

Staff Report



To	Committee of the Whole
Service Area	Public Services
Date	Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Subject	Public Art Policy Update

Recommendation

1. That the Public Art Policy Update dated October 3, 2023 be approved.
2. That Appendix A of the General Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy be amended to reflect the change to the Public Art Reserve Fund (#356) sources of funds to include Council approved transfers from the operating budget and approved surplus allocations from the operating budget at year end and amend the authority/timing to include capital budget.
3. That costs associated with the Public Art Policy update be referred to the multi-year budget process.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

This report brings forward recommendations to Council for updates to the Public Art Policy.

Key Findings

The Public Art Policy was established in 2011 and revised in 2014. The recommended policy updates align the policy with current practices, set standards for the management and documentation of the City’s public art collection, and establish a sustainable funding mechanism for public art acquisition.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Public Art Policy supports the City Building priority to grow and care for community spaces and places; and the People and Economy priority to support community well-being.

Financial Implications

Financial impacts from this report will be referred to the 2024-2027 multi-year budget for decision.

Report

The recommended policy updates align policy with current practices, set standards for the management and documentation of the City’s public art collection, and establish a sustainable funding mechanism for public art acquisition.

The Public Art Policy was established in 2011 and revised in 2014. In addition to updating references to reporting and accountability relationships, this policy has been updated to align management of the City's Public Art Collection with Guelph Museums' collection management policy and practices.

The policy statement has been updated to recognize that public art is inclusive of creative practice as well as artistic output, and that artists and the artistic community are central to the City's ability to provide meaningful, representative, and authentic public art experiences.

In defining public art, an exemption of murals from the policy has been removed, recognizing that artworks temporary in nature are an important element of a comprehensive public art program.

The Public Art Reserve Fund exists as the primary funding mechanism for the acquisition of public art. This policy commits to regular contributions from the City's multi-year capital budget to the Public Art Reserve to sustain a progressive and responsive public art program. Contributions from Community Benefits Charges, federal and provincial grants, and private donations will also be employed to grow the Public Art Reserve.

Financial Implications

There are no financial impacts to deliver the Public Art Policy. Operating budget allocations to the Public Art Reserve Fund for new acquisitions and commissions have been referred to the multi-year budget for \$50,000 for consideration as an ongoing operating budget transfer. The funds in the Public Art Reserve Fund would be available for the acquisition of public art either through amounts included in the capital budget or other in-year Council reports.

Consultations

The Public Art Advisory Committee contributed to revisions to the Public Art Policy.

Attachments

Attachment-1 Public Art Policy

Departmental Approval

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