



EDUCATION • **ARTS** • RECREATION •  
LIBRARY SERVICES • HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
• CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### **Vision Statement**

**Our educational, cultural and recreational opportunities strengthen the social fabric of the community.** Our top-rated schools offer excellent education and reinforce the value of the community as a desirable place to raise a family. Our outstanding library, parks, and community amenities provide a wide range of programs and special events. Public art and historic resources enrich our cultural identity.



### **Policy Question to Consider**

1. Lake Oswego's arts and culture opportunities are currently concentrated in the downtown area, including the Lakewood Center for the Arts, the Gallery Without Walls, and the City's visual art collection at City Hall, the Library and ACC. The Arts Council has also drawn up a new Public Art Master Plan that envisions public art to be integrated into the neighborhoods and city gateways.
  - Looking at the 2035 Vision Map, where and how should arts and cultural opportunities be focused or integrated into the community over the next 25 years?
2. The City's primary involvement in arts and culture today is through programming public concerts, movies and special events, and supporting the Arts Council of Lake Oswego and public art program.
  - Over the next 25 years, how should the City support a thriving arts and culture scene in Lake Oswego?

### **People, Places and Prosperity**

Arts resources support a sustainable Lake Oswego in the following ways:

- **People:** The arts support creative expression for residents of all ages and create connection among community members.
- **Places:** The arts help create a strong and unique sense of place(s) and space(s).
- **Prosperity:** The arts serve as a local and regional economic attractor. Installations, festivals, performances, classes, markets, galleries, and studios all contribute to a unique sense of place and a diverse and resilient economic base. Arts activities also attract visitors to Lake Oswego, to contribute to the local economy.

## **Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals**

There is not a current arts and culture goal included in the existing comprehensive plan. Lake Oswego has significant arts and culture resources that will be reflected in the Plan update to support the 2035 vision. New goals and policies will need to be developed to support the arts.

## **Background**

Lake Oswego has many arts & culture resources including:

- The downtown Gallery Without Walls, Lake Oswego's signature public art program, began in 2002 and today includes 30 rotating sculptures and 30 sculptures in the permanent collection. In 2010, approximately 620 people participated in tours of the downtown art sculptures.
- The City has over 200 pieces of public in its permanent collection.
- In 2011 the Arts Council launched a Neighborhood Public Art Program, and partnerships are being formed to develop gateways in different parts of the community. The first project under development is a Totem II sculpture in front of the Jean Road Fire Station. Other areas for art identified in the Public Art Master Plan in Lake Oswego include:
  - Lake Grove Village Center
  - Meadows Road
  - Foothills Redevelopment Area
  - Gateways to Lake Oswego
- The Lakewood Theater Company began in 1952 and now produces over 10 shows per year with an annual audience of over 40,000. It is the oldest continually operating nonprofit theater company in the Portland area.
- The Lakewood Center for the Arts also houses a children's theater, arts pre-school, dance studios and more. Each year 100,000 people visit the Center to participate in arts activities.
- The Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts attracts 25,000 visitors each June and will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2012. The Festival is produced by the Lakewood Center with community partners and includes visual arts, a juried exhibit, and performance stage.
- The City's Parks and Recreation Department also offers art, music, drama and dance classes for youth and adults, and puts on cultural activities including summer movies in the parks, concerts, performances, dances and more.
- Lake Oswego's Parks and Recreation Department produces concerts in the parks throughout the summer that draw thousands of community members.

## **What We've Heard**

According to the survey conducted in 2010 to help develop Lake Oswego's 2035 Vision, respondents stated that concerts (75%), theater (54%), and public art (50%) were the three arts and culture activities that people would most like to enjoy or see available in Lake Oswego in 25 years.

At the Oct 12, 2010 workshop we heard that people would enjoy or continue to enjoy public art walking tours; downtown public art; interactive art and sculptures; and exploring opportunities for public/private partnerships to help fund public art.

## **Primary Sources**

- *What makes Lakewood Center for the Arts run?* Lakewood Center for the Arts.
- *Parks Plan 2025 Existing Conditions Summary Report.* 2011.
- *Public Art Master Plan.* Arts Council of Lake Oswego. 2010.
- Arts Council of Lake Oswego overview document.