



DEACCESSION GUIDELINES

For Removing Artwork from Public Sites Under City or Park Board Jurisdiction

1.0 Definition

Deaccessioning: Any actions or set of procedures that result in the cessation by the City of Vancouver of its ownership and possession of works of art installed in public places, through sale, exchange, gift or any other means provided that disposition of the artwork is not contrary to the terms on which it was received by the City.

2.0 Policy Objectives

- 2.1 To establish careful procedures for the deaccessioning of works or art belonging to the City of Vancouver which have been installed in public places.
- 2.2 To insulate the deaccessioning process from the fluctuations of fashion.

3.0 Policy Statement

Deaccessioning should be a deliberate and seldom-used procedure. It is the policy of the City not to dispose of artwork simply because it is not currently in fashion, and not to dispose of work whose worth might not yet be recognized. In any case, no artwork will be deaccessioned within seven years of its acquisition.

4.0 Conditions

- 4.1 The Public Art Committee may, at its discretion, forward a request to a jury to consider deaccessioning an artwork if any of the following conditions apply:
- 4.2 It is of clearly inferior quality; or, in the opinion of the Committee, the work has received consistent adverse public reaction over a period of seven or more years; or the prevailing climate of public opinion recommends a review.
- 4.3 It is fraudulent, not an authentic work, or there is a valid challenge to title.
- 4.4 It possesses faults of design or workmanship which result in excessive or unreasonable maintenance, a threat to public safety, and/or damage to an extent where repair is unreasonable or impractical.
- 4.5 Destruction of or changes to the site threaten the artwork's survival or result in a significant diminishing of its artistic integrity and effectiveness.
- 4.6 A written request from the artist has been received.
- 4.7 City Council or Park Board determines that there is an exceptional and unforeseen reason for removing the artwork from its current site, and no other suitable site can be found.

5.0 Procedures

- 5.1 Providing on of the six written conditions above applies, as evidenced in a written submission, deaccessioning requests will be referred to the Public Art Committee by City or park Board staff.
- 5.2 City of Parks staff shall assemble the following information for the Public Art Committee, including as necessary:
 - a) reasons for the suggested deaccessioning;
 - b) opinion of the Legal Department;
 - c) acquisition method and cost;
 - d) informal estimate of the current value of the work (if the acquisition cost exceeded \$5000. at least one expert appraisal of the current value of the work);
 - e) cost of deaccessioning or removal;
 - f) any documented public response to the work;
 - g) a report on the condition of the artwork from a professional conservator;
 - h) suggested and alternative course of action (for example, relocation);
 - i) a list of appropriate recipients.
- 5.3 The Public Art Committee in cooperation with staff will designate a jury of no fewer than three and no more than five persons having suitable expertise, including a majority of art professionals and at least one neighbourhood representative, if appropriate, to review the proposed deaccessioning,
- 5.4 Where applicable and achievable, the artist whose work is being considered for deaccessioning will be notified by seasonal means and invited to comment in writing or in person by a specified deadline.
- 5.5 Where applicable and achievable, the original sponsor of the work shall be notified by reasonable means and be invited to comment in writing or in person by a specified deadline.
- 5.6 The jury may recommend any of the following courses of action as a result of its deaccessioning review. The jury shall not be limited to these suggested solutions, but may suggest new methods as may be demanded by any particular set of circumstances.
 - j) sell, auction or trade the artwork;
 - k) give the artist or sponsor first opportunity to buy back the work at the current appraised value, to be transacted by a specific date;
 - l) seek bona fide appraisal and advertise sale;
 - m) dispose of the work through City surplus property procedures;
 - n) Relocate the work;
 - o) store the work temporarily;
 - p) retain the work.
- 5.7 The Public Art Committee of jury recommendation(s) for action will be conveyed to City Council of Park Board for final approval at a regularly scheduled meeting.