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	Projects are placed throughout all districts to ensure fair and				
Equity	inclusive access to public art.				
Artist	Opportunities are intentionally designed to uplift Laredo-based				
Empowerment	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.					

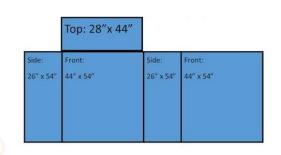
Implementation Framework

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

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

A little less war,
A little more peace,
A little less poor,
A little more eats.

Description	Sidewalks will feature original community writing, stamped into the						
_	concrete during the curing process.						
	Minimum of 16 sidewalks on CIP project as part of routine						
Planned	1 / 1						
Locations	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	The timeline will align with the sidewalk improvement or						
Timeline	expansion project and account for concrete curing time. Each						
	project's schedule will depend on the corresponding sidewalk						
	improvement or expansion.						
A 41 4 C 1 41	improvement of expansion.						
Artist Selection	Artists will be chosen using an evaluation score sheet.						
Process	0						
Recommended	Simple readable font						
Design	 Contests will focus on specific topics tied to each project 						
Approach	location – such as Laredo's history and culture, fitness and						
	health, positive or encouraging messaging, sports and						
	teamwork, or education and learning.						
Proposed	Maximum project cost: \$2,000 per sidewalk						
Budget	o Contingency: 24.9% (\$498 per sidewalk)						
Duaget	o Estimated total including contingencies: \$39,968						

3. Jumpstart Creativity: Ground Hopscotch Murals

Department Collaboration:

- o Library
- o Parks and Recreation
- o Public Works
- o 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% (\$1,494per sidewalk) Estimated total including contingencies: \$419,664 				



4. Mini Gallery Posts

Department Collaboration

- o Engineering
- o Laredo Police Department
- o Library
- o Parks and Recreation
- o 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.

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)						
	o Display Box: 25" x 25" x 14"						
	o Post Height: 44 ½"						
Estimated	Approximately nine months, including design, material						
Timeline	procurement, fabrication, quality checks, and installation.						
Artist Selection	Works for the mini galleries will be curated through a public						
Process	announcement and evaluated using the official score sheet.						
	Selected pieces will rotate throughout the city.						
Recommended	o Fabrication: Metal structures with ½" plexiglass for						
Design Approach	durability.						
	o 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						
	o Contingency: 24.9% (\$1,992 per gallery post)						
	o Estimated total including contingencies: \$319,744						

5. Library Murals

Department Collaboration

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 Library
 Safety & Risk Management

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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	Approximately six months, subject to variation based on the scale					
Timeline	and complexity of the mural. Larger murals may require					
	additional time for preparation, fabrication, and installation.					
Artist Selection	Autists will be selected through an avaluation score sheet					
Process	Artists will be selected through an evaluation score sheet.					
Recommended	o Transform library walls into vibrant, meaningful spaces that					
Design Approach	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.
- o **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.
- o **Designed for Timely Use:** C.O. bonds are meant to be spent within a few years of issuance.

Public Art Fund- C.O. Bonds

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

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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	

		Projected	Per Project Max w/out	Per Project Max +		Maximum + Contingency
	Projects	Quantity	Contingency	Contingency	Median Cost	Funds (24.9%)
1	Utility Cabinet Mini-Murals	32	\$ 5,50	\$ 6,870	\$ 149,912	\$ 219,824
2	Footnotes: A Literal Story Walk-Sidewalk Poetry	16	\$ 2,00	\$ 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	\$ 8,00	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