



Richmond Hill Public Library Board

PUBLIC ART POLICY

1.0 Purpose and Scope

Richmond Hill Public Library recognizes the role of visual art in contributing to the expression of cultural and creative life in the community. The *Public Art Policy* addresses requirements for the acquisition of public art to enhance the Library environment and provide engaging and diverse art for the pleasure and enjoyment of Library visitors.

2.0 Policy Statement

Richmond Hill Public Library may, from time to time, acquire public art to be the property of Richmond Hill Public Library Board and housed in RHPL locations or on RHPL property, in order to:

- Enrich the library experience for the enjoyment of all;
- Enhance the library environment as public space;
- Serve as an expression of RHPL's Vision, Purpose and Values;
- Be a visual resource, complementing RHPL's collections, services and programs;
- Exemplify RHPL's role as a significant cultural institution in the Town of Richmond Hill.

Public art, whether purchased, commissioned or donated will become the property of RHPL. RHPL will respect the authorship and the integrity of the public art.

Decisions to acquire works of art through any of these means result from a formal selection and recommendation process. Recommendations concerning acquisition of public art are made to the Library Board by an appointed Art Committee, which in turn uses established selection criteria in adjudicating potential acquisitions.

3.0 Selection of Art

3.1 Criteria for Adjudicating Selection of Art

General selection criteria for works of public art to be purchased, commissioned or donated include:

- i. All works of art are to be selected through a majority vote of the members of the Art Committee.
- ii. Art works may be two or three dimensional and can be executed in any medium.
- iii. Works to be considered for the permanent collection must be deemed to be of professional quality.
- iv. Both the permanent and temporary collections will ideally focus on works by local artists located in Southern Ontario. Some non-regional temporary collections may be exhibited from time to time.
- v. Works of art must be deemed in sufficient and good taste to be shown to the viewing public at both the adult and young people's levels. This is not meant to censor controversial works but to consider the public interest.
- vi. For purposes of the Permanent Collection, if the piece is one of an edition, the work should ideally number within the restricted set termed "Original" to avoid large commercial editions of paintings or drawings.

- vii. Spatial characteristics should not solely dictate the acquisition of a work. However, very large works will be predicated on availability of suitable space;
- viii. If acceptable storage space and conditions exist, a number of art works greater than that which can be shown at one time could be collected; all works in the Permanent Collection would then be shown on a revolving basis;
- ix. The Committee should be realistic in its acceptance of works of art which are deemed fragile or very vulnerable. These may be recommended for acceptance, notwithstanding, and notation made to this effect;
- x. Evaluation must occur as to extra display requirements such as museum quality matting and framing of drawings or prints, stands for sculpture, etc;
- xi. Temporary Collections are used by staff to inform/educate the public in general or specific ways. Applications for exhibition may be recommended to Library staff by the Art Committee;
- xii. Works for either permanent or temporary exhibition may belong to any time period, so long as they are deemed relevant and suitable to such collections;
- xiii. The selection criteria will be reviewed periodically;
- xiv. The Donations Policy of the Richmond Hill Public Library Board is the reference document for all donations.

3.2 Donated Public Art

Donated public art works must be accompanied by:

- i. A warranty of good legal title;
- ii. A good record of provenance and must be authenticated, if required;
- iii. A statement of current market value, completed by a certified appraiser;
- iv. Information related to maintenance and conservation requirements; and
- v. Information about the artist.

Donations must be free and clear of conditions and restrictions imposed by the donor regarding RHPL's use of the public art, unless otherwise negotiated through contractual agreement.

RHPL reserves the right to refuse any donation of public art.

4.0 Site Selection

RHPL reserves the right to determine the site for public art works.

Sites selected for the location of public art must be publicly accessible, in a way consistent with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, during regular library operating hours.

The site must be in a visible area and may be integrated into the building and landscapes.

The Chief Executive Officer will make the final determination of site.

5.0 Disposition

Richmond Hill Public Library reserves the right to dispose of any public art, unless otherwise negotiated through a written contractual agreement.

Criteria for the decision to dispose of public art include, but are not limited to:

- i. Condition of the work and/or cost of maintenance;
- ii. Non-compliance with the terms of the policy; or
- iii. Lack of suitable or available location.

Attempts will be made to notify the artist when the decision is made to dispose of the public art.

The disposed public art may be moved, sold, donated to another institution or destroyed, unless otherwise negotiated through a written contractual agreement.

In all cases, the rights of the artist will be upheld in accordance with the Canadian *Copyright Act* R.S.C, 1985, and other legislated requirements.

6.0 Related Policies

1.0 Donations, Sponsorship, Partnership Policy, December 1998

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Dates	Motion #
Approval Date: October 18, 2018	18:97
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