

Public Art Deaccessioning Proposal

April 6, 2026



Commerce
CITY

Public Art Master Plan - Deaccessioning Reasons

(Public Art Master Plan approved in 2013)

As outlined in the Master Plan, a request to review the deaccessioning of artwork commissioned will be considered for one or more of the following reasons:

- The site is being eliminated, and the artwork is no longer suitable
- **Security of the artwork can no longer be ensured***
- The artwork endangers public safety
- **The aesthetic integrity of the artwork cannot be maintained or cannot be maintained for a reasonable cost***

**The reasons for this particular deaccession request*

Public Art Master Plan - Deaccessioning Process

- Commerce City Cultural Council shall initiate a review process for deaccessioning artwork.
- The art selection committee that approves the acquisition of the artwork will reconvene, if feasible, to review the request for deaccessioning.
- The committee's recommendation will be referred to City Council for review and action.



Mural History

- Installed in September 2022 by artist Ratha Sok for \$66,000.
- Part of a Healthy Places grant through Colorado Health Foundation in an effort to beautify the area around the high school.
- It did not follow the acquisition process outlined in the Public Art Master Plan.



Mural Maintenance

- Since the mural's installation in September 2022, it has had 13 occurrences of graffiti requiring repair to the mural, totaling \$17,350 in maintenance.
- The artists have attempted to mediate tagging by enhancing the mural with additional graphics, and City Parks staff have pursued greater surveillance in the area.
- The mural has reached a point where we cannot ensure the security of the artwork, and the aesthetic integrity of the artwork cannot be maintained or cannot be maintained at a reasonable cost. This initiates a review process for deaccessioning as stated in the Public Art Master Plan.

Mural Deaccessioning

- Cultural Council initiated the review of this artwork for deaccessioning in January 2026.
- Original art selection committee members, City staff, and Cultural Council public art subcommittee members met to review this request on January 28, 2026. The committee reached a formal recommendation to the Cultural Council to pursue deaccessioning.
- Cultural Council unanimously supported the deaccessioning of this mural at their meeting on February 17, 2026.
- On March 13, 2026, we received the artist's written formal "recommendation to remove the current mural at the underpass location." (Ratha Sok)

Mural Next Steps

- Cultural Council, City staff, and artist Ratha Sok recommend for City Council to approve the deaccessioning of this mural.
- City staff would then paint over the mural to leave the area blank the next time tagging occurs.



Questions?



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