

## City of Mason Public Art Program Policy

### I. INTRODUCTION

An overarching goal for the City of Mason is to maintain and enhance its distinctive sense of place, both physically and culturally. As a means of accomplishing this, City of Mason wishes to encourage and support art and artists. The city recognizes the importance for maintaining a diverse cultural environment that promotes the creative thinking and economic prosperity brought to a community infused with art. It is a focus of the city to attract a variety of, arts, entertainment, and artists to the city, to inspire and delight our citizens.

Goals of the Public Art Program:

- To attract visual art and entertainment venues, and businesses to Mason.
- To welcome works of art representing a broad variety of media, styles and community interests.
- To provide opportunities for artists of all racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, disabilities and other diverse groups.
- To enhance the urban environment and public spaces throughout the City.
- To pursue opportunities to educate the public regarding public art including public participation in all phases of the public art process.
- To document, maintain and conserve works of art in the public art collection.

#### Funding

The City Council is committed to supporting public art, especially when the City's support leverages funding from other resources. The city will actively participate in grant facilitation, and assist in seeking local donor funds for art projects. Any requests for funding will be considered throughout the year and will be welcomed for consideration as a budget amendment request. The City Administrator's recommended budget to the City Council shall include costs to maintain existing public art.

### II. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION AND ACQUISITION OF ARTWORK

**Project Initiation:** There are times when the City of Mason will acquire and install artwork at a public site. The following criteria will be used to identify suitable public art projects:

- Available public art opportunities;
- Size and scope of project;
- Community impact;
- Timing; and
- Goals of the City Council.

**Project Planning Committee:** For each public art project, a Project Planning Committee will be established. Members will include appropriate City department representatives, the project architect and/or landscape architect, a representative from the site design team, a representative from Arts Initiative Mason (AIM) and/or other local art promotion organizations, and a minimum of two community representatives. Community representatives will be selected from existing Boards and Commissions per consultation with the City Council.

**Selection of Artist, Curator, Organization and/or Artwork:** Methods used for artist selection may include open competition, invitational competition, or by direct selection as recommended by the Committee to the City Administrator. The Project Planning Committee will recommend the selected artist to the City Administrator for final consideration by the City Council to authorize a contract for the required services of the artist.

### **III. PROCEDURES FOR ACCEPTING FUNDS OR ADOPTING WORKS OF ART**

The artist or donor shall contact the City Administrator and submit a detailed written description of the artwork, including sketches and/or models or photographs if the artwork exists, all information pertaining to the artist, and a warranty of originality of the artwork. Staff shall be allowed enough time to review and request further information pertaining to the artwork and/or site before final acceptance or refusal.

The review process will consider the following criteria:

- Quality of work: High artistic standards shall be maintained for artwork displayed in the City. Artwork should be compatible with the character of the community and should support the vision for the City's public art collection.
- Financial consideration: The source of funding for installation, maintaining and conserving donated artwork shall be sufficient. In some instances, a maintenance agreement may be formed whereby the donor agrees to financially support the donated artwork.
- Liability: Issues will be reviewed based on the susceptibility of the artwork to damage and vandalism, potential danger to the public and special insurance requirements.
- Appropriateness to the site, scale, and historical and ecological impact: Environmental considerations shall be reviewed based on the physical appropriateness of the artwork to the site and the scale of the artwork.
- Administration approval.

Conditions of acceptance may be negotiated. All funds or works of art will be presented to the City Council for formal acceptance and receipt.

### **IV. MAINTENANCE AND CONSERVATION**

The City shall be responsible for the maintenance of all City initiated projects created through this policy and those adopted into the collection by the City Council. All permanent public art projects must have a plan to properly maintain the work. Within the terms of the Artist's contract, the Artist shall guarantee and repair artwork against all defects of material or workmanship for a period of one year following installation. The Artist shall provide drawings of the installation and detailed instructions regarding routine maintenance of the artwork. The Artist shall have the opportunity to comment on, and participate in, all repairs and restoration which are made during her/his lifetime. The condition of artwork will be assessed on an ongoing basis. The Project Planning Committee shall determine conservation standards and procedures, including budget and timeline estimates. Funds for the maintenance of artwork will be allocated as a part of the City's budget process.

## **V. DEACCESSION OF ARTWORK**

The City will seek to ensure the integrity of the Artist, their artwork, the site, and the public for which it was created, in accordance with the Artist's intention. However, the City will reserve the right to relocate or remove a piece of art if public necessity warrants such relocation or removal. Recommendations to the Council to deaccession artwork will take into consideration but not be restricted to:

- Concerns that the condition or security of the artwork cannot be reasonably guaranteed;
- Excessive maintenance or defects in design or workmanship that cause repair or remedy that is impractical or unfeasible;
- Endangerment to public safety;
- Significant changes in the use, character, or design of the site which affect the integrity of the work; or
- Replacement of artwork for something more appropriate by the same Artist(s).

The City Council shall review the circumstances surrounding the proposed deaccessioned artwork. No artwork shall be removed within ten years of acquisition unless there are extenuating circumstances. In the event that the City Council chooses to replace, remove, or sell an artwork, living artists shall have the right of first buy-back. A recommendation to deaccession or relocate a work of art will require a written report with the reasons, condition report, and current appraised value.