

# Denver Public Art Program History



- Denver's 1% for Public Art Program was established in 1988 through executive order 92 by Mayor Federico Peña.
- Ordinance 650 was passed by Denver City Council under Mayor Wellington E. Webb in 1991 to revise Denver Municipal Code (DRMC 20-85).
- It directs that one percent of any capital improvement project undertaken by the city with a design and construction budget of at least \$1 million be set aside for public art.



# Denver Public Art – At a Glance

- Program History – 30+ Years
  - Collection Website: [www.denverpublicart.org](http://www.denverpublicart.org)
- 1% Public Art Projects
  - 70+ ACTIVE Projects
    - Budgets totaling more than \$18 million
- Maintenance
  - Collection Value - \$45 million and growing
  - More than 440 artworks in City & County
- Urban Arts Fund Mural Program
- Special Projects, Programs, Tours



# How does a project qualify?

- If a capital improvement project (CIP) has an estimated cost of design and construction totaling \$1 million or more
- **AND** - the CIP provides “finished space for human occupancy” and will be “available for public view,”
- **THEN** - 1% of the construction budget is set aside for public art

# Public Art Selection Panel

Six representatives total from the following three categories:

- Community Representatives (min. 3)
- Artist(s)
- Arts Professional(s)

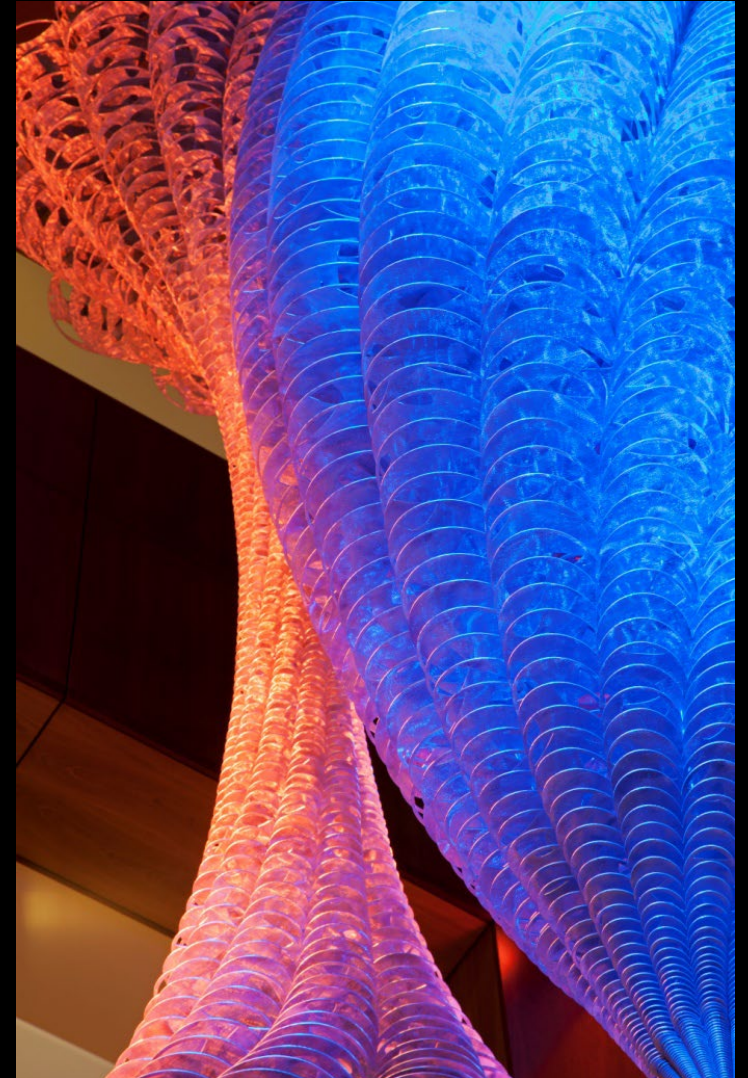
One representative from the following categories

- Public Art Committee
- Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs
- City Councilperson
- Ad Hoc Advisors

# Artist Selection Process

4 – 6 months

1. Create Selection Panel
2. Site visit & Orientation
3. Request for Qualifications
4. Finalist selection
5. Finalist presentations
6. Finalist recommended & approved



# Approval Stages

- **Selection Panel**
  - Approved by DCCA prior to starting project
  - Identify priorities for project
  - Selects artist or artist team
- **Public Art Committee**
  - Technical advisory experts to assess feasibility, troubleshoot potential issues
  - Provides feedback to selected artist and recommendation to DCCA
- **Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs (DCCA)**
  - Appointed by the Mayor
  - Approves a fair and transparent process
  - Makes recommendation to Mayor
- **Mayor of Denver**
  - Makes final determination on contracting with the artist or artist team
  - For contracts equal or more than \$500k, **Denver City Council** also approves

# Program Goals

- Every project is site-specific and unique
- Open, transparent process invites involvement, critique and advice from expert panelists
- Participation gives residents an opportunity to have impact on their community and the built environment

