

History: Creating the Public Art Program

Identifying the need

In 1996, issues around the need for a Council-approved Public Art Policy arose (including procedures to guide Administration in accepting or declining art donations, commissions, purchases and the installation of artwork in public spaces)

Administration requested that the Public Art Committee (PAC) of the Calgary Allied Arts Foundation (CAAF) address both the issue of donations and the development of a Public Art Policy

In 1998, CAAF initiated a comprehensive investigation of issues surrounding the development and implementation of municipal public art programs across North America. This process included two broad spectrum Arts Stakeholder workshops, as well as a questionnaire targeted at key City and private stakeholders.

Creating the Policy

A draft Public Art Policy was developed and ready to be brought forward to City Council in 2002 but was held back so that it could be considered within the larger Civic Arts Policy review.

On May 27, 2003, Council approved the fundamental principle of a Public Art Policy whereby one percent of all capital Upgrade and Growth projects over \$1 million would be designated for the commission, purchase and installation of public art. (CPS2003-38, 2003 May 27)

Council directed the Administration to work with the Calgary Allied Arts Foundation (CAAF), affected Business Units and the Civic Arts Policy Review Steering Committee to finalize the Public Art Policy and Operations Guidelines.

Updating the Policy

At the Special Meeting of Council held on November 17, 2008, Council (by means of a motion made by Alderman Colley-Urquhart) directed Administration to undertake a review of the Public Art Policy including the Program, Policy, Guidelines and funding mechanism and report back through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than June 2009.

Extensive engagement with both internal and external stakeholders was conducted in order to ensure the Public Art Policy and Program is operationally sound, sustainable, and responsive to the changing times, public interest and The City's commitment to enhance the lives of citizens. Five community forums, one in each quadrant as well as in the Centre City, were held in mid-February to encourage and solicit citizens' thoughts and perspective on future public art initiatives in their community and throughout the city.

It was determined that the key components of the existing Public Art Policy were reflective of industry best practices, and that its intent and mission remained valid and relevant. Therefore the bulk of the amendments made to the Policy were operational clarifications in order to better enable the Corporation to implement the policy as it was originally intended.

These amendments included:

- clarification of the 1% capital funding mechanism;
- clarification for the Public Art Policy to address the newly defined Public Art; Collection to include all visual art assets held in trust by The City;
- confirmation of the role and responsibility of the Public Art Program in implementing the Public Art Policy.

The amended Public Art Policy was unanimously approved by Council for approval on July 13, 2009.