



# ANNUAL WORK PLAN

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**RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION**

2025

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## INTRODUCTION

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission (CORAC), established in 1977, proudly holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the City Council, the Arts Commission is dedicated to the ongoing goal of connecting people to the arts and building a vital and ever-expanding creative community for Capital City residents and visitors.

## MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

### Mission

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The Raleigh Arts Commission is the official municipal advisory body on the arts, broadly defined, which will promote, coordinate, and strengthen public programs to further the cultural development of the City.

### Purpose

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- A. To advise the City Council on ways in which City government might best serve the public with regard to matters involving the arts.
- B. To encourage and aid in the appreciation and awareness of, and participation in, the arts among all citizens of Raleigh.
- C. To encourage cooperation and coordination among individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Raleigh.
- D. To promote and expand the cultural resources of Raleigh, thereby facilitating employment for artists and the development of self-sustaining arts programs.
- E. To formulate, in cooperation with other City agencies, a long-range plan for the development of a thriving cultural climate in Raleigh.



## ISSUES AND GOALS FOR 2025

The Arts Commission proposes the following projects, programs, and activities. All goal areas align with COR Strategic Plan Arts and Cultural Resources objectives and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Departmental goals. Specific alignment with Raleigh Arts Plan is noted below.

### **Goal 1: LEADERSHIP**

***Advocate for the arts by increasing investments in the arts, implementing Raleigh Arts and Public Art plans, and representing artists in City initiatives.***

FY25 Strategies Include

- A. Continue implementing the Raleigh Arts Plan and Public Art Strategic Plan with the community and the Public Art and Design Board. (RAP Goals 1.5, 4.2, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, City Strategic Plan ACR Goal 1.3)
- B. Participate in transformative planning processes, including Wake County's Cultural Plan, the 2030 Plan and Parks Plan updates, and the Arts, Culture & Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan. (RAP Goals 1, 6)
- C. Educate the community about the value of arts and cultural resources to strengthen the City's social cohesion, community health, belonging, identity, creativity, and well-being. (RAP Goals 4.1, 8.1, 8.2)
- D. Cultivate partnerships to encourage and obtain investment in the arts. (RAP Goals 2, 4.9, 7.2, 8.3, 5.1, 6.3, 7.1)
- E. Show support for the local creative community by attending arts and cultural events. (RAP Goals 1, 4, 4.6, 4.10)

### **Goal 2: BELONGING**

***Use strategic initiatives, training, and collaboration to expand access to the arts and advance equity, access and inclusion in Raleigh.***

FY25 Strategies Include

- A. Advocate for policy changes and programs that increase opportunities for all artists, arts organizations, and communities and work to ensure participants reflect the demographics of Raleigh and feel a sense of belonging. (RAP Goals 1, 3, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6)
- B. Support the City of Raleigh's commitment to establishing and advancing an equitable community for all by fostering productive conversations about race, continually educating ourselves, and being open to what our diverse community needs to belong. (RAP Goals 1, 3, 5)
- C. Invest in programs to significantly improve the opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in arts and cultural programming successfully, including the award-winning Arts Learning Community for Universal Access and the ARPA-funded Disability Arts Initiative. (RAP Goals 3.4, 3.5, 3.6)
- D. Continue to increase the diversity of the City's Municipal Art Collection by intentionally acquiring works that represent a wide range of artists from diverse backgrounds and feature a variety of media, ensuring an inclusive and multifaceted collection.

### **GOAL 3: ARTS ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY**

***Improve the long-term sustainability of Raleigh's arts, cultural organizations, creative industries, and artists.***

FY25 Strategies Include

- A. Empower artists and arts and cultural organizations in their work towards realizing the Raleigh Arts Plan's Creative Live Vision and community-building goals.
- B. Implement ARPA programs approved by the City Council to bolster the city's nonprofit arts and cultural community.
- C. Attend and promote community engagement events, focusing on uplifting and celebrating local artists and organizations, ensuring their contributions are consistently acknowledged and valued.

### **Goal 4: EXPAND AND ENHANCE**

***Expand access to the arts by leveraging community arts programs, parks, community centers, and nature preserves and enhancing opportunities for public art and creative placemaking in parks, greenways, and lake trails.***

FY25 Strategies Include

- A. Expand access to the arts by leveraging community arts programs, parks, community centers, and nature preserves and enhancing opportunities for public art and creative placemaking in parks, greenways, and lake trails.
- B. Collaborate with artists and residents to develop recommendations for new arts programs at recreation and community centers, to expand arts programming to new facilities.
- C. Support and promote art projects in parks, greenways, and public spaces.
- D. Advise and advocate for public art policy updates, including recommendations from the public art strategic plan that facilitate projects in a wide variety of parks and public projects.

### **Goal 5: CONNECT**

***Cultivate Creative Community Connections.***

FY25 Strategies Include

- A. Encourage participation in high-impact planning initiatives like the venue study, Wake County Cultural Planning, Bond Projects, and public art projects to help the creative community have a voice in the city's future.
- B. Increase awareness of funding opportunities and programs available for community arts projects, ensuring artists and organizations have access to the resources they need.
- C. Leverage social media to expand the reach of Raleigh Arts marketing.
- D. Recognizing and honoring community history through art.
- E. Explore public-private partnerships.
- F. Advise on new artist-led community programs like artist residencies, fellowships, and laureates, and support efforts to recognize local arts.
- G. Encourage and promote Community-Initiated Projects. (RAP Goal 1)

## Events

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- Block, Pullen and Sertoma Gallery Exhibition Openings Monthly.
- Gifts of Golds Student Exhibition with Wake County Public School System, NCMA April 2025
- Medal of Arts Fall 2026



## Plans and Policy

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### Raleigh Arts Plan

Raleigh Arts led the development of the [Raleigh Arts Creative Life Plan](#), a ten-year master plan to strengthen arts and culture for all of the City's many communities and people. The planning process began in July 2014 and ended with the City Council's adoption of the Plan in February 2016.

### Raleigh Public Art Strategic Plan

The [Raleigh Public Art Strategic Plan](#) guides the work of Raleigh Arts staff, Arts Commission and the Public Art Design Board in planning and implementing public art projects. It provides a framework for partnerships with other City departments, artists, cultural organizations, and developers. It also includes public art project toolkits and a guide for creative community engagement.

### Public Art Policy

Adopted in 2009, the City of Raleigh's [Public Art Policy](#) document outlines processes and ordinances that govern the Public Art Program and guide the development of public art throughout the City.

### Activities and Responsibilities (Ordinance Sec. 9-10005)

- To initiate, sponsor, conduct or support, alone and in cooperation with other public or private agencies, public programs in the arts.
- To serve as a clearinghouse for information about Raleigh artists, art programs, facilities, organizations, and institutions and to actively encourage public awareness, utilization, and support of such resources.
- To advise the City as to the availability and adequacy of facilities and space for the presentation of cultural activities.
- To review and advise on the aesthetic aspects of all works of art or designs or public monuments accepted or commissioned by the City.
- To prepare budgetary recommendations to City Council and Manager for annual expenditures necessary to the continuation and development of public programs furthering the arts.
- To review funding requests and recommend to the City Council the allocation of public monies to cultural organizations.
- To seek out and encourage contributions and grants to the arts from private and public sources and to receive and allocate such monies appropriated, granted and donated for such purposes.



- To initiate proposals for Federal and state assistance to the arts, and to review arts-related proposals and programs originating with other City agencies.
- To keep abreast of what other communities are doing to further the arts and to adapt their accomplishments to the needs of Raleigh.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS



### Raleigh Arts Commission

Mary Silver, Chair

Toni Gadsden, Vice Chair

Aurelia Belfield

Jay Campbell

Juan Isler

Eliza Kiser

Clodagh Lyons-Bastian

David Moore

Jessica Todd-Marrone

LeDarius Hicks

Greg Whitt

Carl Wilkins

**Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board Liaison:** Chris Pereira

**Public Art and Design Board Liaison:** Angela Lombardi

### Standing Committees

- Executive Committee
- Art, Education, and Collections
- Raleigh Arts Partners (Arts Grants)
- Community Arts and Engagement
- Public Art and Design Board

The Arts Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday from 5:30p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held in-person and are open to the public. The public may view the Arts Commission meetings online. Public comments are limited to in-person, email or voicemail.

**Staff Liaisons:** Sarah Powers, S.A. Corrin, Kelly McChesney, Stacy Bloom-Rexrode, Belva Parker