

Art Acquisition, Management and Decommissioning

Policy Objective

To provide guidance on the effective acquisition, management and decommissioning of the Town's art collection.

Policy Scope

This Policy applies to the Town's existing art collection and any decisions relating to the acquisition of additional items.

Policy Statement

The Town recognises the importance art has in contributing to a culturally rich environment and considers that high quality and meaningful artwork can enrich the community and strengthen community connectedness.

1. Definitions

Art: means a product, that involves creative or imaginative talent expressive of technical proficiency, beauty, emotional power, or conceptual ideas. For the purposes of this policy, it excludes memorabilia as well as "public art", which is typically comprised of artistic works created for, and located within, the public domain.

Decommissioning: means the formal process to remove art from its active status, through methods including (but not limited to) sale, donation or disposal/destruction.

2. Acquisition

2.1 Art is able to be acquired by the Town by purchase (subject to funding being made available through Council's annual budget) and through donations and bequeaths.

2.2 Regardless of the method of acquisition, the following criteria will be used to determine the suitability of any art being considered for acquisition by the Town:

- A preference for artworks designed or created by artists living, working in, or who have a strong connection to the Town

- A preference for artworks with themes relating to the Town
- A preference for artworks intended to excite the imagination of the public and increase the understanding and enjoyment of art
- A preference for artworks designed or created through processes of group or community artistic expression
- The condition and overall artistic merit of the artwork
- The cost (initial and ongoing) and community value and of the artwork.

3. Management

- 3.1 The Town will maintain an Art Collection Register, which will be amended from time to time so as to incorporate updated valuation and condition assessments.
- 3.2 The collection is to be housed such that priority is given to venues owned or managed by the Town, giving priority to public areas over private offices. Should the quantity of artwork be greater than is able to be appropriately displayed in venues owned or managed by the Town, arrangements may be made to allow the artworks to be housed in other venues, so long as it would allow them to be viewed by the public.
- 3.3 The Town will undertake maintenance and archiving works of the art collection as required, subject to the availability of funding for those purposes.

4. Decommissioning

- 4.1 Works from the collection may be considered for removal from the collection if they are in poor condition, damaged or deteriorated beyond reasonable repair, duplicate other elements of the collection and/or do not meet the requirements of this policy.
- 4.2 Any removal is to be undertaken based on the following priority basis:
- The Town may, at its absolute and sole discretion, remove any art from the collection for the purposes of selling, gifting, donating, storing, or otherwise disposing of the art, provided that the Town provides the relevant artist prior notice of its intentions.
 - In providing the relevant artist prior notice of its intentions, the Town shall also provide the artist the opportunity to purchase the art at a price that could be realised if it was to be sold privately, or such other agreement reached with the artist that is acceptable to the Town.

Document Control box			
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