



Corporation of the

City of St. Thomas

Report No.

PR-02-17

Meeting Date

February 21, 2017

Directed to: Mayor Heather Jackson and Members of City Council

Date Authored

February 13, 2017

Department: Parks Recreation and Property Management

Attachments

Prepared By: April Gazda – Administrative Assistant to Parks, Recreation & Property Management

Appendix "A" St. Thomas Public Art Policy

Subject: St. Thomas Public Art Policy

Recommendation:

THAT: Report PR-02-17 relating to the St. Thomas Public Art Policy be received for information, and further;

THAT: Council adopt the St. Thomas Public Art Policy (Appendix "A") dated February 2017, and further;

THAT: Council establish the St. Thomas Public Art Committee consisting of the following members:

- 1 member of City Council
- 2 eligible members of the Community (with previous art experience)
- 1 member of the St. Thomas Public Art Centre
- 1 staff from the Parks, Recreation and Property Management Department
- 1 staff from the Environmental Services Department

History:

Currently the City does not have a Public Art Policy to deal with commissioning of a potential range of initiatives such as new art projects, artist initiated site specific projects, donations, bequeaths, inventory control, maintenance and marketing.

Many municipalities have a Public Art Policy in place, staff have reviewed these policies in the development of the City's draft policy.

Report:

The St. Thomas Public Art Policy document introduces the notion of Public Art, provides the rationale for the necessity of the policy, outlines the benefits and value of public art to the community and outlines the processes by which decisions regarding public art will be guided.

Committee Structure:

Staff recommends a Committee consisting of Council, staff and members of the art community.

The Committees role and responsibility would consist of establishing Terms of Reference which may include: overseeing the management of the Public Art Inventory on City property, responsible for the administration of the policy and assist with the logging of items currently on display and in storage for archive.

Additional guidelines to support some of the policy statements are still to be developed and will be recommended to Council through the St. Thomas Public Art Committee.

Financial:

No financial considerations associated with this report. Any future financial considerations would be brought forward by the St. Thomas Public Art Committee for Council's approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Gazda, Administrative Assistant

Ross Tucker, Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management

W.S. GRAVES
CITY MANAGER

Reviewed By:

Treasury

Env Services

Planning

City Clerk

HR

Other

Appendix “A”



ST. THOMAS PUBLIC ART POLICY

City of St. Thomas

February 2017

ST. THOMAS PUBLIC ART POLICY TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vision/Policy Statement/Purpose.....	3
Definitions.....	3
Roles and Responsibility.....	4
Guiding Principles/Exclusions.....	5
Acquisitions, Purchases/Commissions, Donations, Loans.....	5
Selection Criteria/Material Selection.....	6
Donation/Installation.....	7
Maintenance and Conservation/Restoration/Insurance.....	7
Agreements/Removal.....	8



ST. THOMAS PUBLIC ART POLICY

Vision/Policy Statement/Purpose

Public art contributes to a vibrant and unique community identity by proclaiming a sense of place, strengthening connections between residents and visitors and celebrating the historical, cultural, social and natural environment. Designated public spaces become the focal points creating dialogue, charm and a sense of pride.

Art work connects new development and populations to historical buildings, older communities and serve to express shared experiences. Art engages the community, fosters neighbourhood sustainability and stimulates excellence within community spaces.

The St. Thomas Public Art Policy incorporates a process for the evaluation and selection of potential artworks in public spaces throughout the City. The policy will provide Council, Committee, staff and the community with a clear, concise and consistent framework for decision-making and to ensure that a lasting legacy is sustained for future generations.

Definitions

Public Art

Public art is defined as an original work of art, in a publicly accessible location, created with the intention of reflecting and engaging the community and can take a variety of forms. It may be functional, free standing or fully integrated into the design structure of a site and should not be a mere extension of the design of the architecture, landscape architecture or interior design of the new development.

Artist

A person who is critically recognized as an artist, possesses skill, training, and experience in their artistic discipline and is committed to the art practice.

Public Space

Municipally owned public spaces are areas available and frequently used by the public that are owned, occupied, maintained and operated by the City of St. Thomas. They may include parks, trails, building exteriors, foyers and publically accessible interior areas of municipal buildings.

Public Art Inventory

Original art created for, or located in, public spaces including; permanent, temporary or mobile works acquired by the City of St. Thomas. The Public Art Inventory may include sculptures, original paintings, murals, memorials, monuments, fountains or water features (not spray pads) and hard or soft landscaping components.

Public Art Committee

The St. Thomas Public Art Committee is an advisory Committee of Council comprised of appointed members and City staff that makes policy recommendations on public art in public spaces within the City of St. Thomas.

Roles and Responsibilities

The St. Thomas Public Art Committee will establish the Terms of Reference which may include: oversee the management of the Public Art Inventory on City property, responsible for the administration of the policy and application appendices, assist with the protection and maintenance of public art as part of the municipal environment, advise on available public art to be displayed, assist with the logging of items on display and in storage for archive and participate in the development of the City's streetscapes by ensuring that the Public Art Inventory for the City evolves from the Cultural Plan for the City.

Guiding Principles

- To develop a collection of original artworks that commemorates events of local, National and Provincial significance and may involve the contributions of local artists,
- To ensure that the collection is made safe and accessible to the public; when it is beneficial to, or in the best interest of the community,
- Appropriate distribution of public art across the City with a balance of major works which serve as City landmarks and community-oriented works,
- To cultivate audiences for the arts while maintaining the aesthetic and cultural significance of the City's public domain and
- To ensure that all artworks in the City of St. Thomas will be part of a coherent program of maintenance, conservation and preservation that is adequately recorded and well maintained.

Exclusions

Examples of public art that are excluded under the scope of this policy are: art on private lands, directional elements such as super graphics or signage, art objects that are stock or mass-produced, landscape architecture and landscape gardening and art objects that are portable or easily moved or pose a hazard.

Acquisition, Purchase or Commission, Donation, Loan

Public art collected for Municipally owned public space may be acquired through purchase, commission or donation. All works of public art that are to be purchased, commissioned or donated to the City of St. Thomas will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Public Art Policy. Purchased art is existing artwork that is bought by the City from an artist, gallery, agent or through another direct method. Commissioned art is a work of art created by a selected artist for a specific site. Donated art is existing artwork given to the City in the form of a bequest, gift, or sponsored acquisition. Artwork on loan would be on a temporary basis for display in public spaces and is not owned by the City of St. Thomas.

In the event that unsolicited works of art are found in public spaces, the City, at its discretion, will require these works to be removed at the owner's expense.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria serves to guide the evaluation and ensure a responsible and consistent art acquisition process. Each piece of art that is being considered for acquisition or donation to the City's Public Art Inventory will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- suitability of the donation as determined by the guidelines and mandate of the City of St. Thomas Public Art Policy,
- quality of artwork, based on a professional assessment of the work, detailed written proposal, drawing and or photographs,
- suitability of the theme of the artwork to a public venue,
- appropriateness of the artwork to the site (artworks should reflect the intent and objectives of the City's Public Art Policy and should be compatible in material, form, size and content with their surroundings), in the case where a site has been identified,
- qualifications of the artist based on documentation of previous art work and the artist's professional qualifications,
- financial implications based on the costs of the project, the installation of the artwork and its ongoing maintenance,
- durability of the artwork with respect to wear, vandalism and potential danger (artworks should not pose any safety hazard to the public) and
- ease of maintenance and repair.

Material Selection Guidelines for Artworks

Artwork being considered for the City of St. Thomas Public Art Inventory will be assessed from a maintenance and conservation perspective to determine its durability outdoors and potential maintenance costs to the City. The materials selected can make a significant difference to the lifespan of artwork in an outdoor environment. Other determining factors include: quality of workmanship, fabrication and finishing methods and design details.

Donation

An official gift of public art or the installation of an artistic tribute to acknowledge a significant historic event should be sent in writing to the City of St. Thomas Public Art Committee for review and recommendation to City Council. The submission should include a detailed description of the donation or gift and the relevance of the subject matter to the City of St. Thomas.

Work purchased or obtained through donation for the City of St. Thomas Public Art Inventory must be considered to be of high standing within its artistic field, both conceptually and aesthetically and with regard to technical execution. The City of St. Thomas does not acquire work with the intent to profit on disposal at a later date.

Installation

Artists are generally responsible for the installation of works of art. All contractual requirements with the artists will be overseen by the Public Art Committee and are identified, in advance, through the agreement of purchase, commission, donation or rental contract. All acquired works will be condition reported upon receipt and any problems found will be referred to the artist/lender for resolution.

Maintenance and Conservation/Restoration

The City of St. Thomas is responsible for the maintenance of all permanent works of art within the Public Art Inventory, in accordance with the approved maintenance plan and/or conservation plan required for each artwork.

Insurance

All permanent, temporary or mobile public art works owned by the City through purchase, commission and or donation are the property of the City of St. Thomas and are insured under the City's Insurance Policy.

Agreements and Art Removal

Agreements: The Artist will enter into a written agreement with the City of St. Thomas following the approval of the acquisition of the artwork. This agreement will address the artist's obligations, which will include materials, timelines, installation, maintenance/conservation plan, copyright, warranty and payments to sub-contractors.

Removal: The removal of public artwork will only occur after a comprehensive assessment is undertaken by the City of St. Thomas. The process must be conducted in a responsible manner and for sound and justifiable reasons. Public Art work may be removed under any of the following situations:

- Works that are a danger to public safety,
- Works that require excessive maintenance,
- Works in poor condition with insufficient value to warrant extensive restoration and
- Works that are no longer relevant to the City's Public Art Inventory.