CIVIC ART FACILITIES

The FY2005-2009 CIP includes the City of Houston's Civic Art Program. The program was established in December 1999, when City Council adopted an ordinance that mandates the inclusion of civic art in selected capital improvement projects. Each year, the civic art component of the CIP will include the design, acquisition and/or construction of new civic art projects, as well as the restoration of works of art that are part of the City's collection.

The primary objective of the program is to enhance the built environment through the inclusion of artist designed features in new municipal facilities and infrastructure projects. The addition of permanent aesthetic enhancements will make the facilities more distinct and neighborhood friendly, contributing to a sense of community pride. The Civic Art Program supports the City's commitment to neighborhood enhancement and improving the overall quality of life. As projects are completed they will add to Houston's image as a vibrant and culturally rich metropolis, both nationally and internationally.

ORDINANCE SUMMARY

In FY2001, 1.75% of design and construction appropriations of selected CIP projects were appropriated for civic art. In adopting the ordinance, Council provided for a gradual phasing in, by emphasizing projects not yet in design. FY2002 was the first year of full implementation of the program.

Not all CIP projects are eligible under the ordinance. In general, the civic art allocation will not be applied against the following types of projects or expenses: paving projects, street resurfacing projects, runways & ramps, parking lots, signal and traffic control projects, underground projects (e.g. water lines, sanitary sewers and storm sewers), land acquisition, equipment purchases, and projects with budgets under $ 500,000.

While every eligible CIP project will include a civic art allocation, not every eligible CIP project will actually have an on-site civic art component. For example, a department may elect to pool civic art funds from several small projects together to enhance a facility with significant public access, or to use funds to restore an existing work of art. However, amounts appropriated for the Civic Art Program for distinct portions of the CIP will be kept separate and will be spent only for civic art projects associated with the original purpose of the funding.

The civic art allocation may be used to cover new art project costs, such as design and the acquisition and installation and conservation project costs for works of art in the City collection.

There is also a conservation component to this year's civic art program. The Municipal Art Conservation Office has identified a number of works of art in the City's collection that are in urgent need of restoration