



Sunnyvale

Board and Commission Study Issue Form

The Study Issues process is designed to assist City Council with setting priorities for the coming calendar year. Board and commission members have two roles in this process:

1. To advise Council regarding the identification of policy issues to study, within their relevant area of authority;
2. To advise Council on those issues Council has decided to study.

The study issues process should focus on considering a new or revised ordinance, new or expanded service delivery program, changes to existing Council Policy, or amendments to the General Plan. The Study Issues Form is designed to focus board and commissioner members' ideas on potential policy study issues, and provide the opportunity for staff feedback and guidance in a transparent process. *Board members or commissioners may only fill out a form for study issue ideas within their purview.*

Date Submitted to Staff Liaison:

Board/ Commission:

Submitted by: Winnie Lam

Study Issue Working Title:

Recycled content requirement for new installations of Public Art in Private Development.

1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated this study?

ALIGNING PUBLIC ART WITH SUNNYVALE'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT.

City of Sunnyvale is committed to sustainability. Decarbonizing buildings is one of the six core strategies in Sunnyvale's Climate Action Playbook. Sunnyvale's new City Hall is the first LEED Platinum certified and Net Zero Energy city hall in the country. Public art in Sunnyvale should be consistent with our commitment to sustainability.

HOW THIS ISSUE CAME UP

During the Arts Commission meeting on Feb 21, 2024, Intuitive Surgical presented the proposed artwork "Continuum". This stainless steel sculpture will be 16' high x 22' wide x 8' deep. Art Commissioners asked whether the sculpture shall be made from recycled stainless steel. The artist clarified that it would not be.

Recycled stainless steel has a lower carbon footprint than new stainless steel, Using recycled stainless steel would yield a sizeable reduction in the sculpture's carbon footprint given its large size. Reference: www.worldstainless.org/files/issf/non-image-files/PDF/worldstainless_CO2_Emissions_Report.pdf

PROPOSAL

The proposal is to require that new installations of Private Art in Public Development contain a minimum percentage of recycled content. We can define the percentage and definition of recycled content as a subsequent step, after reviewing Staff's comments. Rather than creating a new definition for "recycled", we can reference the definition of Materials and Resources credits in the LEED Design and Construction rating system.

2. Staff Summary of Scope and/or Comments: [Staff Use Only]

See next page.

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Staff is supportive of utilizing recycled and sustainable materials in creating public art. The most recent Call for Artists for municipal projects urged artists to support the City's commitment to sustainability while creating their designs and staff regularly urges developers to incorporate up- and re-cycled materials as part of their public art projects.

However, staff is also sensitive to adding more requirements that could be perceived as a deterrent or barrier to building in Sunnyvale. The current Municipal Code and California Green Building Code do not include a requirement for developers to use recycled construction materials. It is also unclear whether recycled materials, in particular metal, are more cost efficient and more durable than new materials.

Adopting a new requirement would necessitate an update to SMC19.52 Art in Private Development.