

# **PUBLIC ART POLICY**

## **FOR THE CITY OF CALGARY**

### **MISSION**

Calgary is a young, dynamic city of opportunity and increasing diversity. As the gateway to a landscape of unparalleled prairie and mountain beauty, we want our urban landscape to reflect an equally engaging aesthetic profile. Public art can be a visual representation of this unique Calgary spirit – and help the City’s character continue to evolve.

Through the creation of a Public Art Policy, the City of Calgary will provide cultural leadership, guide the evolution of a distinct and vibrant artistic character for the city’s emerging public places, and ensure a visual legacy.

Public Art is a vital ingredient in the cultural fabric and streetscape of creative cities. This policy provides a framework for developing public art that:

- builds a visually rich environment;
- plays a role in attracting creative businesses and workers;
- provides art opportunities that are freely accessible to all;
- reflects our diverse cultural character and celebrates our living heritage;
- encourages the growth of a culturally informed public.

As Calgary moves into the twenty-first century, its international standing as an exciting place to live, work and visit will be enhanced through this policy. This is the moment to focus on the appearance of the City’s infrastructure, its public spaces and its civic architecture. In short, this policy fosters the image and identity of Calgary.

### **FUNDING STRATEGY**

The Public Art Policy provides a sustainable funding mechanism for the development, acquisition and management of public art in, or adjacent to, new or existing municipal buildings, infrastructure projects, parks and other City owned land and facilities. This funding mechanism provides for:

- Costs of planning, design, fabrication, purchase and installation of public art at the time new public facilities are developed.
- Costs of planning, design, fabrication, purchase and installation of public art in existing public spaces.
- Costs related to the development and management of the Public Art Program.
- Funds to properly maintain and conserve public art.

The funding mechanism for the Public Art Policy is a “percent for public art” strategy. The percent for public art shall be calculated at 1% of the total capital project costs for City of Calgary capital budgets over \$1 million.

- City of Calgary departments shall, when initiating a capital project that exceeds \$1 million, include within the budget the 1% for public art component.
- Eligible capital projects include all upgrades (U) and growth (G) items over \$1 million.
- Ineligible costs:

Land purchase

Rolling stock  
Portable equipment (furniture, computers, etc.)  
Maintenance (M) budgets

There are three options to expend percent for public art funds:

1. The 1% public art allocation shall reside with the initiating department as part of the overall capital project budget for development of public art on site of that project.
2. Departments may choose to pool funds for use at a more publicly accessible site.
3. Departments may transfer the 1% public art allocation or a portion thereof to the City of Calgary Public Art Reserve Fund. The City of Calgary Public Art Reserve Fund will be invested annually. Disbursements from the Fund shall be expended on projects identified by the Public Art Board and Administration to ensure public art is located in communities throughout Calgary.

Or any combination thereof.

## **PUBLIC ART PROCESS**

The Public Art Policy determines the process for the planning, commission, purchase, gift, donation and bequest of public art for The City of Calgary.

The following principles guide the creation and acquisition of public art:

- The scope of public art projects shall include discrete, semi-integrated, integrated and temporary works and allows for artists on design teams, community based public art and special projects.
- Public art projects shall be selected on merit through a process informed by expertise and community input. Proposals shall be solicited through open competition, invited competition or direct award and shall be selected by a jury appointed on a project specific basis.
- Public art acquired through the public art program shall be placed on property under The City of Calgary's ownership or control.
- Gifts, donations and bequests of public art shall be considered in a manner similar to all public art proposals. Each gift, donation and bequest shall be reviewed by a jury to assess artistic merit, site suitability and context, durability and maintenance requirements, financial implications, public safety and liability.
- Gifts, donations and bequests of public art shall be placed in accordance with the Public Art Master Plan.
- Gifts, donations and bequests of public art shall not impede the actions of The City of Calgary.

The Public Art Policy also determines that The City of Calgary has the right and responsibility to de-accession public art. All reasonable efforts shall be made to rectify problems or re-site the art work where appropriate. Reasons for de-accession include:

- Endangerment of public safety.
- Excessive repairs or maintenance, or repair is not feasible.
- Public accessibility is no longer available.
- Demolition of a structure incorporating public art or redevelopment of a site incorporating public art.
- Expiry of lifespan.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

The management of the Public Art Program is based upon a consultative process involving many different partners. To support this process, available resources shall include Public Art Program staff, a Public Art Board, departments, juries, as well as additional advisory, technical and support services as required.

### **Public Art Program Staff**

The role of the Public Art Program staff is to provide leadership in the coordination and implementation of the Public Art Program.

Public Art Program staff shall work with partners to:

- Develop public art policies and guidelines.
- Develop a Public Art Master Plan and individual public art project plans.
- Coordinate the implementation of public art projects.
- Develop and implement a communications framework.
- Provide training, research and resource development.
- Maintain the Public Art Collection.

### **The Public Art Board**

The City of Calgary recognizes the fundamental principle of public process. The Public Art Board has been created as a volunteer, advisory body to support a public process within the Public Art Program and to ensure that the overall mission of the public art policy is accomplished.

The Public Art Board is responsible to recommend and advise on public art policies, guidelines, plans and issues as they relate to The City of Calgary and to provide support to Public Art Program staff and activities.

The Public Art Board shall be appointed by Council and shall be comprised of nine (9) representatives, with a minimum of two visual artists, and the remaining from the following disciplines:

- Arts Administrators
- Arts Consultants
- Art Historians and Heritage Professionals
- Architects, Landscape Architects and other Design Professionals
- Business Representatives
- Civil Engineers
- Curators
- Citizens at Large

Public Art Program staff shall liaise with the Public Art Board.

The Public Art Board operates at arms length, reporting its activities and recommendations in an Annual Report to Council through S.P.C. on Community and Protective Services.

The Public Art Policy shall be reviewed annually by the Public Art Board. Recommendations for any changes and additions shall be made to Council through the annual reporting process.

### **Ownership of Public Art**

All public art works acquired through the Public Art Program are solely owned by The City of

Calgary. The City of Calgary shall preserve the integrity and security of public art through collection management systems, standards and procedures which include:

- Formation of a Public Art Collection.
- Creation of a maintenance reserve fund:
  - 10% of all public art project budgets shall be allocated to a Public Art Maintenance Reserve Fund.
  - The Maintenance Reserve Fund shall be managed by Public Art Program staff.
- Development of an ongoing maintenance program:
  - Maintenance Program funded through Maintenance Reserve Fund.
  - Eligible expenditures include:
    - conservation and repairs, related materials and equipment.
    - relocation expenditures, transportation and installation.
    - annual inventory and documentation.
    - administration costs related to the Maintenance Program.