



City of Pomona

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

ADMINISTRATION | OFFICE OF ECONOMIC BUSINESS AFFAIRS

June 22, 2026

TO: Cultural Arts Commission

FROM: Ata Khan, Deputy Director of OEBA
Jocelyn Ayala, AIPP Program Manager

SUBJECT: FY 2026 - 2027 Public Art Collection Conservation Budget

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve the budget allocation of One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to assign to artwork conservation projects that may require preservation or restoration of the City of Pomona's Public Art Collection for the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed funding would allocate \$100,000.00 to be utilized from the FY 2026 - 2027 Art in Public Places fund budget. (Attachment 1)

BACKGROUND

On January 22, 2024, the Cultural Arts Commission motioned for approval of Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) from the Art in Public Places fund for Staff to allocate towards artwork conservation projects that may be preservation or restoration projects on artwork in the City of Pomona's Public Art Collection. This allocation was given during the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Thirty-Five Thousand One-Hundred and Eighty-Two Dollars and Fifty cents (\$36,052.50) of the allocated funding was utilized for conservation of the City's Public Art Collection. This consisted of six projects.

On August 26, 2024, the Cultural Arts Commission motioned for approval of One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to assign to conservation projects that may be preservation or restoration projects of the City of Pomona's Public Art Collection for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Eighty-Three Thousand Ninety-Five Dollars and Ninety cents (\$83,095.90) of the allocated funding was utilized for conservation of the City's Public Art Collection. This consisted of seventeen projects. All projects were graffiti related issues.

On July 28, 2025, the Cultural Arts Commission motioned for approval of One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to assign to conservation projects that may be preservation or restoration projects of the City of Pomona's Public Art Collection for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Sixty-six Thousand One-Hundred and Ninety-Eight Dollars and Thirty-Eight cents. (\$66,198.38) of the allocated funding was utilized for conservation of the City's Public Art Collection with the allocation still being actively utilized right now till the end of June 2026. This current total consists of forty-seven projects. Projects consisted of graffiti, tagging, and other forms of vandalism-related issues.

COLLECTION CARE UPDATE

In previous years, the largest concern about the conservation of artwork for the City’s collection was the amount of time it takes to address the incidents involving gang-related graffiti and tagging. Staff have researched different methods, including potentially placing a Call for Art Conservation, but ultimately, concluded that a Call would require more management than the single staff capacity at the time could manage with the continuation of active Art Calls and deter from speeding up the graffiti / tagging removal process that was most critical. Staff previously mentioned initiating a pilot program that would involve local artists to support the care of the collection. While this pilot program is still not fully built out, a beginning portion was activated with the support of the dA Center for the Arts (“dA”). The dA is the only non-profit on our approved list of artists to care for work as approved via resolutions in previous conservation budget allocation due to having supported artists and projects in our collection. It was for this reason that Staff began working with the dA to preserve artwork through graffiti / tagging and minimal repairs as needed.

While Staff still continues to connect with the Artists of the artwork, especially for extensive work needed, the dA has stepped in as a support system for graffiti / tagging removal, wall cleaning preparation for the artists, minimal color retouching, adding graffiti and UV coatings for longevity and easier cleanings, and being able to do this work in the span of single week turnarounds.

	dA	Artist
Count	36	17
Total Spent	\$ 12,638.00	\$ 53,560.38
Percentage (Count)	68%	32%
Percentage (\$)	19.09%	80.91%

This approach has come to show more cost efficiency and accurate application of protective coatings. The dA’s team currently consists of two individuals and the intent is to have a roster of team members that could be activated as needed for when there are upticks in graffiti / tagging removals to occur. This roster would be dialed in for the specific needs of proximity and availability by artists who are residents in Pomona, have artwork in our collection and live within a 20-mile radius of Pomona, and are open to receiving training.

Lastly, what Staff has learned is that from first review well over 57% of the tagging that occurred was gang affiliated. Staff are in discussion with our Office of Violence Prevention on working collaboratively to determine what intervention can be supported. We are also looking into promotion of our Public Art Collection to raise awareness and appreciation by residents and visitors for public art.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to work the dA to build out a pilot program for a community public art team that includes supporting conservation efforts, including preservation or restoration of artwork, and the promotion of the public art collection.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Draft Resolution (FY26-27 Art Conservation)