 27	Sculpture Exhibition Phase X Official Opening

ArtsOC will issue a "Call for Entries", inviting artists, private collectors, galleries, and museums/nonprofit organizations to submit artworks for consideration of the temporary exhibition in Civic Center Park.

To select the pieces for the public survey, the project manager will form a panel of jurors. This panel, comprised of working art professionals, will work with the entire Commission in the selection and recommendation of pieces in a public meeting. Pieces approved by the Commission and curatorial panel will be included in the online public survey. The public, through the online survey, will choose ten artworks and three to five alternates. The Commission will review the artworks, as selected by the public, at its December 11, 2025 regular meeting. Upon Commission approval, the selected works will be brought to City Council for final consideration.

A site visit, involving the consulting team, City staff members, and the Sculpture Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee, will review proposed locations within the park to site the pieces. Locations of the sculptures are based upon existing site sensitivities such as protection of the habitat, the public view plane, clear access to all walkways, and the aesthetics of the park. The proposed placements will ensure that the existing view plane from Civic Center Drive southward is uncompromised.

City Council will review the recommended pieces and park placements at its January 13, 2026 meeting. If City Council approves the artworks and the proposed location for each piece, the project manager will then notify each artist that the artwork has been selected, and installation will take place in June 2026.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).