



## **DENVER PUBLIC ART OVERVIEW**

Denver's Public Art Program was established in 1988 as an Executive Order under Mayor Federico Peña. The order, enacted into Ordinance by Denver City Council in 1991, directs that 1% of any capital improvement project undertaken by the City with a construction budget of \$1 million or more, be set aside for the inclusion of new public art. Since 1988, approximately 300 artworks have been commissioned and installed through this program. These artworks, along with historic and donated works of art, make up the City's Public Art Collection.

The Public Art Program has expanded the opportunity for Denver residents to engage with their city government to participate in the public art selection process to infuse art, culture, and creativity into their daily lives.

Denver's Public Art is selected in a fair and transparent process by a project selection panel comprised of community members who live or work near the project site, artists and arts professionals, civic leaders, and site experts. The values of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) are paramount in choosing participants for each unique project.

The selection panel is responsible for reviewing the site, establishing criteria for a call for entry, reviewing applications and selecting and interviewing finalists. Once an artist (or group of artists) is chosen, the selection is presented to the Public Art Committee, and the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs for recommendation. Ultimately, the Mayor approves the contract with the artist. For commissions of \$500,000 or more, the contract is presented to City Council for approval.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Denver Arts & Venues (DAV) is the city agency which directs the implementation of the Public Art Program. This responsibility is defined by city ordinance, [DRMC] 20-88; 20-89. Denver Public Art staff is responsible for the administration of the specific activities outlined in the public art policy document with oversight from DAV Division of Cultural Affairs, and its Mayor-appointed advisory board, the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs.

Denver Arts & Venues works collaboratively with other city agencies that use, occupy, and manage the capital improvements which trigger the 1% for public art requirement including the Capital Projects & Programming Division of the Department of Finance, Denver International Airport, Denver Parks & Recreation, Denver Department of Transportation & Infrastructure, and the Department of General Services.