

# Public Art Policy Guidelines

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"Art provides the roadmap of a civilization." **Lincoln Steffans – writer**







Kirkland's rich public art is the result of generous individuals who have loaned and donated high quality art to the community and citizens who have contributed to the acquisition of sculpture. A supportive City Council and citizenry, who value the role public art plays in strengthening civic identity and community pride, creating a sense of discovery, highlighting artists, and creating magnets for economic development, have bolstered the acceptance of public art in the community. This helps set the community apart in ways that encourage people to live here, to visit, to tell others.

"Public art can express civic values, enhance the environment, transform a landscape, heighten our awareness, or question our assumptions. Placed in a public site, this art is therefore for everyone, a form of collective community expression—from the once celebrated but now unrecognized general on a horse to the abstract sculpture that may baffle the passer-by on first glance." **Penny Balkin Bach (contemporary American), art administrator.**

The Cultural Council's goal is to maintain the high quality of art in Kirkland while growing the city's public art collection. We welcome and embrace public art from the community, whether it is donated, loaned or commissioned. The Cultural Council has prepared the following policies to help direct public art acquisitions, donations, loans, deaccessioning, and other related public art opportunities. In this process, every attempt will be made to accommodate special circumstances in order to continue to rely on the generosity of citizens who have built our city's collection.


## **GOALS**

The City of Kirkland is committed to providing public art of exceptional quality and diversity which adds to the community's vibrancy and identity. Specifically, the City's public art program strives to:

-  Make public art and artistic expressions available to the public.
-  Use public art as a vehicle to express the City's history and cultural heritage.
-  Educate the community about public art.
-  Use public art as a means to foster the community's sense of spirit, pride, and community values.
-  Recognize public art's contribution in cultural tourism and economic development.
-  Disseminate public art throughout Kirkland.

## **DONATIONS OR LOANS OF ARTWORK**

### **Objectives**

-  To provide procedures for reviewing both proposed loan and gifts of art work to the City's collection of public art.

## **Guidelines**

- ✚ Proposed gifts or loans to the City of Kirkland shall be reviewed by the Kirkland Cultural Council. The Council will make a recommendation to the City Council for final action. For proposed art work siting in a City park, a recommendation from the Park Board will be requested.
- ✚ Proposed gifts or loans will be evaluated on the following criteria:
  - A. The quality of the art work.
  - B. Context in the City collection. Does art work enhance the existing collection or add diversity? How does the piece engage the public? Are the materials appropriate? Is the piece susceptible to vandalism or graffiti?
  - C. Availability of an appropriate site.
  - D. Coordination with the Park Board concerning siting, costs of installation, and maintenance of art work.
  - E. Donor conditions, if applicable.
  - F. Condition of the art work.
  - G. Durability of the art work.
  - H. Ability to maintain the art work.
  - I. Aesthetic merit.
- ✚ For a work proposed for loan to the City, the owner or owner's representative will be required to enter into an Art Display Agreement setting forth the length of the loan and other terms such as location, maintenance requirements, insurance, value of art work, installation and removal responsibility, and other conditions pertinent to the agreement.
- ✚ Whenever appropriate, siting decisions will be determined by a public art jury made up of surrounding neighbors, businesses, or associations (i.e., business, neighborhood) impacted by art work location.
- ✚ Donated or loaned art work will include identifying plaques.
- ✚ All donated works become part of the City art collection and, as such, may be relocated.
- ✚ Monetary donations to help fund public art acquisitions will be accepted at any time.

## **PUBLIC ART ACQUISITION**

The following guidelines are based on acquiring existing or loaned art work:

## **Guidelines**

- ✚ Proposed public art acquisitions shall be reviewed by the Kirkland Cultural Council with recommendation to the City Council. For a proposed public art acquisition to be sited in a park, a recommendation from the Kirkland Park Board will also be requested. A recommendation will be requested from affected boards, commissions, organizations, and associations when appropriate.

✚ Proposed public art acquisitions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- A. The quality of the art work.
- B. Context in the City collection. Does art work enhance the existing collection or add diversity? How does the piece engage the public? Are the materials appropriate? Is the piece susceptible to vandalism or graffiti?
- C. If the art work is on loan, is there sufficient public support to fundraise to have it become a permanent part of the City's collection?
- D. Availability of an appropriate site.
- E. Appropriateness in size, scale, material, form and style for the area in which it is to be placed.
- F. Condition, durability, installation, and maintenance requirements of the art work.
- G. Aesthetic merit.

✚ Whenever appropriate, siting decisions will be determined by a public art jury made up of surrounding neighbors, businesses, or associations (i.e., business, neighborhood) impacted by art work location.

## **TEMPORARY ART EXHIBITS**

### **Objectives**

✚ To provide procedures and opportunities for the temporary exhibit of art work in cooperation with art galleries and other organizations to showcase artists, promote awareness and foster education regarding public art in the community. The City currently has several locations and pedestals located in the downtown that provide for the display of temporary public art. Other venues throughout the community, in public facilities and neighborhoods will be encouraged.

### **Guidelines**

✚ Proposed use of the existing pedestal locations for art work in public parks or right-of-way shall be reviewed by the Kirkland Cultural Council in coordination with Parks and Community Services for installation assistance (if required) and Public Works for any use permit requirements.

✚ Art Display Agreements will be required.

✚ Hosting temporary indoor and outdoor public art exhibits shall be reviewed by the Kirkland Cultural Council with recommendation to City Council. If appropriate, partnerships with other arts organizations, agencies, and the business community will be encouraged.

## **MEMORIAL DONATIONS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **Objectives**

✚ To provide procedures and opportunities for the donation of memorial artwork to honor the memory of an event (contemporary or historical), an occasion, an outstanding member of the community, or a similar purpose.

## Guidelines

- ✚ Proposed memorial public art shall be reviewed by the Kirkland Cultural Council with recommendation to the City Council. The Kirkland Cultural Council will work with the donor and the Parks Department to recommend an appropriate site for the work. For proposed memorial public art to be sited in a park, a recommendation from the Kirkland Park Board will also be requested.
- ✚ Proposed commissioned memorial art shall not ordinarily honor a living person, unless that person has made a significant and outstanding contribution to the arts or civic service. A waiting period of at least one year should elapse from the time of (1) the initial nomination of the living individual, (2) the passing away of the deceased individual(s) or, (3) the occurrence of the event in order to be eligible for consideration as a commissioned memorial public art work.
- ✚ The proponent(s) of commissioned memorial art will approach the Cultural Council with several ideas for the intended public art. The Cultural Council will establish a dialogue with the proponents and other affected city departments. As a result of this dialogue, the Cultural Council will make a recommendation to the City Council. The recommendation may endorse one of the proponent's proposed ideas or may recommend a different design approach or public art location.
- ✚ Celebratory gifts may be commemorative in nature, or may mark a life event such as: the birth of a loved one, an anniversary, a graduation, a business, or a celebration of an event or a group.

Proposed memorial public art will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- A. The fit of the art work into the overall character of public art already on display throughout the city.
- B. The timeless qualities of the art work, including its significance and appeal to future generations. Memorial proposals honoring individuals or a personal event should be represented in a form that has a broader community interest and moves the viewer to a special experience. Examples include community parks, landscaped gardens and plazas, sculpture and art works, plaques about history or the environment, poetry, fountains, park benches, site furnishings, etc.
- C. The art work's success in expressing the spirit of the person(s) or event to be commemorated.
- D. The precedent that is set by the art work. Will this work set a precedent that will be difficult to follow? If strictly followed, will the precedent diminish the value of the previous, possibly even adjacent memorial public art?
- E. The artistic merit of the art work.

- F. The proposed location of the art work. The location should be an appropriate setting for the memorial and should not interfere with existing and proposed circulation and use patterns. It is recognized that a particular location may reach a saturation point and it would then be appropriate to consider limitations or a moratorium of future memorial installations at a particular location or area.
- G. The fit in terms of the size, scale, material, form and style for the area in which it is to be placed.
- H. Condition, durability, installation, and maintenance requirements of the art work.
- ✚ Memorials become a part of the City art collection and, as such, may be relocated.
- ✚ Memorial donations to help fund the acquisition of public art will be accepted at any time.

## **DEACCESSION OF ART WORK**

### **Objectives**

- ✚ To provide procedures for the withdrawal of City owned art work from public display.

### **Guidelines**

- ✚ Deaccessioning should be cautiously applied only after careful and impartial evaluation including input from the Kirkland Cultural Council, art professionals, the public, the artist, and final review and decision by the City Council.
- ✚ Deaccessioning or relocation of art work may be considered for one or more of the following reasons:
  - A. The condition or security of the art work cannot be reasonably guaranteed in its present location.
  - B. The art work presents a public safety risk.
  - C. The art work is damaged and repair is not feasible.
  - D. Significant changes in the use, character or actual design of the site require a re-evaluation of the art work's relationship to the site.
  - E. The art work requires excessive maintenance or has failures of design or workmanship.
- ✚ Procedures for possible deaccessioning of art work shall be initiated by a majority vote of the Kirkland Cultural Council or direction from the City Council. The following describes specific procedures for deaccession or relocation.
  - A. Review of any restriction which may apply to the specific work, based on contract review.
  - B. Assessment of options for storage or disposition of art work, which may include sale, trade, return to the artist, or gift.
  - C. Analysis of reasons for deaccessioning and recommendation to City Council for final decision. The Cultural Council may seek additional information regarding the

art work from the public, the artist, art galleries, curators, appraisers, or other professionals prior to making a recommendation.

### **Public Art Juries for Commissioned Works of Art**

- ✚ The Kirkland Cultural Council may convene a jury to review individual public art memorials or acquisitions. The Council will convene a jury when the public art work to be considered is a commissioned piece and is not an already completed work of art.
- ✚ Candidate jurors will be artists, architects, landscape architects, engineers, urban designers, representatives from the community and art professionals.
- ✚ A jury will be comprised of not less than three and no more than five jurors. The Cultural Council should maintain a list of candidates to facilitate selection.
- ✚ An appointed jury shall not include any City of Kirkland staff, City Council member, or their respective partners or families.
- ✚ A jury shall not ordinarily be comprised of more than 50% membership from the Cultural Council.
- ✚ Proposals for commissioned works shall include:
  - A. Maquette of a three-dimensional work (when appropriate) or complete drawing of a two-dimensional work
  - B. Drawings or photographs that demonstrate the relationship of the artwork to the site
  - C. Material samples for the artwork and any relevant construction materials
  - D. Installation details
  - E. Description of routine maintenance and estimate of maintenance costs
  - F. Approval for the installation and use of site by the appropriate city department(s)
  - G. Artist's resume