ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-069

Approving the Senate Street Median as a location for a future public art project as proposed by the Congaree Vista Guild

WHEREAS, the Congaree Vista Guild is a non-profit community organization that advocates for the preservation and progress of the Congaree Vista Cultural District. This includes beautification and art projects within the Congaree Vista area; and,

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2026, the Congaree Vista Guild submitted a public art installation application for the installation of a sculpture within the Senate Street median between Park Street and Lincoln Street as outlined in the Vista's 2024 Public Art Placement Plan; and,

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2026, the Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee endorsed the Senate Street Median Public Art Project; and, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 15th day of September, 2026, that the Senate Street Median as a location for a future public art project as proposed by the Congaree Vista Guild is hereby APPROVED.

Requested by:

Councilman Tyler D. Bailey

Mayor

Approved by:

City Manager

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Introduced: 09/15/2026
Final Reading: 09/15/2026

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:
- [x] Public Art
- [ ] Statue
- [ ] Monument / Memorial
  - [ ] Individual Commemoration
  - [ ] Organization Commemoration
  - [ ] Event Commemoration

Checklist:
- [x] Application
- [x] Council Members (District and one At-Large Sponsor)
- [ ] 3 Letter(s) of Support
  - [x] One letter expressing Community support
  - [x] One letter expressing Neighborhood/Neighborhood Association or Merchant Association support
  - [ ] One letter expressing Councilmembers' support

Applicant Signature*	abby@vistacolumbia.com Email Address
Abby Anderson Print Name	701 Gervais St, Ste 150-118, Cola, SC 29201 Mailing Address
803-269-5946 Phone Number	4/13/26 Date

Check and initial acknowledging application requirements.

- [x] AA **Artist Information, Description and photos of artwork.**
- [x] AA **Any changes to initial request must be made in writing no more than 30 days prior to art placement.**
- [x] AA **Artwork and resolution must be finalized at least 30 days prior to placement.**
- [x] AA **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 Median

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 [redacted] 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

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 highly-trafficked 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:

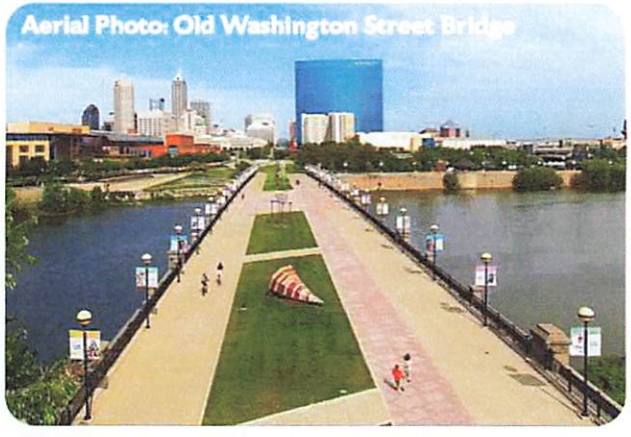
- General Sculpture
- Photo Opp Sculpture
- Interactive Installations
- Musical Instruments
- Etc.



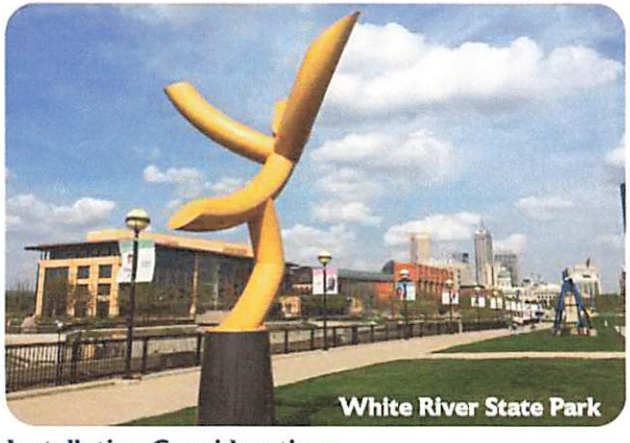
Site Photo



Map Location







Installation Considerations



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,

Barton D Walrath

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

EDWARD H. MCDOWELL, JR. & TYLER D. BAILEY
1737 MAIN STREET · P.O. BOX 147 · COLUMBIA, SC 29217 · PHONE: (803)545-3061

ONE COLUMBIA
ARTS AND CULTURE

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