

City of Laredo – Public Arts Program Annual Public Arts Plan

These art projects 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 is important to prioritize the timely use of Certificate of Obligation (C.O.) bond funds.

Project Overview

This plan outlines the FY2026 public art projects, detailing proposed locations, estimated timelines, artist selection processes, recommended design approaches, and proposed budgets in accordance with **Ordinance 2019-O-177**.

1. Utility Cabinet Mini-Murals
2. Footnotes: A Literal Story Walk-Sidewalk Poetry
3. Jumpstart Creativity: Ground Hopscotch Murals
4. Mini Gallery Posts
5. Library Murals

LAMP-Aligned Strategy

Years 1-2 Focus	Implementation focuses on small-scale, high-impact art projects across Laredo to increase visibility, make the program accessible, and strengthen community engagement. These foundational efforts are designed to support local artists and build momentum as the city continues to invest in its creative future.
Citywide Equity	Projects are placed throughout all districts to ensure fair and inclusive access to public art.
Artist Empowerment	Opportunities are intentionally designed to uplift Laredo-based artists and youth creatives, fostering local talent and creative careers.
Civic Pride	Each project celebrates Laredo’s diverse culture and identity while also promoting health, learning, and overall community well-being. Many works will highlight themes of education, wellness, and cultural pride to inspire and engage residents of all ages.

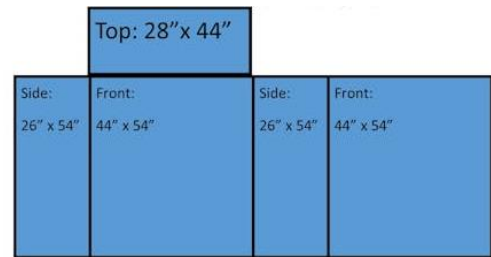
Implementation Framework

Planned Location	Artworks will be distributed equitably throughout the city to ensure balanced placement, fostering community access, visibility, and engagement across all districts.
Estimated Timelines	Timelines may be extended due to scheduling or unforeseen factors beyond administrative control.

1. Utility Cabinet- Mini-Murals

Department Collaboration

- Engineering
- Parks and Recreation
- Traffic Safety
- Safety and Risk Management

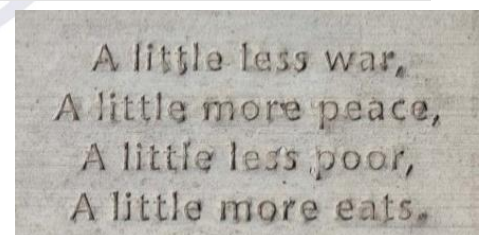


Description	Add public art onto utility cabinets or control cabinets. Artistic wraps or hand-painted designs on utility boxes throughout Laredo.
Planned Locations	32 Utility Boxes in high traffic areas in Laredo Texas, with 4 located in each district, including parks (non-TxDOT boxes).
Estimated Timeline	Painted & Vinyl Wraps – Approximately seven months, with timelines varying based on design size and level of detail.
Dimensions	May vary depending on the cabinet size.
Artist Selection Process	Artists will be selected through an evaluation score sheet.
Recommended Design Approach	○ A combination of painted designs and vinyl wraps, following Standard Operating Procedures. ○ Research from comparable cities shows using either approach has been implemented. ○ Incorporating vinyl wraps through contests and community partnerships with is recommended. ○ Each design will represent Laredo's unique style or reflect the character of the surrounding area – for example, incorporating themes of local history, cultural heritage, native landscapes, community pride, or neighborhood identity. ○ UV and anti-graffiti sealants will be required to ensure durability and protection of the mural from environmental wear and vandalism.
Proposed Budget	○ Maximum operational project cost: \$5,500 per utility box, with itemized invoices required from participating artists ○ Contingency: 24.9% (\$1,370 per box) ○ Estimated total including contingencies: \$219,824

2. Footnotes: A Literal Story Walk-Sidewalk Poetry

Department Collaboration

- Engineering
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works
- Safety and Risk Management



Description	Sidewalks will feature original community writing, stamped into the concrete during the curing process.
Planned Locations	Minimum of 16 sidewalks on CIP project as part of routine maintenance or new construction, transforming ordinary pathways into spaces of literary and artistic reflection. Stamped designs may also be incorporated in multiple locations across the city, ensuring they are not concentrated in the same area.
Dimensions	May vary depending on the area or improvement project.
Estimated Timeline	The timeline will align with the sidewalk improvement or expansion project and account for concrete curing time. Each project's schedule will depend on the corresponding sidewalk improvement or expansion.
Artist Selection Process	Artists will be chosen using an evaluation score sheet.
Recommended Design Approach	○ Simple readable font ○ Contests will focus on specific topics tied to each project location – such as Laredo's history and culture, fitness and health, positive or encouraging messaging, sports and teamwork, or education and learning.
Proposed Budget	○ Maximum project cost: \$2,000 per sidewalk ○ Contingency: 24.9% (\$498 per sidewalk) ○ Estimated total including contingencies: \$39,968

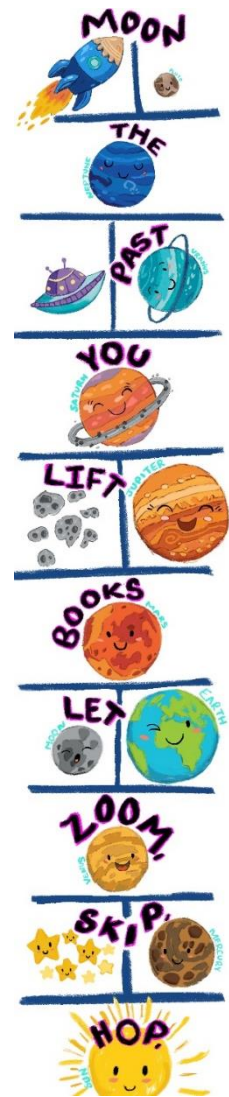
3. Jumpstart Creativity: Ground Hopscotch Murals

Department Collaboration:

- Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works
- Safety and Risk Management

Description	Painted hopscotch murals that combine art, play, and learning, encourage people to physically engage with the artwork. Activate sidewalks near schools, and libraries with joyful, interactive art for children and families.
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Planned Locations	Phase 1: 56 locations outside public sidewalk of elementary schools, and public libraries.
Dimensions	Sidewalks vary in width x height; estimated 3 ½' x 15'
Estimated Timeline	Estimated six months, with timelines varying based on design size and level of detail.
Artist Selection Process	Artists will be selected through an evaluation score sheet.
Recommended Design Approach	○ Anti-skid, UV, and anti-graffiti sealants will be required to ensure safety, durability, and protection of the ground mural from environmental wear and vandalism. ○ Murals outside schools: themes of education, learning, and positive or encouraging messaging. ○ Murals at libraries: themes of reading, knowledge, and imagination.
Proposed Budget	○ Maximum project cost: \$6,000 per sidewalk, with itemized invoices required from participating artists ○ Contingency: 24.9% (\$1,494 per sidewalk) ○ Estimated total including contingencies: \$419,664



4. Mini Gallery Posts

Department Collaboration

- Engineering
- Laredo Police Department
- Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Works
- Safety and Risk Management



Description	Small outdoor display cases featuring rotating exhibits that invite contributions from local artists, organizations, schools, and youth. These displays make the art space inclusive, hyper-local, and accessible to the community.
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Planned Location	Approximately 32 installations throughout the city in public spaces such as sidewalks, parks, libraries, and outside city buildings, bringing art into everyday environments.
Dimensions	- Overall Post: 69 ½" (h) x 25" (w) x 14" (l) - Display Box: 25" x 25" x 14" - Post Height: 44 ½"
Estimated Timeline	Approximately nine months, including design, material procurement, fabrication, quality checks, and installation.
Artist Selection Process	Works for the mini galleries will be curated through a public announcement and evaluated using the official score sheet. Selected pieces will rotate throughout the city.
Recommended Design Approach	Fabrication: Metal structures with ½" plexiglass for durability. - The gallery designs will be developed in collaboration with engineering divisions and local higher education partners. - Curated artwork displays inside will reflect community values and align with seasonal events and themes.
Proposed Budget	- Maximum project cost: \$8,000 per gallery post, including installation - Contingency: 24.9% (\$1,992 per gallery post) - Estimated total including contingencies: \$319,744

5. Library Murals

Department Collaboration

- Engineering
- Library
- Safety & Risk Management

Description	Murals designed to enhance libraries as inclusive, high-traffic community hubs that promote education, creativity, and cultural connection – especially important in Laredo, where outdoor engagement can be limited by weather.
Planned Location	Eight permanent murals at library locations, celebrating imagination, storytelling, and the joy of lifelong learning.
Estimated Timeline	Approximately six months, subject to variation based on the scale and complexity of the mural. Larger murals may require additional time for preparation, fabrication, and installation.
Artist Selection Process	Artists will be selected through an evaluation score sheet.
Recommended Design Approach	Transform library walls into vibrant, meaningful spaces that reflect the spirit of the community.

	○ UV and anti-graffiti sealants will be required to ensure durability and protection of the mural from environmental wear and vandalism.
Proposed Budget	○ Maximum operational project cost for smaller murals: \$5,000, with itemized invoices required from participating artists ○ Maximum operational project cost for larger murals: \$20,000 ○ Contingency: 24.9% (\$1,245 for smaller murals; \$4,980 for larger murals) ○ Estimated total including contingencies: \$69,944

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. bonds are meant 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

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	\$ 333,669	\$ (610,000)
2023	\$ 800,000	\$ 713,972
2024	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
Remaining Balance of Public Art Funds	\$ 1,733,669	\$ 1,313,972

	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
					Median	Max + Cont.
	Annual Project Totals	144			\$ 649,447	\$ 1,069,144