



City of Summerside Public Art Policy
Policy-COS-00

Approved (month date, year)

Policy

1.1 Overview

Definition of Public Art

Public art is art in any media whose form, function, and meaning are intentionally created for the general public and exhibited in visible and accessible public or private spaces. Public art is more than decoration. Funded by public or private resources, public art works can be of a permanent or temporary nature, commemorative, site-specific or stand in contrast to the works' surroundings.

Role of Public Art in Public Spaces

As an integral and dynamic part of the urban landscape, public art has the power to positively influence urban regeneration, engage and give voice, invite interaction, encourage reflection, and enhance the cultural fabric of a community by celebrating or honouring our culture, history, people, events, or sites.

Value and Impact

The City of Summerside recognizes that public art enriches a community's sense of place and reveals and reflects its unique historic and contemporary cultural identity. By incorporating public art into the community, cultural and social values are positively affected. Public art is a mechanism to express shared values, which contributes to greater cultural understanding and promotes civic engagement. Public art contributes to economic vitality and strengthens a municipality's competitive advantage in attracting people to live and invest in the community.

The City values public art projects that are engaging, diverse, and community-building, which have high artistic merit and contribute to a deeper understanding of community and place.

1.2 Guiding Principles

Through the Public Art Program, the City of Summerside promotes and encourages community and organizational led public art projects through partnerships and by empowering, enabling, and supporting creative citizens and organizations.

Transparency

The Public Art Program will operate through open and transparent processes to ensure professional, equitable and respectful practices for all parties involved. Competitive public art projects will be chosen through a peer review process in a fair and equitable manner and on the basis of artistic merit.

Accessibility

The City of Summerside is committed to ensuring that public art is accessible to everyone, fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment where all residents and visitors can engage with and appreciate artistic expression. By prioritizing accessibility, the city aims to remove barriers—whether physical, social, or economic—so that public art remains open, visible, and enriching for all. This commitment reflects a broader vision of inclusivity, where creativity and culture are shared community assets that contribute to a vibrant and connected Summerside. The City of Summerside believes that public art should be easily accessible and open to all to enjoy.

Diversity

Diversity will be incorporated into the Public Art Program through the selection of artists and selection panels, site selection, media, medium, scale, style of artwork, and art forms both new and traditional. Participation in the Public Art Program activities amongst all people, regardless of culture, language, race, gender, ability, sexual orientation, or social standing, should be recognized, respected, and encouraged. The City of Summerside recognizes the importance of reflecting Canada's two official languages in the Public Art Program.

Program Oversight and Governance

A five-person Public Art Working Group, composed of two citizens and three City staff members, will ensure the program reflects the interests and perspectives of the community.

A Public Art Selection Panel, made up of three or five qualified people will be appointed for the selection process of each open-call public art competition. The Public Art Selection Panel ensures that public art projects are selected by a diverse group of qualified professionals, providing expert input and community representation.

Role as Trustee

The City of Summerside acknowledges its role as trustee of the Public Art Collection / Program on behalf of the citizens of Summerside and through a sustainable funding model and its professional arts and cultural staff charged with preserving the integrity and security of public art through comprehensive collections management, professional standards and procedures in program delivery.

Community Collaboration and Participation

The Public Art Program will encourage joint participation by artists and the community, and will foster participation from other levels of government and the private sector.

Economic Impact

Public art stimulates economic growth by enhancing the city's brand identity. It supports creative industries and boosts cultural tourism, all of which contributes to the vitality of the local economy.

1.3 Purpose of the Policy

The public art program will direct and establish procedures for the integration of artwork into the city's public spaces. Under the stewardship of the City of Summerside's arts and culture staff, the policy and supporting program protects and maintains public art as a valuable component of community.

Funding Strategy- Annual Budgeting

The purpose of the City of Summerside Public Art Policy is to provide a sustainable funding model and strategic program for the management of public art in the City of Summerside. This will be done through establishing and making annual contributions to a **Public Art Reserve Fund**. Through the City of Summerside annual budget approval process, an amount will be set aside for the acquisition, maintenance, and installation of Public Art. 10% of all money in the Public Art Reserve Fund will be set aside for the maintenance, upkeep and conservation of the Public Art Collection.

1% for Public Art Funding Strategy

Additionally, the City will support the Public Art Program by adopting a 1% for public art strategy. The City will allocate 1% of its expenditure on total budgeted non-land costs of City capital projects to a maximum of \$50,000.00 per applicable capital project.

Applicable City capital projects include:

- New City owned building construction
- Major renovations or additions to existing buildings
- Significant park development projects.

Infrastructure projects such as road work, water services, storm and sanitary sewer work are not eligible. For eligible City projects with multiple funding partners, the City's contribution to public art will be 1% of its own financial investment in the project.

Alternative Funding Opportunities

Monetary donations or grants from private sources, the community, other levels of government, developers, partnerships, and co-sponsors.

Funding Strategies

The program outlines the administration and funding strategies necessary to ensure the processes for acquiring, commissioning, and managing public art works in the city's public spaces are open, fair, equitable and meet professional standards.

1.4 **Scope of Policy**

Applicability

The City of Summerside Public Art Policy applies to Mayor and Council, City employees, the Public Art Working Group and Public Art Selection Panel representatives.

Inclusions

This Public Art Policy and Program is intended to cover:

- All public art including murals installed on City properties.
- All public art, temporary or permanent, that is funded entirely or in part by the City of Summerside and installed on City properties.
- All public art that is funded entirely or in part by the City of Summerside on private property and commercial developments.
- All City funded public art projects, funded entirely or in part, within community festivals and events. See partnerships section in City Public Art Program guidelines.
- All public art projects that are Community Led/Neighbourhood Place Making Projects funded entirely or in part, by the City of Summerside located on City or private property.

Exclusions

This Public Art Policy and Program is not intended to cover:

- Individuals who wish to install artwork on private property unless the work is funded entirely or in part by the City of Summerside.
- Public Art in City of Summerside facilities and properties that are leased, licensed, or otherwise occupied by another party.
- Graffiti management.
- The management of the Civic Art Collection. This is a separate art collection managed by Culture Summerside.
- Artifact and Archival collections in museums, libraries, or galleries.
- Engineering and architectural features that are extensions of the original design of the architecture, landscape architecture, or interior design of a development. Architect fees may be considered in such cases where the public art component significantly changes a project architect's scope of services.
- Furnishings and infrastructure such as benches, light standards, manholes, and signage unless an art component is commissioned.
- Plaques, memorials, commemorations, and interpretive signs unless an art component is commissioned, or it is a didactic panel for the public artwork.
- Beautification efforts that do not have an art component commissioned.
- Custom play structures situated within a playground.
- Unassigned Art Objects

1.5 Objectives

The objective of the Public Art Program is to cultivate a focused public art agenda by fostering ongoing investment, comprehensive planning, best practices, collaborations, and partnerships. Furthermore, the program's objectives include promoting Summerside as a creative city and building on Summerside's cultural tourism potential and attractiveness for investment. It includes developing positive community involvement, civic participation, and enriching the human experience in the public realm.

Public Art and Urban Design

The City's Public Art Program promotes the incorporation of public art in city planning and encourages a high caliber of urban design for Summerside. The program aims to honour and celebrate the identity and culture of the community while encouraging greater understanding, cultural awareness, and community building.

Engagement

The program not only ensures the artistic merit, quality, and integrity of Summerside's public art collection, but also aims to strengthen connections between the City, artists, arts groups, and community members. This will create more opportunities for citizens to engage with the arts in their daily lives while supporting the expression of diverse cultural voices.

Sustainability

An important objective of the program is to adopt a funding strategy to fund the Public Art Program and fund the development / stewardship of the City of Summerside Public Art Collection.

1.6 Roles and Responsibilities

Mayor and Council: There are five roles of Mayor and Council

- Approve and adopt the Public Art Policy and any necessary amendments to it as required;
- Approve the annual public art budget through the budget process;
- Approval of a one percent public art expenditure for eligible City of Summerside capital projects through the budget process.
- Advocate for the incorporation of public art into City public spaces; and
- The City Councillor for Arts, Culture and Diversity will serve as liaison to the Public Art Working Group.

City Staff

Culture Summerside will be required to show leadership as they work to establish and steer working groups and selection panels through the planning exercises and the steps necessary to successfully consider, acquire, commission, install, and maintain Public Art pieces and projects in the City under the City of Summerside Public Art Program. Overall, City staff is expected to support the work of the program through information exchange and shared expertise regarding

planning, installation, budget work, developments, and other technical support as needed.

Public Art Working Group

The Public Art Working Group is essential for ensuring the success of the City of Summerside's Public Art Program. As a five-person working group composed of two volunteer citizens and three City staff members, the group provides both City and community representation, ensuring the program reflects the interests and perspectives of both the community and municipality. The citizen members assist the staff members with tasks such as planning, site and panel selection, inventory, research, the development of calls to artists, submissions, agreements, partnerships, and evaluation. City staff will establish the Public Art Working Group, with members selected in the same spirit of the Public Appointment to Committees Policy. The City Councillor responsible for Arts, Culture and Diversity will serve as a non-voting liaison to the Public Art Working Group.

Public Art Selection Panel

The Public Art Selection Panel is a voluntary advisory group of three or five qualified people for the selection process of each open-call public art competition. The Public Art Selection Panel ensures that public art projects are selected by a diverse group of qualified professionals, providing expert input and community representation. Panel members should be a Summerside stakeholder and must not be in a conflict of interest.

The Public Art Selection Panel plays a critical role in making informed, unbiased decisions and offering recommendations to guide the Public Art Working Group. The panels are formed on an as-needed basis and are appointed by the Public Art Working Group. Community members serving on Public Art Selection Panels will vary from project to project. They will be primarily recognized/qualified visual art professionals, which could include curators and arts administrators. The panel can also be comprised of professional - mid career - or established artists (including architects, designers, authors, playwrights, filmmakers, and city planners), museum professionals, historians, archivists, diversity/cultural workers or leaders, First Nations leaders, Indigenous knowledge keepers, etc. and community representation. Two thirds of each panel must be qualified arts and cultural professionals or leaders. Their primary objective is to adjudicate submissions for each public art competition.

Through the equitable and engaging Public Art Program, the City of Summerside empowers and enables citizens and organizations in the creation of public art projects that enhances the life of the city.

1.7 Related Documents

City of Summerside Public Art Program Guidelines
City of Summerside Zoning Bylaw SS-15
Subdivision and Site Development Bylaw SS-19 and Development Standards SS-19-01
Public Appointment to Committees Policy COS-001

1.8 Exceptions

There are no exceptions to including this allocation in the annual budget, as it reflects the City's dedication to fostering creativity and cultural expression within the community. Any deviation from this policy—namely, the omission of the Public Art Reserve Fund from the budget—must receive explicit approval from City Council through a formal resolution. This measure ensures transparency and accountability while maintaining a steadfast commitment to public art as a cornerstone of community enrichment. City staff may amend the Public Art Program guidelines, provided that the changes align with the core principles and intent of this policy.

1.9 Definitions

Artistic Merit:

Artistic merit refers to the artistic quality or value of any given work of art, music, film, literature, sculpture, or painting. It is a way to evaluate the significance and worth of a piece based on various criteria such as creativity, technical skill, emotional impact, originality, and adherence to, or deviation from, traditional styles.

City of Summerside Public Art Collection:

The Public Art Collection consists of original artworks that have been formally acquired and added to the City of Summerside Public Art Collection. This collection is held in public trust by the City for the current and future residents of Summerside.

City of Summerside Civic Art Collection:

Like the Public Art Collection, the Civic Art Collection is a collection of artworks held in trust by the City of Summerside for the citizens of our community. The Civic Art Collection is representative of significant visual artists or visual art developments of our local and island community. The Civic Art Collection is curated and managed directly by the staff of Culture Summerside. Unlike the works in the Public Art Collection, works in the City's Civic Art Collection are intended and made to be displayed in more traditional indoor environments with less accessibility, such as galleries, museums and government offices.

Community Led / Neighbourhood Place Making Public Art Projects:

These projects are referred to as artistic activities normally led by an artist or artists based in a community setting involving community members, who contribute a variety of talents, to design and create a public art piece. The content of the artwork usually reflects local priorities that have been identified by people within the community. Community Led / Neighbourhood Place Making Public Art Projects helps people articulate their goals to build a strong place for the community. The process of creating the art holds equal significance to the final artistic outcome. The lifespan, ownership, maintenance and care of the finished work can vary by project.

The purpose of Neighbourhood Placemaking Public Art Projects is to celebrate and explore the distinctive identity of a neighbourhood, foster connections among residents, and develop public spaces that attract people through community-led art. This initiative creates a greater

sense of place where neighbours have the opportunity to interact and build relationships, which helps form vibrant and welcoming communities.

Unassigned Art Objects:

Unassigned Art Objects refer to artworks obtained by different City of Summerside departments over time without curatorial consideration, proper documentation or gift agreements. These pieces are not included in the City of Summerside Public Art Collection but could potentially be added.

Peer Review:

Refers to the process of selecting proposals of the utmost excellence and merit through the use of a panel of experts chosen for their understanding and knowledge of the art form, public art, and community engagement.

DRAFT