



Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM

City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room

1737 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

City Clerk's Office: (803)545-3045 or email cityclerk@columbiasc.gov

The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, At-Large, Chair

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell Jr., District II • The Honorable Tina N. Herbert, District I

Call to Order

Committee Discussion

1. Vista Guild Senate Street Public Art Project — Ms. Abby Anderson, Executive Director / Congaree Vista Guild

Adjournment



Meeting Date: August 18, 2026

Department: City Clerk's Office

From: Erika Hammond, City Clerk

Vista Guild Senate Street Public Art Project — Ms. Abby Anderson, Executive Director / Congaree Vista Guild

Background Summary:

Attachments:

1. Vista Public Art Placement Application- Senate Street
2. Vista Public Art Placement Plan for Zone 02 Site 01 Senate Street
3. One Columbia Endorsement for Senate Street Median Sculpture



PUBLIC ART PLACEMENT APPLICATION

Please see submission checklist for materials necessary for application.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.

Application form and materials are **DUE AT 4:00 p.m.** thirty (30) days prior to installation.

Is the designation: ☒ Public Art

☐ Statue

☐ Monument / Memorial

☐ Individual Commemoration

☐ Organization Commemoration

☐ Event Commemoration

Checklist:

☒ Application

☒ Council Members (District and one At-Large Sponsor)

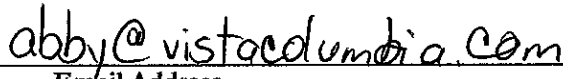
☐ 3 Letter(s) of Support

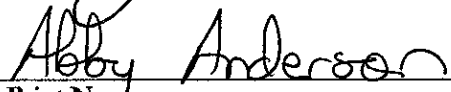
☒ One letter expressing Community support

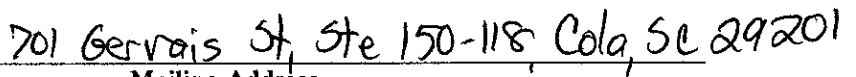
☒ One letter expressing Neighborhood/Neighborhood Association or Merchant Association support

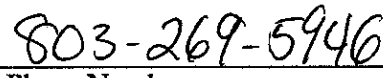
☐ One letter expressing Councilmembers' support

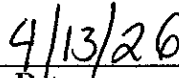

Applicant Signature*


Email Address


Print Name

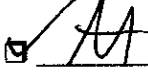

Mailing Address


Phone Number


Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

☒  Artist Information, Description and photos of artwork.

☒  Any changes to initial request must be made in writing no more than 30 days prior to art placement.

☒  Artwork and resolution must be finalized at least 30 days prior to placement.

☒  Applicant must provide letter(s) of support as outlined in the above checklist.



PUBLIC ART PLACEMENT APPLICATION

1. Name of individual, organization, or event to be commemorated:

2. Title of Artwork:

Sculpture on Senate Street Medion

3. Attach a sheet describing the significant contribution (s) this individual, organization, or event has made in the community (no more than one-page)

4. Location, date, and time of unveiling ceremony (if approved):

The placement of public art within the City's right-of-way shall adhere to the City of Columbia encroachment ordinance process.

900 block of ~~East~~ Senate Street - April 2027

5. District Council Member Sponsor:

Ed McDowell

At-Large Council Member Sponsor:

Tyler Bailey

FOR STAFF USE:

Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee: ☐ Endorsed ☐ Rejected

One Columbia Review: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee: ☐ Endorsed ☐ Rejected

Public Works: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Parks and Recreation: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Support Services: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

Public Safety: ☐ Approved ☐ Rejected

The Vista Guild would like to work with One Columbia for Arts and Culture on a new public art piece. This piece will be in the median on the 900 block of Senate Street. The Vista Guild would like to commission an artist to create a sculpture. The Vista Guild is hopeful that the addition of another sculpture in this median, we can work with the City of Columbia on creating a sculpture garden in this space.

Senate Street has grown into a beautiful space with the addition of the Hilton and the USC Alumni Center. With the upcoming additions of the residential housing at the corner of Park (Local Columbia), the renovation of the Hilton and the possible convention center hotel in the works, we want to bring a spotlight to this beautiful block. The opening of The Lantern hotel in January of 2026 helped draw more people to this corridor. We believe continuing to bring attention to this median and the current art that is there will help in making Senate Street a showcase for the Vista. The Vista takes pride in being an Official South Carolina Cultural District. We hope that by continuing to add public art like this, we will continue to lead the city in the arts for years to come.

Subject: VNA Letter of Support

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 at 6:47:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Carolyn Leedecker

To: Abby Anderson

Dear City of Columbia and

Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee:

The Vista Neighborhood Association (VNA) fully supports The Vista Guild's proposed public art project to add a sculpture into the median on the 900 block of Park Street. The sculpture will contribute to and enhance the art scene of the Vista.

Art is important to the culture and life of our city and the Guild plays an integral role in the artistic and economic development and viability of the Vista and thus has our total support and endorsement for this project.

Sincerely,

Carolyn LeeDecker,
VNA president

Sent from my iPhone

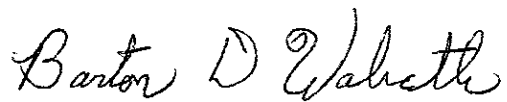
April 27, 2026

To whom it may concern:

As a Vista resident and Vice President of the Vista Neighborhood Association, I am writing to wholeheartedly support Vista Guild's application to add a sculpture into the median on the 900 block of Park Street in the Senate Street median. The continued development of this Art Park in a highly trafficked area of the Vista only strengthens the Vista's designation by the State of South Carolina as an Arts and Entertainment District and reflects the neighborhood's vibrant character and supports our objective to be a walkable, arts-focused community

Please let me know if you need anything further

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barton D Walrath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'W'.

Barton D. Walrath
803 960 1411



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

July 20, 2026

To Arts, Historic Preservation Committee:

We are writing to express our full support for the Vista Guild's Public Art Placement Application proposing the installation of a new sculpture within the median on the 900 block of Senate Street.

The Vista Guild has demonstrated consistent leadership in strengthening Columbia's identity as a vibrant cultural destination. Their proposal to commission a sculpture for this corridor aligns with the City's commitment to expanding public art, enhancing walkability, and elevating the aesthetic character of our shared public spaces. Senate Street has undergone significant growth in recent years, with the addition of the Hilton, the USC Alumni Center, new residential development, and the opening of The Lantern hotel. Continued investment in public art will help ensure that this corridor remains a welcoming, engaging, and visually compelling gateway into the Vista.

The Guild's vision to build upon the existing artwork in the median and work collaboratively with One Columbia for Arts and Culture to establish a sculpture garden is forward-thinking and well-aligned with the Vista's designation as an Official South Carolina Cultural District. Public art in this location will not only beautify the area but also reinforce the Vista's role as a hub for arts, entertainment, and community engagement.

For these reasons, we respectfully endorse the Vista Guild's request and encourage approval of this public art placement.

Sincerely,


Edward H. McDowell, Jr.
District II


Tyler D. Bailey
At-Large

Senate Street Median

Description

The median on Senate Street between Park and Lincoln Street plays host to several existing sculptural installations. However, plenty of room remains for additional installations in this high-traffic area of the Vista.

Parameters

The grassed area of the median is approximately 40' wide with trees planted along each edge. Pedestrian access is easily gained via crosswalks at each end of the block. Moreover, the brick paver edging provides a convenient pedestrian path along each edge. If pedestrian safety is a concern, organic pathways of a variety of materials may be introduced in the interior of the median. This would remove pedestrians farther away from automobile traffic while protecting the lawn.

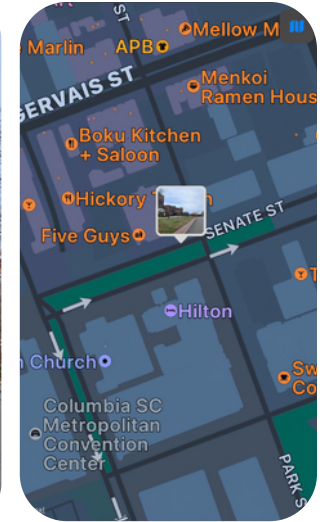
Installations

Sculptures in a variety of sizes are perfectly suited for the Senate Street Median. A pertinent case study exists in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana where the White River State Park converted the old Washington Street Bridge into a mixed-use path on both edges, with a grassed median that is populated with dozens of sculptural installations. Additional considerations include:

- » General Sculpture
- » Photo Opp Sculpture
- » Interactive Installations
- » Musical Instruments
- » Etc.



Site Photo



Map Location



Aerial Photo: Old Washington Street Bridge



Regularly Spaced Sculpture



White River State Park

Installation Considerations



Interactive Sculpture

Congaree Vista Guild: Public Art Placement Plan



Arts, Historic Preservation, and Philanthropy Committee
City of Columbia
1737 Main St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Congaree Vista Guild's Senate Street Median Sculpture Project

Dear Councilman Bailey ,

I am writing on behalf of One Columbia for Arts and Culture to express our enthusiastic support for the Congaree Vista Guild's proposed Senate Street Median Public Art Sculpture Project. The proposed sculpture, located in the median in the 900 block of Senate Street, offers an exciting opportunity to enhance a highly visible gateway within the Congaree Vista through a colorful, site-specific work of art. We believe public art plays an important role in creating vibrant, welcoming, and memorable communities while strengthening Columbia's cultural identity and supporting artists.

As part of our review of the project, I have spoken with the City of Columbia's Public Works Department regarding the suitability of the proposed site for a public art installation. We are also including a site plan with this letter to provide additional information about the proposed location and placement of the sculpture. The project will complement continued investment in the Congaree Vista and surrounding downtown Columbia while enhancing the experience of residents and visitors.

One Columbia fully supports the Congaree Vista Guild's Senate Street Median Public Art Sculpture Project and is pleased to endorse its development. We believe this project represents a valuable investment in Columbia's public spaces and cultural landscape, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it can have on the community.

Sincerely,

Pamela Zeljak
Public Art Administrator
One Columbia for Arts and Culture

One Columbia for Arts and Culture
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803-254-5008
www.onecolumbiasc.com