



News Release

Ketchum Leads Nation in City Funding for Public Art Percentage of Public Capital Improvement Budget for Arts Goes to 5%

KETCHUM, Idaho — The city of Ketchum will begin devoting 5 percent of public capital improvement budgets to the arts. This is believed to be the highest percentage of any city in the nation.

Seven cities in Idaho require a percentage of capital improvement budgets to be devoted to the arts, said Ketchum Arts Commission member Claudia McCain. The figure ranges from 1 percent in Moscow to 1.25 percent in Hailey to 1.4 percent in Boise. Other West Coast cities have percentages ranging from 0.5 percent in Denver to 1.33 percent in Portland, she said, adding that she has been unable to find another city in the country with as high a percentage as Ketchum.

The city previously devoted 1.33 percent to art. The higher figure will make possible larger projects such as outfitting a park with artist-designed playground equipment, adding artistic elements to bicycle paths and lanes or bus stops, paying artists for their contributions to city projects, creating gateway arts elements for the city and funding arts projects that can draw a national audience, McCain told the City Council.

"This is very significant," she added. "The 5 percent exemplifies the city's recognition that the projects created by the arts commission offer an important contribution to the vitality of the city both experientially and economically. It is a documented fact that the cultural tourist stays longer and spends more."

The requirement applies only to the first \$1 million of city-funded projects other than utilities. It does not affect private development. The Percent for Art Program was established in 2011.

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About the Ketchum Arts Commission

The Ketchum Arts Commission's mission is to integrate arts and culture into the community's life. Volunteer members are dedicated to contributing to Ketchum's vibrancy as a town dedicated to arts for all people. The KAC is a division of the Ketchum Parks & Recreation Department, and is also supported by the Ketchum Community Development Corporation (KCDC). For more information, visit the Ketchum Arts Commission page at

www.ketchumidaho.org or call the Parks & Recreation Department office at 208-726-7820.

About the City of Ketchum

The City of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The City of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the City of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

Contact:

Lisa Enourato, Assistant to City Administrator & Communications Coordinator
208.726.7803, lenourato@ketchumidaho.org

Jo Murray, Communications Consultant
208.726.5869