



Public Art Project Manager

Job Description

Oversee the **strategic planning, program management, and administration** of permanently sited, temporary and community engagement artwork projects of various scales. Work with diverse communities to promote the values of arts and culture, **work directly with artists and engage in the creative process and project management.**

Salary

Entry — \$55,000
Middle — \$73,000
Top — \$101,000

Core Tasks

- Establish, create and develop: project goals, scope of artist's work and timelines, project budget, community participation plan, and reporting plans.
- Coordinate artist selection processes, conducting applicant outreach and facilitating artist selection panels.
- Coordinate the design and execution of the artist's work with design team members, city department staff and city contractors to ensure completion and compliance with necessary permits and reviews as well as project goals, and applicable codes.

Workplace / Environment

- Work hours**
Approx. 40 hours/week
(At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- Environment**
Mainly office environment, with occasional **travel to project sites.**
- Travel**
To meet with artists, developers, and engineers at **art installation locations within company jurisdiction.**

Education / Prerequisites

Education Level

Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, Public Administration or a closely related field.

Licensing

Current Washington State driver's license.

Pre-Job Preparation

Two years in project management, including experience with arts organizations and public speaking.

Experience

Soft Skills

- Effective Communication
- Creativity
- Detail-Oriented

Technical Skills

- Project Management
- Proficient in AutoCAD, 3D modelling
- Experience with Microsoft Suite

Career Path: Lucile Chich



About Me

Public Art Project Manager at Sound Transit

Master's in American Literature from Université Lumière Lyon 2, **Master of Philosophy in Comparative Literature** from Trinity College Dublin, **Certificate in Museum Studies** from University of Washington.

Educational Path

"In high school, I **studied art history and did a lot of art**. I grew up in France, and my plan when I was in my final year of high school was to graduate and go to the fine arts school in my city. It was very competitive and I didn't get in, which I came to realize much later was **a blessing in disguise**. I decided to enroll in public university, which in France is free, so it's low-stakes, and study English. Lo and behold, I stayed in that program until I got a master's degree. I spent a year in England as part of my year abroad and before I left France, my plan was to do another bachelor degree for public administration. My new plan was to work in public administration and my dream was to be a museum curator."

A Pivotal Moment

"I ended up in Ireland for three years, I obtained another master's degree. I was working part time in a translation agency there, and I was living with my ex-husband at the time who **got transferred to Seattle**. I found myself in a new country again, in the US, I thought the best way to find a job is to start with education. So I went to UW, earned my certificate in museum studies. I started working as an intern in various places, among which was the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. Eventually, I ended up becoming a curator at Bellevue Arts Museum, curating my own shows. Part of my trajectory is that I became a single mother, and the nonprofit lifestyle was no longer really an option for me. So I looked for a job, and I **found this position open at Sound Transit**, with the public art team."

Coming Full Circle

"It just felt like I was going **back to where I really wanted to be**, which was serving the public at large and working with artists to really **contribute to the cultural landscape of my region**. That's the line that runs through all I've done, is my passion for the arts. It goes back to having an education and a childhood where I was brought up among a pretty varied cultural circle, going to museums a lot. I've always kind of known I would work in that field. When I was 25 I was still looking for a career, it just felt very blurry. But in the end, what's really interesting is, **it all makes sense**. It's been almost five years now since I made the move to the public art world and I've been working on the Sound Transit art team since."

About My Job

"Hands down, my favorite part of my job is working with artists."

Pros

- "I love to interact with highly creative people and to be able to be part of the creative process, even as a project manager. I have to take a little bit of a back seat sometimes, but this is definitely my favorite part of my job, when I get to be pulled into that creative process and get to **work alongside really, really great creative minds.**"

Cons

- "Artists aren't always the easiest to work with but that's definitely what brought me into this job."

Fieldwork

- "During installation time, we're spending **a lot of time in the field wearing full PPE** and interacting with construction managers and construction workers and art installers."
- "I would say the proportion of time spent in the field varies per project, **but it's usually minimal.** As public art project managers, we sometimes spend a little bit more time in the field than architects. It really varies on the type of personality of the project manager and the type of project. I would say it's probably like less than 10% still of my job is spent on infield."

Office Work

- "I can be doing anything from organizing a selection panel, doing site visits to construction sites, reviewing architectural drawings."
- "Depending on where we are in the **lifetime of a project, things can look very different.** A lot of my work is spent in meetings. We work very closely with design teams, and we're in coordination meetings to make sure that things advance and progress smoothly. We have a lot of one-on-ones with artists. It's a lot of time spent behind the computer."

Skills

- "For me, I didn't have any formal training in any of the tools that I'm using day to day. Even now, a lot of **what I do I've learned on the job.**"
- "I think what I really benefited from in my studies is **the development of soft skills**. Technical skills can always be learned. But soft skills, being able to include people, communicate efficiently, collaborate, make individuals feel part of the team, those things you're not really going to get through training. **All those qualities really matter** in building a really great working environment."

Education/Experience

- "I didn't really get any technical skills that I applied in my job from my education, but **I did develop skills that are applicable to any job**. Being able to discipline yourself to write a thesis, reading the literature, learning how to do research, all those things you can learn in any educational path that you choose."
- "I would say **remain curious and give space to your passion**. Observe things and meet people, or do the things that you'd like to do someday. Informational interviews are great."

A Word of Advice

"**Imposter Syndrome is a real thing**, especially for women and minorities. I really think of it as your learning killer, I think talking about it really helps demystify it. In my first year at Sound Transit, our CFO of the time was part of a panel of women talking about how they deal with imposter syndrome. It really helped me to see somebody who's in a position of leadership at a high executive level talk about feeling like she knew less than other people. I think demystifying and understanding that if you're not asking questions, you're not doing it right. There's no other way to learn than to ask questions."

The Future of Public Art

"There's a lot of changes happening to the art field, for the simple reason that **art is a mirror of our society**, I don't think jobs like mine are going to go away anytime soon. There's not really any AI that can replace the work we do, collaborating with artists and bridging the gap between architecture and engineering, all the planning that goes into our job, and thinking about how the voice of artists can be heard through the built environment. I see a lot of artists really getting into the field with more technical skills. I think this is something that is going to be a game changer—digital reproduction of artwork, 3D printing—these kinds of technological advancements mean that **artists will either need to have more technical skills or get more support**. This is something that we were thinking about at the Sound Transit Art Program, how to provide artists with more support. Providing support for the design phase is going to be the next challenge."

About Sustainability Ambassadors

We are here to **RAPIDLY ADVANCE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**. Empowering **YOUTH** to catalyze community sustainability, **TEACHERS** to integrate rigor with relevance for real-world impact, **COMMUNITY** to drive collective impact.

We support a year-round training program for over 60 highly motivated middle and high school youth, a Teacher Fellows Program, City-County CAP internships, and college-level interns, and work with hundreds of educators to design new models of problem-based, place-based learning around **a shared vision of educating for sustainability**.

Your Green Jobs Future

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Find career opportunities near you now! Use [Career Connect - Washington's](#) tool to find programs to build your career skills.

Interested in a future in solar? Take a look at the [Solar Jobs Census](#) to track solar job growth nationwide.

Explore [RVC's opportunities](#) to work with organizations led by communities of color.

Dive into the [Center of Excellence for Clean Energy's](#) robust career tools in the sustainable energy sector.

Grow your professional sustainability skillset with the [Seattle Youth Good Program](#).

See Seattle's [Clean Energy Resources Map](#) to examine what the city is planning for a greener energy future.

Check out the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) to explore the sector's current opportunities. :

Funder Acknowledgement



King County

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Wastewater Treatment Division

