

VISUAL ART COLLECTION POLICIES

Pursuant to IMC 2.63.060, the Visual Arts Collection Policies were unanimously approved at the Arts Commission's official meeting of November 17, 2014.

Overview

The City of Issaquah is committed to supporting high quality public art that adds to the community's vibrancy and identity. When properly integrated, public art enhances the environment, creates a sense of place, expresses a community's values and identity, and can bring people together to find solutions to a community's infrastructure and social challenges.

Specifically, the City of Issaquah's public art program:

- Makes public art and artistic expressions available to the public;
- Uses public art to express the City's history and culture;
- Educates the community about public art;
- Fosters community pride and sense of place;
- Acknowledges public art's contribution to cultural tourism and economic development.

Accession

The City of Issaquah Arts Commission recommends works of art for the City based on artistic merit and the appropriateness to the site where they are to be located.

Artwork selection is based primarily on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence and innovation;
- Relationship of the artwork to the site in terms of scale, form, content and materials and how it serves to activate or enhance public space;
- Suitability of the work for display, including its maintenance and conservation requirements;
- Minimal short and long-term maintenance and conservation requirements;
- Relationship to and compatibility with the City's existing public art collection;
- Appropriate budget.

Artwork may be acquired in the following manner:

- Open competition
- Limited competition
- Invitation
- Direct purchase

Recommendations for artwork accession are forwarded to the City Council for final approval.

Site Selection

In order to ensure public art is fairly and equitably distributed throughout the city, and that it is sited in such a way as to enhance and activate public spaces, the arts commission uses the following criteria to guide the placement of public art. Sites where public art is to be displayed should:

- Experience high levels of pedestrian traffic and be part of the city's circulation paths;
- Be easily visible and accessible to the public;
- Enhance the overall public environment and pedestrian streetscape experience;
- Help to create a place of congregation and activity; and
- Establish landmarks and neighborhood gateways.

Public Art Committees for Commissioned Artwork

The Issaquah Arts Commission will convene a public art committee when the artwork to be considered is a commissioned piece rather than an already completed work of art.

The public art committee will include arts commissioners and other members such as artists, architects, landscape architects, planners, engineers, and/or community members.

A committee shall not ordinarily be comprised of more than 50% membership from the arts commission.

Artist selection for commissioned works of art should begin with a request for artist qualifications process.

Recommendations for artwork commission are forwarded to the City Council for final approval.

Maintenance and Conservation

Like most City facilities, public art requires maintenance and occasional repairs. Although the City's guidelines encourage artworks requiring minimal maintenance, artworks will vary in the amount of maintenance required, resistance to vandalism, and ease of repair.

In order to understand maintenance needs up front, the artist must provide a maintenance plan and schedule for the artwork, prior to acquisition.

Routine maintenance of City owned public artwork will be conducted by public works, parks maintenance, or other appropriate departments, as necessary. Routine maintenance includes items such as trash and graffiti removal, cleaning, minor landscaping, light bulb replacement, and mechanical activities like tightening, adjusting and oiling.

Major repair and conservation needs will be assessed on a case by case basis and may require contracting with the artist or art conservation specialists.

In most cases, public art maintenance and conservation costs will be covered by the Municipal Arts Fund.

Deaccession

Deaccessioning is a procedure for the withdrawal of an artwork from the public collection. Deaccessioning will be considered only after a careful and impartial evaluation of the artwork within the context of the collection as a whole. At the beginning of the process, City of Issaquah staff will make reasonable efforts to notify the artist whose work is being considered for deaccessioning.

Criteria for Deaccessioning:

- The artwork is not on display for lack of a suitable site.
- The condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonably guaranteed.
- The artwork has been damaged or has deteriorated and repair is not feasible.
- The artwork endangers public safety.
- The site of a site specific artwork is so severely altered that the work no longer is physically possible or conceptually relevant.
- The artwork requires excessive maintenance or has failures of design or workmanship.
- The artwork is significantly incompatible or inferior in the context of the collection.
- The City wishes to replace the artwork with a work of more significance by the same artist.
- There has been sustained and overwhelming public objection to the artwork for a significant period of time.

Procedures for possible deaccessioning of artwork shall be initiated by a majority vote of the City of Issaquah Arts Commission or upon direction from the City Council. City staff shall assess options for storage or disposition of art work, which may include sale, trade, return to the artist, gift or disposal.

Definitions

Accession: The formal process used to accept an artwork into the City's public art collection.

Artwork or Work of Art: Including, but is not limited to, paintings, drawings, murals in any media, stained glass, statues, bas relief or other sculptures; environmental artworks or public places designed by Artists; monuments, fountains, arches or other structures of a permanent or temporary character intended for ornament or commemoration, integrated and functional architectural elements designed by the Artist, video and other media-based works.

Deaccession: The process of removing an object permanently from the collection, usually through sale or exchange or any other transaction by which title of outgoing works of art is transferred from the collection to another institution or individual. Under certain conditions, it may also include disposal by intentional destruction.

Public Art Collection: The Public Art Collection is comprised of artworks that have been acquired by the City of Issaquah, in accordance with this policy or previous agreements by the City of Issaquah.

Public Art Program: The City of Issaquah Arts Commission program that recommends to the City Council the purchase, acceptance, and/or commissioning of artworks.