Art in Private Development

The City of Tempe Art in Private Development Ordinance, passed in 1991, has been instrumental in adding more than 80 privately owned artworks to the city, blanketing Tempe’s 39.5 square miles with public art that is always accessible. The ordinance requires commercial developments over 50,000 square feet in size to commission artwork on their property or support local arts and culture programs.

Public art staff assists developers in identifying artists who specialize in creating integrated or landmark public art. Developers also can choose to fund arts and culture programs through the Tempe Municipal Art Fund in lieu of creating a work of public art on their site. Programs include but are not limited to Arts Education Workshops, Studio artist residency programs, exhibitions, performances in public spaces, and public art programs throughout the City. The result showcases Tempe as a progressive city with a focus on the aesthetic.

The goal of the city of Tempe’s Art in Private Development [AIPD] program is to create meaningful landmarks and support the artistic nature of the City. AIPD enhances the identity and character of the Tempe community making it more appealing to residents and helps to further attract visitors.

Program Criteria

Per the Tempe Zoning + Development Code, Section 4-407, the property owner[s] of any project that contains more than 50,000 square feet net floor area of commercial or office use within any zoning district, or is a phase of a larger project approved after February 24, 1990, that contains a total of more than 50,000 square feet square feet net floor area of commercial or office use within any zoning district, shall contribute to Art in Private Development.

The art contribution shall take the form of either on-site installation of exterior artwork or an equivalent cash donation to the Tempe Municipal Arts Fund. Net floor area means the sum of all floor areas [including mezzanines, outdoor retail and dining areas] devoted to an activity, excluding exterior walkways and the thickness of exterior walls.

The developer’s investment in artwork is based on the amount of square footage of the net floor area dedicated to commercial or office use, and is adjusted on February 1st of each year based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers [CPI-U] of the previous year [e.g. 2018 value: $0.45 per SF].
AIPD Overview

• Artwork: On-site installation of applicant-selected, exterior Artwork.
• Arts Fund Contribution: An equivalent monetary donation to the Tempe Municipal Arts Fund

ARTWORK ELIGIBILITY
“Artwork” or “Work of Art” is defined as an original artist designed and produced work that is imported into or set at the building site. Developers must hire a Professional Artist for the creation of the Artwork. The Artist is defined as a professional based on his/her body of work including commissions, exhibits, publications, collections and educational background.

RESTRICTIONS
Exclusions include persons primarily working the professional fields of architecture, engineering, design, or landscape who do not have a records of art based accomplishments as described; persons with a business interest in the development project outside of the creation of the Artwork; and relatives of anyone with a financial interest with respect to the project at large.

ART FUND CONTRIBUTION
Developers have the option of paying into the Tempe Municipal Arts Fund in lieu of using the AIPD fund for the creation of a work of art on their property. When choosing this option, Developers may work with Art Staff to determine a program or project near their building to fund or they may allow the Art Staff to use the fee as needed for arts programs in the City of Tempe. Should the developer select to work with the Art Staff in supporting a specific program, the Developer may be credited with the business name as a sponsor.

ARTFUL EXAMPLES
Examples of art projects to consider:
• Artist in residence programs at local schools
• Studio Arts programs in community centers
• Arts in the Park programs
  [Ballet Under the Stars, dance, or theater performances]
• Temporary Public Art commissions at or near project site

For a virtual tour, or to view images of completed Artwork, visit: www.tempe.gov/AIPD

We Are Here to Help

For assistance + questions, please contact:
Rebecca Blume Rothman, Director of Public Art
480-350-2827  rebecca_rothman@tempe.gov