

City of Laredo – Public Arts Program

Annual Public Arts Plan FY2026 Amendment No. 1

The amendment will include the Water Tower Art Project to support the mission of **Ordinance 2019-O-177**, the vision of the **Laredo Art Master Plan (LAMP)**, and the long-term goals of the **Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan** by activating public spaces with accessible, inclusive, and locally inspired artwork. Additionally, it prioritizes the timely use of Certificate of Obligation (C.O.) bond funds from above-ground utility projects, subject to the 2% for Art calculation and approved for use by Bond Counsel.

Amendment Overview

This plan outlines Amendment No. 1 to the FY 2026 public art projects, developed in collaboration with the Utility Department to complete prior years' rehabilitation efforts. It details locations, estimated timelines, artist selection processes, recommended design approaches, and proposed budgets in accordance with **Ordinance 2019-O-177**.

1. 2 Water Tower Art Project

LAMP-Aligned Strategy

Strategic Plan	Activating a highly visible public spaces and strengthening Laredo's civic identity. Serve as prominent landmarks within the community, and incorporating public art helps transform these functional structures into symbols of civic pride.
Artist Empowerment	Design opportunities are intentionally developed to elevate Laredo-based artists, fostering local talent and supporting the growth of creative careers within the community.
Civic Pride	Each tower celebrates Laredo's unique identity and promotes community pride. The project enhances the urban landscape by fostering neighborhood identity and strengthening community connections through accessible and visually engaging public art.

1. Water Tower Art Project

Department Collaboration

- Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Utilities
- Safety and Risk Management

Description	Add public art to enhance two highly visible infrastructure through creative design.
Planned Locations	2 high traffic areas in Laredo Texas- 8711 McPherson Road and FM 1472 (Mines Road).

Estimated Timeline	Approximately two months per water tower, with timeline contingent with scheduled Utilities rehabilitation efforts. FM 1472 (Mines Road) rehabilitation scheduled for December 2025- January 2025 and 8711 McPherson Road for June 2026.
Dimensions	May vary, based off Highland Est. data: Diameter 67'2" and water height 40'. The design surface area estimated at: 210'6" x 40' (feet)
Artist Selection Process	Artists design will be selected through an evaluation score sheet.
Recommended Design Approach	- Each design will highlight Laredo's distinctive character and reflect the surrounding area, incorporating themes such as local history, cultural heritage, native landscapes, community pride, and neighborhood identity. - Appropriate coatings and materials will be required to ensure durability and protect the artwork from environmental exposure while maintaining the tower's essential functions.
Proposed Budget	- Operational project cost: \$100,000 per water tower, with proper invoices required from contractors. - Contingency: 24.9% (\$24,990 per tower) - Estimated total including contingencies: \$248,980

Funding Source Breakdown

- **Stay Within the Spending Timeline (3-years):** Get up to date on spending to remain within the allowable window for C.O. bond use and avoid loss of incurred interest.
- **Start with 2019-2023 C.O. Funds:** These are the oldest available funds, and we are losing accrued interest if we wait any longer to use them.
- **Designed for Timely Use:** C.O. bond funds from above-ground utility projects, subject to the 2% for Art calculation, are intended to be spent within a few years of issuance.

Public Art Fund- C.O. Bonds

Year	Amount Issued
2019	\$ 116,616
2021	\$ 256,500
2022	\$ 610,000
2023	\$ 800,000
2024	\$ 600,000
Total	\$ 2,383,116

FY26 Project Budget Overview

Utilization of Certificates of Obligation Bonds

Year	Median Cost	Maximum + Contingency Funds
2019	\$ (116,616)	\$ (116,616)
2021	\$ (256,500)	\$ (256,500)
2022	\$ 108,689	\$ (610,000)
2023	\$ 800,000	\$ 464,992
2024	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
Remaining Balance of Public Art Funds	\$ 1,508,689	\$ 1,064,992

	Projects	Projected Quantity	Per Project Max w/out Contingency	Per Project Max + Contingency	Median Cost	Maximum + Contingency Funds (24.9%)
1	Utility Cabinet Mini-Murals	32	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,870	\$ 149,912	\$ 219,824
2	Footnotes: A Literal Story Walk-Sidewalk Poetry	16	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,498	\$ 24,984	\$ 39,968
3	Jumpstart Creativity: Ground Hopscotch Murals	56	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,494	\$ 244,207	\$ 419,664
4	Mini Gallery Posts	32	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,992	\$ 184,872	\$ 319,744
5	Library Murals	8	varies \$5,000-\$20,000		\$ 45,472	\$ 69,944
6	Water Tower Art Projects	2	\$ 100,000	\$ 124,990	\$ 224,980	\$ 248,980
					Median	Max + Cont.
	Annual Project Totals	146			\$ 874,427	\$ 1,318,124