

COUNCIL POLICY C046

15 - Recreation & Cultural Services

## Public Art Policy

Effective Date: November 20, 2012  
Last Revised: December 7, 2021

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### 1. Policy Statement

The City of Pitt Meadows recognizes that Public Art brings many benefits to its residents including; strengthening community identity and culture, enhancing the physical appearance and history of a public location and increasing awareness and appreciation of the environment and the arts.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Public Art Policy is to outline the process for establishing and maintaining Public Art in the community. Public art has many benefits for the City which include showcasing and celebrating the unique character, history and nature of our community. Public art also promotes economic development and tourism by attracting citizens, visitors and potential investors and businesses to the local area.

### 3. Scope

The City of Pitt Meadows Public Art Policy will encompass the development of a coherent approach to building a Public Art Collection in the community by providing fair and effective processes for selecting, purchasing, commissioning, deaccessioning, maintaining and documenting public art in Pitt Meadows.

### 4. Policy

The City of Pitt Meadows aims to create a public art program that is thoughtful and intentional for including various types of art in public spaces. It articulates the process by which public art sites are selected, and public art projects are initiated, managed and maintained. In order to achieve this, Council has delegated the necessary authority to City Staff to:



- i. Create a public art program
- ii. Identify areas within the City where public art would be beneficial
- iii. Establish guidelines & procedures for a Public Art Community Project Working Group

### 5.1. Definitions

In this policy;

- (a) **Public Art** means original artworks of permanent or temporary nature, often developed by, or with direct input from an artist, placed in publicly-accessible locations for the benefit of the public. It may also include installations owned and controlled by the City on non-municipal property, where the City has entered into an agreement with the property owner for the care and maintenance of the installation.
- (b) **Public Space** is defined as an area that is owned or controlled by the City. It includes 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.
- (c) **Public Art Collection** is the sum of all Public Art works and installations owned and/or maintained by the City and may also include temporary exhibits. The Public Art Collection will evolve to include projects that vary in type, media and scale.
- (d) **Public Art Community Project Working Group (PACPWG)** is comprised of interested community members, who play a collaborative role in the review of public art submissions. A new working group is established with each project, to ensure there is a broad range of perspectives and that there is expertise in the medium of art and/or subject matter being considered.
- (e) **Public Art Fund** is maintained by the City to hold public and private financial contributions to fund the Public Art Program.
- (f) **Deaccessioning** The process for permanently removing an artwork from the Public Art Collection.

### 5.2. Roles and Responsibilities

- i. **City Council**
  - o Approves the Public Art Policy.

- Approves budget allocations from the City's financial plan to fund Public Art.
- Approves site selection for Public Art.
- ii. ***Public Art Community Project Working Group (PACPWG)***
  - Acts as the selection committee for works under consideration for inclusion in the Public Art Collection.
  - Recommends changes to the Public Art Policy.
  - Makes recommendations to staff for future Public Art installations.
  - Promotes awareness and understanding of Public Art.
- iii. ***Staff Liaison***
  - Establishes procedures for, and oversees the use of the Public Art Fund.
  - Develops, and amends as necessary, the Public Art Program.
  - Recommends Public Art sites, proposals and projects for Council consideration.
  - Coordinates, or oversees Public Art projects through development, installation and maintenance.
  - Approves Calls for Qualifications for permanent Public Art projects.
  - Ensures all municipal bylaws, licensing, legal, technical and engineering considerations are adhered to in Public Art projects.
  - Coordinates an interdepartmental team for promotion and implementation of the Public Art Program.
  - Liaises with all City departments concerning the Public Art Program.
  - Seeks nominations for the PACPWG.
  - Seeks opportunities for Public Art within the six areas outlined in Section 5.4.
  - Oversees the process of private sector monetary or site donations to the Public Art Program and related contractual obligations.
  - Develops and oversees the Public Art Collection's management systems.
  - Promotes awareness and understanding of Public Art.

### 5.3. Prohibitions

- i. Members of the PACPWG may not financially benefit directly or indirectly from their participation in the PACPWG during their tenure.
- ii. Members of the PACPWG are disqualified from making applications to Public Art projects that are currently under consideration by the working group.
- iii. Members of the PACPWG must declare a conflict of interest if they, or a person with whom they share a household, or whom they professionally represent, has a matter before the working group.

### 5.4. Procedures and Guidelines

The City of Pitt Meadows supports and encourages six types of Public Art:

- i. **City-commissioned work;** Commissioned work consists of pieces of artwork commissioned for a specific site or project that has been identified by the City.
- ii. **Community Public Art;** consists of commissions or proposals for projects undertaken or created by individual citizens, community groups or organizations in collaboration with an artist or group of artists.
- iii. **Integrated Public Art;** includes but is not limited to municipal infrastructure, existing civic buildings, parks, streets, plazas and other civic areas. Integrated Public Art will be funded through the project budget for the civic development where the artwork is being incorporated.
- iv. **Temporary Public Art;** Temporary Public Art is an installation lasting for a limited time period, which is not for sale, and which may consist of one or more works of art. Temporary works of Public Art include works created for a specific event or place for a specific occasion and timeframe.
- v. **Private Sector Public Art;** Private property owners, developers and community organizations may wish to include Public Art projects as part of improvements to private property, but accessible and/or viewable by the public.
  - Alternatively, the private sector may wish to fund, or work with the municipality to develop, Public Art projects on municipal land.

- Private sector support of Public Art is to be encouraged and City staff will work with proposals regarding their processes for selection, development and maintenance.
  - Private Sector Public Art is funded by the sponsoring organization and agreements with the City will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
- vi. **Donations of existing artworks;** Solicited or unsolicited donations of existing artwork may be accepted into the Public Art Collection.
- Donations will be reviewed by staff under the guidelines laid out in the Public Art Program.
  - Negotiations for installation and maintenance costs will be the responsibility of City staff.

### 5.5 Deaccessioning

The City may determine that an artwork is to be removed from the Public Art Collection subject to the terms by which it was received by the City, if there is damage beyond reasonable repair, or if it is not sustainable in its context.

### 5.6 Public Art Fund

- Funding for the Public Art Program is provided primarily by the City of Pitt Meadows
- Funding will be established by a capital project and included in the City's 5-Year Financial Plan
- The Public Art Fund can also receive donations and allocations from other sources for the sole use of implementing the Public Art Program.

## 5. Related Policies

Other related policies include:

- (a) Artists in Our Parks, Policy #C093
- (b) Parks Maintenance Policy, Policy # C103
- (c) Vibrant Community Program, Policy #C105