



STANDARD POLICY

S.P. NO: AG10

PAGE NO. 1 OF 6

DATE: April 12, 2010

SUBJECT:

PUBLIC ART

DEPARTMENT:

Comm. Services & Tom Thomson Art Gallery

DIVISION: Culture, Facilities, Special Events

COUNCIL AUTHORITY OR STAFF APPROVED:

Council Resolution – June 28, 2010

NEW: X

REVISED:

DATE:

1.0 PURPOSE:

Owen Sound has a long history of art in public places and celebration of community through cultural expression. Artists are encouraged to participate in public life through installations that express the community's diversity and vibrancy, and enhance the attractiveness and visual appeal of public spaces.

The City of Owen Sound has created its Public Art Policy to guide the selection and placement of art in municipally-owned public spaces and facilities, and ensure its long-term care and maintenance. The Public Art Policy follows the direction of the City's Strategic Plan (2000), Official Plan (2006), Cultural Master Plan (2007), and Owen Sound Harbour & Downtown Urban Design Master Plan Strategy (2001), and provides for the implementation of policy.

The Purpose of the Public Art Policy is to govern and encourage contributions to public art and outline the guidelines and criteria with respect to their display. In keeping with the vision of Owen Sound as a diverse, vibrant, and inclusive community and the beauty of its natural surroundings, the selection and placement of public art serves to enhance residents' quality of life, demonstrate sound urban planning practices, and increase the potential for economic development.

In expanding the possibilities for how public art may be manifested, the City encourages diversity of public art submissions, including submissions by youth, indigenous and community-based arts groups.

2.0 SCOPE:

2.1 The policy supports the development of partnerships with the general public, the arts community, arts service organizations, and with institutional and private sector partners.

2.2 The Cultural Advisory Committee is responsible for the development and oversight of the Public Art Policy. The Cultural Advisory Committee provides recommendations to City Council for consideration.



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2.3 The Community Services Department is primarily responsible for policy implementation, with support from the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, and consults all other City departments affected by the policy implementation.

2.4 The policy governs programming which results in the permanent acquisition and/or temporary display of public artworks.

3.0 DEFINITIONS:

3.1 **Public Art:** For the purpose of this Policy, Public Art will be original artworks, permanent or temporary, placed or incorporated in publicly accessible indoor or outdoor locations in response to the site and for the benefit of the public.

3.2 Public art media may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sculpture in any material or combination of materials whether in the round, bas-relief, high relief, mobile, kinetic or electronic;
- Murals;
- Fiber works, glass, mosaics;
- Original works of art that are specific to their site;
- Fountains or water features that contribute aesthetically to their surroundings;
- Hard and soft landscaping components where these elements are an integral part of the original work of art, or are the result of collaboration;
- Special engineering or architectural features, such as walkways, windows, walls, floors or ceilings in areas that are publicly accessible; contribute aesthetically to their surroundings; and retain an interpretative aspect as determined by the commissioned artist, designer, or design team.

3.3 For the purposes of this policy, Public Art does not include:

- Previously installed plaques, archival collections, or heritage assets already supported by other budgets, committees and policies;
- Temporary art that does not leave a lasting record of its creation (i.e. light displays, ice sculptures or performance art).



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3.4 **Public Space:** For the purpose of this Policy, Public Space is defined as areas that are owned or controlled by the City of Owen Sound. It includes, but is not limited to parks, open spaces, road allowances, boulevards, streets, courtyards, squares and bridges as well as building exteriors, foyers, concourses and other significant interior public areas of municipal buildings. It may also include installations owned and controlled by the City of Owen Sound on non-municipal property, where the City has entered into an agreement with the property owner for the care and maintenance of the installation.

4.0 ADMINISTRATION:

- 4.1 All requests for the acquisition and selection of Public Art, regardless of the source, whether internal or external, are referred to the Cultural Advisory Committee for a recommendation to be made to City Council.
- 4.2 The Culture Advisory Committee may develop, and modify as needed, a Public Art Reference Document that establishes criteria and standards, and identifies and prioritizes opportunities and sites for Public Art.
- 4.3 This Public Art Policy and Public Art Reference Document will be reviewed at least every 5 years. All Public Art must be formally approved by Council before installation.
- 4.4 Public education strategies include but are not limited to: participation on juries, communication tools such as signage, artist talks, brochures, website information, and public art symposia.
- 4.5 Public art acquired and/or installed prior to the implementation of this policy is subject to periodic review and consideration through the same criteria established herein and in the Public Art Reference Document.
- 4.6 Public art projects administered by other internal or external parties may be referred to the Cultural Advisory Committee for inclusion and consideration within this policy framework prior to approval by City Council. The City has the right to refuse the donation of public art that is not considered appropriate for a specific location, has long term maintenance needs that would create a hardship for the municipality, or any other reason considered appropriate by City Council. The donor will receive a written reply outlining the decision of the City.



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4.7 In making submissions for public art projects, whether permanent, temporal or ephemeral in nature and composition, consideration must be made in regards to the appropriateness of the subject matter. The Cultural Advisory Committee will, at its sole discretion, reject and disqualify any public art submission it deems discriminatory, obscene, profane, offensive, lewd, pornographic, or otherwise inappropriate.

5.0 SELECTION AND ACQUISITION:

5.1 Public Art is reviewed and selected through the mechanism of a "Public Art Jury", operating as a subcommittee of the Cultural Advisory Committee, which meets as required, or through the whole committee.

5.2 The Cultural Advisory Committee ensures a fair public process through balanced participation on the Public Art Jury by community representatives, other project stakeholders, and professional arts community representatives. Jury membership shall include:

- Two members of the Cultural Advisory Committee;
- Two community representatives with a professional background or skills pertaining to the project(s) under consideration;
- An architect or other advisor who can evaluate a proposed artwork with regards to its longevity, risk factors, site aesthetics, long term conservation issues, maintenance, etc.;
- Consultation with various City Departments including but not limited to Engineering Services Division, Planning Division, Parks and Open Spaces Division, Building Division, and Corporate Services Department.

5.3 A variety of acquisition methods are used to better serve the needs of unique projects and situations and the overall mandate of the policy. Open competitions, generated commissions, invitational competitions, direct purchases and donations are all acceptable methods of acquisition. Regardless of the method of acquisition, however, the Public Art Policy in its entirety shall apply, including reference to and review by the Public Art Jury.



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5.4 The City shall endeavour to include the acquisition and installation of Public Art in civic construction projects, wherever practical and deemed to be in the public interest. This includes projects undertaken in partnerships and collaborations with community, institutional and private sector partners.

5.5 Technical Review of Proposals: All commission proposals derived from competitions and proposals for direct purchases are reviewed by an interdepartmental staff team and as needs warrant by outside experts to assess compliance with mechanical structural health and safety and maintenance requirements. Building and other permits may be required.

6.0 MAINTENANCE AND INVENTORY:

6.1 Care and maintenance of Public Art is the responsibility of the City, unless otherwise specified within the terms of a legal agreement.

6.2 Maintenance procedures and schedules are initially developed with the Artist, City staff and the Cultural Advisory Committee, and will follow acknowledged "best practices".

6.3 Routine maintenance is included within existing City budgets. Public Art that generates the need for increased maintenance costs is considered and budgeted.

6.4 Restorations and/or major repairs of Public Art are referred to the Cultural Advisory Committee for review, prioritization and budget determination.

6.5 Priority is given to the Artist to complete any major repairs or restorations.

6.6 The Tom Thomson Art Gallery maintains a Public Art Inventory, to include the Artist's name, description and history of the piece, photo of the artwork and estimated value.



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- 6.7 Permanent or temporary alterations to Public Art, including the removal of an installation deemed too costly to maintain or no longer in the public interest, can only be undertaken with the review of the Cultural Advisory Committee, in consultation with any affected parties, followed by a recommendation to City Council.