

City of Coon Rapids Public Art Policy

A. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Public Art Policy (“Policy”) is to enhance the City of Coon Rapids (the “City”) through the development of a Public Art Program. The intent of this Policy is to develop processes, policies and procedures that will:

1. Provide a process by which the City and the Coon Rapids Arts Commission (the “Arts Commission”) can work collaboratively to advance more Public Art in the Community;
2. Guide the City’s approach to Public Art and provide a mechanism for the inclusion of Public Art throughout the City;
3. Enrich the City’s public environment for its residents, business community, and visitors by encouraging public participation and interaction with public space;
4. Enhance community identity and pride; and
5. Provide high quality Public Art that promotes excellence and demonstrates diversity and a variety of media.

B. Public Art

“Public Art” means works of craft or art, whether owned by the City or not, in any medium that have been reviewed against adopted and standardized criteria, approved, and formally accepted by the City for installation in public locations, in or on publicly owned buildings, on publicly owned land, or in or on other locations leased or provided to the City through donation, easement or other means. Public Art includes sculpture, murals, fountains, statues and any other form of two- or three-dimensional work in any physical medium appropriate for the location and otherwise meeting the approval criteria.

All proposed Public Art must meet the following guidelines:

1. Public Art not owned by the City shall be subject to a License and Maintenance Agreement between the owner of the Public Art and the City. The owner or provider of the Public Art shall be responsible for all maintenance, insurance and repair costs associated with the Public Art, unless otherwise agreed by the City and approved by the City Council.
2. Public Art shall be accessible to public viewing.

3. The City shall retain the right to transfer Public Art from one City-owned site to another, as it deems necessary, or to remove or deaccession the Public Art if it no longer desires to retain it as a component of the public art program.
4. Public Art shall not be approved where a condition of the approval requires permanent exhibition.
5. In the judgment of the majority of the Arts Commission and the City Council, the Public Art must be appropriate for display to the general public.
6. If a proposal accepted by the City is a concept design for Public Art, then the final product must match the approved concept design.

C. Process for Selection

Public Art selection shall be managed in cooperation with the Coon Rapids Arts Commission. The Arts Commission shall have the initial responsibility to solicit and develop proposals for Public Art, however, securing and developing funding for Public Art will be the responsibility of City staff. All proposals shall subsequently be reviewed by the Arts Commission and may need approval by the City Council depending on the scope of the Public Art Display. The process for submitting proposals for approval by the City is as follows:

1. Proposals for placement of Public Art shall be made by applicants in writing to the Arts Commission.
2. The Arts Commission shall evaluate the proposed Public Art.
3. The Arts Commission shall approve or reject the proposed Public Art if it is a small art installation exhibited in a display case. For all large art installation projects, the Arts Commission shall make an advisory recommendation regarding the proposed Public Art to the City Council based upon the Arts Commission's perspectives, input, experience and knowledge.
4. For the large art installations projects, the City Council shall approve or reject the proposed Public Art, along with the proposed License and Maintenance Agreement.

D. Public Review and Comment Period

Each large Public Art installation proposal will be announced to the public at a regular City Council meeting and then made available for public review and comment for a minimum of thirty days after the Arts Commission's recommendation has been submitted to the City Council.

E. Required Information for Public Art Proposal

All written Public Art proposals submitted to the City must include the following:

1. A written description/depiction of the proposed art as well as photos and/or drawing of the Public Art.
2. The appraised value of the Public Art.
3. A description of materials used to create the Public Art, including materials needed to display/secure the Public Art.
4. The dimensions of the proposed Public Art, including appropriate base materials needed at the public site.
5. A description, including materials, dimensions, wording and location, of interpretive signage for the Public Art.
6. A statement regarding the relationship of the proposed Public Art to the proposed site including aesthetic, cultural, or historic ties.
7. Statement of probable lifespan of the Public Art and annual maintenance needed to maintain Public Art integrity.
8. A statement as to whether the Public Art is unique or duplicates other work by the same artist.

F. Duties and Responsibilities of the Arts Commission

In all cases, the Arts Commission's decisions are advisory recommendations and final authority remains with the City Council. The Arts Commission shall work within parameters established by the City Council including overall budget, site constraints and program goals. The Arts Commission's duties shall include the following:

1. Make recommendations to the City Council and City staff on matters pertaining to the selection, acquisition, location, restoration and maintenance of Public Art.
2. Make recommendations to the City Council regarding the engagement of the Arts Commission, an Arts Facilitator or other consultants.
3. Make recommendations to the City Council and City staff regarding the terms of proposed License and Maintenance Agreements related to Public Art.
4. Review, evaluate, and discuss credentials, proposals and/or materials submitted to the City or Arts Commission for review.

5. Via majority vote, recommend the award of Public Art projects or proposals or decide to further investigate any chosen finalists. If further investigation of finalists is required, draft a list of information and/or additional materials required. Conclude the investigation as rapidly as possible, convene for further discussion and, via majority vote, recommend the award of projects.
6. For large art installation projects, inform the City Council in writing of the Arts Commission's advisory recommendation and cite reasons for the decision. If the Arts Commission cannot reach an agreement on an advisory recommendation, the matter shall be referred to the City Council. The Arts Commission may choose not to make an advisory recommendation if, in its opinion, there is insufficient merit among the submissions. If this occurs, the City Council shall determine whether to recommend that the Public Art project should be abandoned or whether some other action is required.
7. Coordinate physical and logistical components of Public Art installation with City staff, including matters related to transportation and signage.
8. Serve as an information conduit for the Arts Commission, City staff, artists, property owners and others for matters relating to Public Art.
9. Other duties as determined by the City Council.

G. Criteria for Review

The Arts Commission shall make recommendations based upon the following criteria:

1. All visual art forms and materials will be considered. Artwork reflecting any school, movement, method or style will be considered. Artwork may be functional or non-functional, conceptual or tangible, portable or site-specific.
2. The proposed Public Art should be compared with the artists' best work and the best works of Public Art then displayed in the City.
3. Public art should be enduring and diverse and the City should strive for diversity in style, scale, media and artists. It should reflect the social, ethnic and structural fabric of the community as well as the values of the City and the community.
4. If the proposed Public Art is to be erected or displayed outdoors, the physical condition of the Public Art should be considered in terms of durability in an outdoor setting. Any requirements for immediate or future conservation should be noted.
5. Consideration should be given to structural and surface integrity and the use of materials appropriate to the location so as to minimize or eliminate maintenance and repair costs.

6. Public Art must not create unsafe conditions or otherwise increase public liability.
7. Public Art must add interest and meaning to the public location in which it is placed.
8. Public Art must be compatible in scale, material, form and content with its surrounding and form an overall relationship with the public location. Public Art must conform to any existing Master Plan for the site. The applicant may request a specific site; however, each placement will be evaluated based upon suitability of the Public Art for the site. The Arts Commission will make recommendation to the City Council concerning an appropriate site for the Public Art.
9. The Public Art must have social, cultural, historical or physical connection to the planned public location.
10. Public Art whose message is exclusively religious in nature will not be accepted.
11. Public Art whose message is exclusively political in nature will only be considered if the political message is of a historical context.
12. The City is discouraged from approving Public Art when funds for the on-going maintenance and repair of the Public Art are not secured and when, as a condition of the installation or exhibition, the City is required to pay for the maintenance, installation, framing, or restoration of the Public Art.
13. The Arts Commission shall determine and consider the cost and burden on the City of on-going maintenance and repair anticipated throughout the lifespan of a project.

The City Council may adopt additional project-specific criteria to evaluate Public Art proposals.

H. Removal & Deaccessioning Public Art

Deaccession is a procedure for the removal and disposal of Public Art owned by the City. The City may remove or deaccession Public Art when it finds such action to be in the best interest of the public based upon the following:

1. As a means of improving the quality of the City's exhibited Public Art when:
 - a. The Public Art has no relevance or serves no exhibition function.
 - b. The Public Art is duplicative of other Public Art.
 - c. The Public Art no longer meets the current standards for Public Art.
2. Due to concerns for public safety when Public Art becomes a hazard or a public liability.
3. The Public Art is in a seriously deteriorated condition.

4. Removal should not be based on current fashion or taste.
5. As a result of external acquisition of the Public Art.

Recommendations for removal shall be made to the Arts Commission, which will then make a recommendation based upon the public benefit of the action to the City Council for approval. Each request for removal shall be announced to the public at a regular City Council meeting and then made available for public review and comment for a minimum of thirty days before action is taken by the City Council.

I. Exemptions

This Public Art Policy shall not apply to art procured for or located at any City owned buildings, including specifically City Hall. Decisions related to placement of art at City Hall shall be governed by the Coon Rapids City Hall Public Art Rotation Guidelines.