

Public Art Policy

Reference number:	POL 109
Approval date:	17 October 2022
Policy owner:	Manager Community Services
Next review:	September 2029

Council adopted the Policy Outdoor Art in Public Spaces in 1997, in order to help establish and manage the City's diverse collection of public art. In 2008 the Public Art Policy was developed to respond to the cultural needs of the community as identified in Council's Cultural Plan (2006-2015) and to further extend the vision of the Outdoor Art in Public Spaces Policy.

Through significant engagement with the community with the various public art projects resulting in the Public Art Collection, there is a need to maintain a strategic focus for the development of public art across the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA). It is also necessary to manage the existing collection in a sustainable manner as well as accounting for 'whole of life' costs to enable adequate funding.

Purpose

This policy defines Wagga Wagga City Council's (Council's) integrated approach to public art planning, with an emphasis on enhancing Wagga Wagga's public spaces. This policy outlines how the City's public art is to be professionally managed and conserved.

Scope

This policy responds to Wagga Wagga's Community Strategic Plan 2050, Council's Cultural Plan 2020-2030, and Council's commitment to the New South Wales Governments 'Creative Communities' Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy 2024-2033.

This policy is to be applied to all public art in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area that has been commissioned by Council. This policy does not apply to public art not commissioned by Council, such as community murals on private buildings.

Policy Provisions

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all Council staff members and members of the Wagga Wagga City Council Public Art Advisory Panel to abide by the provisions of this policy

Reporting Requirements

Service and program levels will be reported through annual reporting processes in alignment with Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Implementation of commissions will be reported to the Public Art Advisory Panel through a schedule of regular monthly meetings.

Approval Arrangements

Approval arrangements for the commission and management of artworks in the Public Art Collection will be undertaken through Council's organisational structural approval processes.

Review Procedures

This policy will be reviewed every four years by the Manager Community Services in consultation with the Public Art Advisory Panel and reported to Council for final adoption in line with the four-year election term.

Public Art Advisory Panel

Council has established a Public Art Advisory Panel (PAAP) composed of stakeholder representatives to guide the commissioning of public art and management of the Public Art Collection in line with the Public Art Plan.

The PAAP's role is to provide expert advice and contribute to public art project management from commissioning to the completion and public launch of artworks within the commissioning guidelines. The PAAP has the following tasks:

Provide expert cultural, artistic and design advice.

Make recommendations for the selection of appropriate artists and proposals.

Oversee the commissioning and procurement processes for artworks.

Report back to Council for endorsement of the recommendations prior to the commissioning of the artwork over \$10,000 (excl. GST).

The PAAP should include the following representatives:

- Two (2) Councillors
- Council's Cultural Officer
- Council Project Management representative
- Council's Director Wagga Wagga Art Gallery
- One (1) Industry representative
- Two (2) Community representatives (with relevant arts background)

All representative position terms shall run for the duration of the Council term. Where appropriate, advisors (internal/external) with specialist expertise will be temporarily co-opted to the panel to assist decision making.

Acquisition

Commissioning Principles

The PAAP will call for an Expression of Interest (EOI) when commissioning new public art works through public and targeted processes in line with Council's Procurement and Disposal Policy. The assessment of EOIs will be guided by the following principles:

- Artistic quality and innovation
- Uniqueness, identity and respect for heritage
- Commitment to diversity
- Access and participation
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Environmental sustainability
- Transparency of process
- Industry best practice
- Investigation into development consent requirements
- Robust, with minimal maintenance requirements
- Knowledge exchange
- The artwork should not portray or depict material in a way which discriminates against or vilifies a person or section of the community on account of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual preference, religion, disability, mental illness or political belief

Donations

All donations to the Public Art Collection must be assessed by the PAAP in line with the principles outlined in the Public Art Plan.

Management

Maintenance

Council acknowledges the need to monitor the existing public art collection in order to identify maintenance needs and ensure the works maintain their original integrity.

An annual budget has been allocated to undertake necessary maintenance and conservation works, funded through General Purpose Revenue. Refer to Fundingsection in this policy.

Promotion

The Public Art Collection will be promoted as a civic asset through all Council communication platforms.

Deaccessioning

Principles

Council understands that artworks may, due to a variety of circumstances such as age, damage, or location, be deemed no longer appropriate to the community's needs. In such cases, Council will follow industry standards and undertake a process of deaccessioning.

Deaccessioning criteria

Artworks recommended for deaccessioning must be assessed against one or more of the following criteria:

- Theft or loss
- Damage or serious deterioration in condition
- Cost of repair, renovation or replacement
- The artwork is assessed as a risk or hazard
- Nominated life span has expired

Deaccessioning process

Each item recommended for deaccessioning requires written documentation stating why the object be formally removed from the collection (using above deaccessioning criteria as a guide).

These recommendations will be forwarded to the PAAP for consideration.

The PAAP's recommendation will then be forwarded by staff to the elected Council for approval.

Disposal of deaccessioned artwork

Once the deaccessioning of a work of art has been formally ratified by Council, it will be disposed of by one of the following processes:

- Offered to the artist, or family representative if the artist is deceased;
- Returned to the donor;
- Donation to another institution; or
- Destruction

Destruction of a work of art will be considered only if the work is dangerous, diseased or has deteriorated beyond repair. Wherever possible the artist and/or donor will be informed beforehand of WWCC's intention to destroy the work.

Council staff, members of the PAAP, Councillors and their families are prohibited from acquiring any deaccessioned item.

An official record of the deaccessioning and disposal of artworks from the Public Art Collection will be kept on the Public Art Register maintained by Council.

Funding

The Public Art Reserve will receive the first \$50,000 raised annually from the 1% levy on the budget of all capital works projects funded by General Purpose Revenue.

This budget allocation will be incorporated into Council's project management documentation. This provision will not apply to any capital works projects funded in part or in whole through grants from State or Federal government sources; or through the Sewer Reserve, Solid Waste Reserve, Stormwater Levy Reserve, Public Art Reserve, or Council's Development Contribution Plans.

To maintain a sustainable public art program, Council recognises the need to allocate funds for maintenance, of the public art collection.

The cost of maintaining Council’s Public Art collection is funded from General Purpose Revenue that is indexed annually. Any required maintenance above this annual allocation will be funded from the Public Art Reserve and will require a Council resolution.

It is also recognised that alternative funding may be required, and Council will actively seek to identify funding from State and Federal government sources or other external partners.

Legislative Context

NSW *Local Government Act* 1993

Related Documents

- Public Art Plan 2022-2026
- Wagga Wagga City Council’s Community Strategic Plan 2050
- Wagga Wagga City Council’s Cultural Plan 2020-2030
- Integrated Planning and Policy Framework
- POL110 – Procurement and Disposal Policy
- POL 117 – Appointment of Organisation, Community and Individual Citizen Members to Council Committees
- NSW Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy 2024-2033 – Creative Communities
- NSW Public Art Toolkit
- Create NSW Aboriginal Arts & Culture Protocols National Cultural Policy – Revive

Definitions

Term	Definition
Public Art	Public art is a permanent or temporary artwork or design project installed as part of a public space or public event. Public art seeks to create and inspire relationships and communication, a form of collective community expression that enhances the built or natural environment. Public art connects people and places while adding value, in aesthetic, cultural and economic terms, to places and communities.
Commission	A commission is a direct request by Council to produce a piece of art specifically for Council’s Public Art Collection. A public art commission by Council is a contracted transaction.
Acquisition	This term refers to obtaining artwork through commission or donation.
Deaccessioning	Deaccessioning is the administrative process whereby an item is removed from the Public Art Collection. It is distinct from disposal which is the physical act of disposing of an item.

Revision History

Revision number	Council resolution	Council meeting date
1	08/288	25 August 2008
2	09/077	27 July 2009
3	11/249.2	17 October 2011
4	E-Team	14 May 2013
5	Res No: 13/224.1	26 August 2013
6	Res No: 17/284	28 August 2017
7	Res No: 17/348	27 November 2017
8	General Manager approval under delegated authority	17 November 2021
9	Res No: 22/354	17 October 2022
10	Revision approval under General delegated authority	24 June 2025