Since 1959 numerous cities and states across the country have enacted programs to fund public art. Using the popular “Percent for Art,” programs as well as a plethora of other administrative and funding mechanisms, local governments have institutionalized mechanisms for funding public art projects alongside public development. Because of the recent economic crisis, and public money becoming scarcer for all programs, some municipalities have suspended, or are considering suspending public art funding programs. Through the use of close-ended surveying of public art consumers, and open ended interviews with public art program administrators, this study seeks to analyze the value of Percent for Art programs for cities. This thesis concludes that Percent for Art programs provide a role beautifying public spaces that is important to the general public, at a relatively low cost.