

public **art** advisory board

Town of Clayton, North Carolina

What is Public Art?

Public art helps define an entire community's identity. It can reveal the unique character of a neighborhood. It is a unifying force. In simple terms, public art is any work of art or design that is created by an artist specifically to be sited in a public space. It can tower several stories high or call attention to the ground under your feet. It can be cast, carved, built, assembled or painted. Whatever its form, public art attracts attention. By its presence alone public art can heighten our awareness, question our assumptions, transform a landscape, or express community values. For these reasons it can have the power to transform a city's image.

Why Public Art?

The impact of public art on a community is priceless and once experienced it only appreciates. Public art has the power to energize our public spaces, arouse our thinking, and transform the places where we live, work and play. Public art can make strangers talk, children ask questions and calm a hurried life. It enhances the quality of life by encouraging a heightened sense of place and by introducing people to works of art that can touch them and generations to come.

The Benefits of Public Art

Beyond its enriching personal benefits, public art is a true symbol of a city's maturity. It increases the community's assets and expresses a community's sense of identity and values. It helps green spaces thrive, enhances roadsides, pedestrian corridors, and community gateways. It demonstrates civic and corporate pride in citizenship and affirms an educational environment. A city with public art is a city that thinks and feels.

Public Art Funding

Funding public art is a wide-open endeavor. It can be funded by state, local or federal governments. It also offers funding opportunities for percent-for-art programs, public agencies, the general public, individual, churches, educational institutions, hospitals, corporations, and private foundations. Public art is a community-wide mission with no boundaries for participation and sponsorship.