

Public Art

Acquisition Framework





1. Purpose

Shire of Mundaring recognises there is significant community benefit in the provision of public art. Public art has the potential to improve the appearance and experience of the area (visual amenity); promote and recognise the identity of the local community; and the history and culture of the place (promote cultural diversity and celebrate Place).

This Public Art Acquisition Framework provides a clear, transparent, and best-practice approach to acquiring public art for Shire of Mundaring. It outlines the process, roles and responsibilities to ensure public art enhances community spaces, reflects local identity and aligns with the Shire's strategic objectives.

2. Objectives

In acquiring public art, the Shire seeks to:



Improve public amenity; the quality and attractiveness of the built environment



Promote engagement with diverse artistic practices and practitioners



Increase cultural, social and economic value



Reflect and celebrate the unique character, heritage and identity of the local area



Engage with the community in a way that contributes to their understanding and appreciation of the site



Ensure equitable, transparent and accountable processes in commissioning and acquiring public art

3. Scope

This framework applies to:

- Commissioning new public artworks
- Purchasing existing public artworks
- Managing donations or gifts of artworks
- Maintaining and decommissioning public art.

4. Alignment with strategic plans

The framework aligns with the following Shire of Mundaring policies and strategic documents:

- Shire of Mundaring Council Plan
- Local Planning Scheme
- Shire of Mundaring Public Art Policy
- Shire of Mundaring Art Collection Policy

5. Principles of best practice

- **Quality and innovation:** Support original and high quality artworks.
- **Inclusivity:** Engage a diverse range of Professional artists.
- **Sustainability:** Prioritise materials and practices that are environmentally and financially sustainable.
- **Community engagement:** Ensure meaningful consultation with stakeholders and the local community.
- **Transparency:** Maintain clear processes for selection, commissioning and acquisition.



6. Acquisition methods

6.1 Commissioning new artworks

- Acquisition process: Depending on the overall project budget public art will be acquired according to the Shire's purchasing policy. Where relevant, opportunities will be advertised through public notices, professional networks and local community groups.
- Selection panel: A panel comprising up to two Council members, relevant Shire staff, Mundaring Arts Centre Inc. and art professionals will be convened to oversee selection and recommend the selection to Council.
- Assessed against the selection criteria including whether the artist meets the definition of a professional artist and the work meets the definition of public art.

Professional artist

For the purpose of this Framework, a professional artist is defined as a person who meets at least two of the following criteria:

- A qualification in visual arts or similar field from a tertiary education institution.
- A demonstrated record in studio-based creation and public exhibition of original artwork.
- Completed public artwork that identifies the artist as the creator of the artwork, commissioned by either a private developer or government client.
- A person who earns at least 50% of income generated from public art commissions.
- Whilst these criteria will be applied it is also noted that there may be times that it is appropriate to engage people other than professional artists to undertake artwork commissions (e.g. emerging or First Nations artists).

Public art

Public art is art in any media that meets all of the following criteria:

- Has been planned and executed by a professional artist; or
- That is visible in the physical public domain.
- Public art can include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Sculptures, free-standing or incorporated as an integral element of a buildings' design.
 - Murals, tiles and/or mosaics.
 - Functional equipment such as bike racks, bus shelters, benches, fountains, playground equipment, light posts or shade structures.
 - Landscape art enhancements such as walkways, bridges or art features within a garden.
- Public art does not include:
 - Art in areas not easily accessible to the public
 - Business logos.
 - Advertising signage.
 - Art objects which are mass produced or off-the-shelf reproductions.
 - Landscaping or hardscaping which would normally be associated with site development.

6.2 Purchasing existing artworks

Existing artworks will be reviewed against the framework's principles, compatibility with the proposed locations, community values and maintenance requirements.

6.3 Donations and gifts

Proposed donations and gifts of public art will be evaluated by Mundaring Arts Centre Inc. in line with this framework. Consideration will also be given to long term implications including installation, maintenance and cultural and historical relevance to the shire.

7. Potential funding sources

- "Percent for art" contributions from private developments
- Shire of Mundaring annual budget allocation
- Grants from state and federal arts bodies
- Community partnership projects and sponsorship.

8. Site selection

8.1 Criteria for site suitability

- Accessibility and visibility to the public.
- Compatibility with the site's purpose and environment.
- Consideration is given to public safety and compliance requirements.
- Opportunities for integration into community spaces.
- Long term planning for the site.

8.2 Consultation process

- Engage with community stakeholders to identify suitable sites.
- Consider existing and potential cultural or heritage significance of the location.

9. Maintenance and decommissioning

9.1 Maintenance plans

- A maintenance plan will be developed for each artwork, detailing required upkeep and estimated costs.
- Inspections will be conducted on an annual basis with issues identified addressed promptly.
- Shire of Mundaring will provide an annual public art maintenance budget.

9.2 Decommissioning

Public art may be considered for decommissioning in the following circumstances:

- Irreparable damage.
- Loss of relevance or community support.
- Safety or compliance issues.



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