

CIVIC COMMISSION PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC ART

1.0 PURPOSE & APPLICABILITY

The intent of the Guidelines is to ensure art is selected by a publicly accountable process combining expert evaluation and community input. The Guidelines describe the process for developing public art at new and existing civic capital projects, and set out the roles of City Council, Park Board, staff, and the Public Art Committee.

2.0 PUBLIC ART PROGRAM GOALS (adopted 1990)

- a) To enrich the community by means of public art;
- b) To provide leadership in public art planning and seek its inclusion in all public realm development in Vancouver, whether in the civic, private or other public sector;
- c) To include artists in civic planning processes touching the public realm;
- d) To extend participation by citizens in the cultural and physical development of the City;
- e) To contribute to cultural development by developing new public art, rather than supplying existing work;
- f) To ensure the quality of art and its relevance to the community and site, by selecting it through an arm's-length process incorporating community input and professional advice.

3.0 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

3.1 The Public Art Program Manager, in consultation with staff from civic departments and the Public Art Committee, identifies artist opportunities associated with new or existing capital works or civic initiatives, according to the following criteria:

- a) projects should have a high degree of public use or public realm impact and lend themselves to an artist's intervention;
- b) public art could advance the capital project's goals or readily achieve other civic objectives such as providing information, interpretive programs, anti-graffiti initiatives, Greenways goals, resource conservation and environmental initiatives, etc.;
- c) projects providing for an enriched community process; and
- d) factors such as the presence of other art works or amenities in the area; the opportunity for an art project to respond successfully to a need identified in the community; or the availability of other funding, are also considered.

4.0 THE PUBLIC ART PLAN

Public art staff and host department staff will prepare a Public Art Plan for consideration by the Public Art Committee (PAC). The Plan sets out the budget, artist participation, selection process, community process, and other matters as appropriate. The Public Art Committee reviews and recommends the Plan to the Director of Cultural Affairs or City Council for budget approval and/or the authority to initiate projects and enter contracts with artists. Projects on Park Lands are reported to Park Board by the Park Board representative.

5.0 PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

The Public Art Committee (PAC) advises generally on the public art process. The Committee may recommend on project priority, Public Art Plans, terms of reference for artist participation and

selection. PAC recommendations are conveyed by the Program Manager to the Director of Cultural Affairs, who reports them to City Council. The Park Board representative reports them to Park Board.

6.0 SELECTION METHODS

Artist selection methods are detailed in the Public Art Plan. Artists or artist proposals are generally selected by a panel process, and panelists will be reviewed by the Public Art Committee. The intent is to ensure artists are selected on merit by a process informed by expertise and community input. Proposals by artists are generally solicited through open competition, invited submission, or a curatorial process leading to direct commission.

7.0 SELECTION PANEL COMPOSITION

7.1 Selection panels usually consist of 3 to 5 voting members and non-voting advisors as needed to supply technical information or community advice. The panel process may provide for neighbourhood input or representation, and panelists should reflect community diversity.

7.2 A typical panel might consist of the following:

- project engineers, architects or representatives
- artists
- curators or other visual arts professionals
- community representatives

7.3 Typical panel advisor might be:

- residents
- project staff
- technical staff

8.0 SELECTION PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of reference for the selection panel are to be set at the project development stage by the Staff Team in conjunction with the Public Art Committee. On larger projects it may be desirable to give panels broad terms of reference and responsibility for determining sites, budgets, the nature of the artist participation and recommended selection processes.

9.0 SELECTION CRITERIA

9.1 Artists are chosen by majority vote on the basis of their qualifications and previous work; their experience with projects at similar scale; their capacity to work in demanding environments with communities or other design professionals; and their record of success.

9.2 Proposals are selected, by majority vote for their artistic merit; response to project terms of reference; capacity to advance Public Art Program goals; responsiveness to the site and community; technical feasibility, and their probability of success.

9.3 The selection panel and its technical advisors will consider the proposal's materials, construction, durability, maintenance, public access, and safety.

9.4 Selection panels may make no selection, in which case the selection process may, with the advice of the Public Art Committee, be re-opened.

10.0 PANEL REMUNERATION

Panelists are asked to provide expert evaluations of proposals and are paid an honorarium for their work.

11.0 TECHNICAL REVIEW

The project coordinator in conjunction with participating departments will review proposals to ensure they are technically feasible prior to final selection. Selections are announced once all questions are resolved.

12.0 COMMISSION PROCESS

Artists are contracted as needed to provide concept proposals, detailed design and artwork production.

13.0 PROJECT DOCUMENTATION & REGISTRATION

Photo documentation and information about the artist and the artwork, including maintenance details, are registered in the City's Public Art Registry.