



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Public Art Commission

FROM: Lisa Hatchadoorian, Public Arts Coordinator

DATE: August 8, 2014

SUBJECT: Permanent Collection Guidelines and Criteria

Introduction

The City of Urbana is committed to acquiring works of art for the Permanent Art Collection of the highest aesthetic standards reflective of diverse aesthetic, social and cultural perspectives. Acquisition by the City of Urbana implies a commitment to the preservation, protection and display of the artwork for the public benefit.

The permanent collection guidelines and criteria explains, in detail, the various factors that the Public Art Commission can use to select future artwork for the permanent collection. The guidelines go over the following points:

1. Mission of the Permanent Collection of Public Art
2. Goals
3. Eligibility (Artwork and Artists)
4. Criteria
 - a. Selection Criteria for Artists
 - b. Criteria for Artwork
5. Site Criteria

Recommendation

Staff would like the Public Art Commission to review and suggest any changes or edits to the document and then vote on adopting these guidelines for accepting artwork into the permanent collection of public art of the City of Urbana.



City of Urbana
Permanent Public Art Collection Guidelines

I. Mission

Recognizing the arts as essential to the vitality of our city, the mission of the Permanent Art Collection is to foster a city where all residents—emerging artists, established artists, and “non-artists” alike—may engage with the arts and where artists thrive and are valued. Additionally, the Permanent Art Collection will promote a rich, diverse, and stimulating cultural environment in order to enrich the lives of the city’s residents, visitors and employees, and to enhance the city’s image locally, regionally and nationally.

II. Goals

The Public Art Commission is committed to acquiring works of art for the Permanent Art Collection of the highest aesthetic standards reflective of diverse aesthetic, social and cultural perspectives. Acquisition by the City of Urbana implies a commitment to the preservation, protection and display of the artwork for the public benefit. Goals of the Permanent Art Collection include the following:

1. Artwork acquired and maintained within the collection should reflect the highest aesthetic standards.
 - a. Objects accepted into the collection must be of known authorship and be accepted based on their value as works of art.
 - b. Objects whose primary identity is that of an historical, architectural, or religious artifact should not be included in the collection.
2. Artwork accepted into the collection should be able to be permanently exhibited in an appropriate site, and be able to be maintained by the City for public display according to the guidelines herein.
3. The City’s collection should be diverse in its representation of artists and artistic styles and be reflective of the ethnic diversity of the local population.
4. Artwork acquired and accepted into the collection should be appropriate in scale, media and context with its intended display location, and be relevant within the cultural, historical, social/political and environmental context of Central Illinois.

III. Eligibility

Eligible Artwork: For the purposes of these guidelines, all forms of original creations (or limited editions) of visual art are eligible for acquisition through the Public Art Program.

Eligible Artists: all professional, practicing artists living in the United States are eligible to apply

for city public art commissions and for inclusion in the Permanent Art Collection.

Geographic Eligibility: There are no restrictions on geographic eligibility for artists living in the United States.

Ineligible Applicants: For the purposes of these guidelines, the following individuals are ineligible to have their artwork considered for inclusion in the permanent public art collection of the City of Urbana.

- Arts Commissioners and Arts Commission staff members or members of their immediate family are not eligible for city public art commissions as long as they respectively serve on, or are employed by, the Arts Commission.
- Elected or Appointed city officials or members of their family are not eligible for consideration for public art commissions.
- City staff are not eligible for consideration for public art commissions.

IV. Criteria

Selection Criteria for Artists: Artists will be selected on the basis of their qualifications, as demonstrated by the judged quality of their past work and appropriateness of their artistic expression, professional experience, as determined by the Public Arts Commission in its sole discretion. Other considerations include the artist's current workload and/or the number of artworks by that artist in the Permanent Art Collection.

Criteria for Artwork: Criteria to be used when considering acquisition of artwork by purchase shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Adherence to the Mission and Goals of the Permanent Art Collection.
- Inherent Artistic Quality: The assessed aesthetic merit of the piece as a work of art, independent of other considerations.
- Context of Artwork within the Permanent Art Collection: Proposed artwork should be evaluated within the context of the larger collection, and whether it is judged to strengthen the collection.
- Context of Artwork with Site: Works of art must be compatible in scale, material, form, and content with their surroundings. Consideration should be given to the architectural, historical, geographical and social/cultural context of the site.
- Media: All forms of visual art may be considered.
- Permanence: Due consideration shall be given to the structural and surface soundness, and to inherent resistance to theft, vandalism and weathering.

- **Ability to Maintain:** Significant consideration shall be given to the cost and amount of ongoing maintenance and/or repair anticipated, and to the city's ability to provide adequate maintenance.
- **Public Safety and Accessibility:** Each work shall be evaluated to ensure that it does not present a hazard to public safety and complies with all applicable building codes and accessibility requirements.
- **Diversity:** The Public Arts Commission is committed to acquiring art works that reflect diversity in style, scale, media, and artistic sources as well as diverse cultural communities and perspectives. The Public Arts Commission also encourages exploratory types of work as well as established art forms.
- **Duplication:** To assure that the artwork will not be duplicated, the artist will be asked to warrant that the work is unique and an edition of one unless stated to the contrary in the contract.

V. Site Criteria

Prior to selecting a site for a permanent artwork, whether purchased or commissioned, the Public Arts Commission, together with any Selection Committee shall take into consideration the following factors:

- Compliance with city plans and policies
- Compliance with City Codes and Ordinances
- Visibility
- Public accessibility of the artwork
- Public Safety
- Interior and Exterior traffic patterns
- Relationship of proposed artwork to existing or future architectural features, natural features and urban design
- Function of the facility
- Facility users and surrounding community and interaction of users and community members with proposed artwork
- Future development plans for area
- Overall program goal or concept
- Landscape design

- Relationship of proposed artwork to existing art works within the site vicinity
- Environmental impact
- Social context of artwork (intended use of the work, if any)