

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Staff Discussion Items

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. 2026-037 Art Sandy Springs Updates

Cheri Morris, Art Sandy Springs, presented the Art Sandy Springs Updates.

Art Sandy Springs (ArtSS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit formed in 2007 and managed by a volunteer Board of Directors and an Executive Director. ArtSS enriches the quality of life for Sandy Springs residents and visitors through the acquisition and placement of public art in the city's public spaces, and through temporary art exhibitions, art education, and events.

ArtSS serves the City of Sandy Springs with several important initiatives in keeping with the city leaders' plan to establish Sandy Springs as a "City of the Arts." This includes:

- Providing Gifts for the City. ArtSS donates art to the City and coordinates donations from groups, corporations, and individuals. These pieces are displayed throughout Sandy Springs in local parks and green spaces. Eighteen (18) sculptures and other public gifts have been given to the City to date, valued at \$425,000 of sculpture and \$20,000 worth of two-dimensional pieces in City Hall.
- Hosting an Annual ArtSS Walk Sculpture Competition.
- Facilitating Educational Programming at the Abernathy Arts Center.
- Advising on City Capital Projects, such as the Veterans Park Sculpture.
- Producing Quarterly Exhibits in the City Hall Gallery.
- Identifying Projects and Resources to grow the City Springs Collection.

Currently, ArtSS is working to find a wall feature for the City Hall lobby. This project is estimated to cost \$85,000, which will include hosting a call for entry, jurying submittals with City-ArtSS collaborative committee, selecting finalist for presentation, and fabricating the final piece. It is anticipated this project will be completed in March, 2027.

Councilmember Mary Ford asked how art can be planned with the trail segmentation work.

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said this is being discussed with Staff as we want to participate in the planning. We are interested in the Transportation Plan for example, and we want to ensure there is land, and more to place the art.

Councilmember Ford asked will retrofitting be done in some places?

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said yes. We want to do this upfront, and there is no cost other than Staff time. There are many opportunities for art. For example, if there is a wall, we can consider a mural or commission an artist to do benches.

Councilmember Ford said it is appreciated that City funds are used for art in the public parts of this building including the third floor, and private areas have donated items.

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said a great art collection should be curated to avoid different styles, sizes, and more, though some areas do not have to be.

Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky asked has there been discussion about using public art at the water tower on Mount Vernon?

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said we have communicated with the developer about this. **Eden Freeman, City Manager**, and **Mayor Rusty Paul** may be able to provide current information.

City Manager Freeman said it is owned by the City of Atlanta, and they have not consented to painting there. This is an ongoing conversation.

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said it may help if we ask the developer to make a financial contribution.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked how many students will be supported by the scholarships mentioned? How will this be promoted?

Dina Chumney, Art Sandy Springs Executive Director, said 56, and it will be promoted on the website.

Councilmember Kelley asked will the call for entry also be available on the website?

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said a formal call for entries will be done, and it is generally not put out to the public. We vet that artists have worked with institutions, colleges, and cities.

Councilmember Kelley asked has the vetting already been done?

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said yes.

Councilmember Kelley said occasionally artists approach me looking for opportunities to do a mural. Does the reverse sometimes happen with ArtSS where entities in search for an artist to do something approach you?

Art Sandy Springs Representative Morris said it is rare that we are approached by corporations. Large corporations with money are more likely to approach in Atlanta compared to Sandy Springs. We are approached by artists a lot. As we work with the City's Staff on the upcoming plans, we will see opportunities for a mural or mosaic art for instance.

Mayor Paul said the City appreciates everything Art Sandy Springs does for the art center and community. We are grateful because it makes a difference in the Sandy Springs community.

II. City Council Discussion Items

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Approved: March 3, 2026

Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Raquel D. González, City Clerk