



PUBLIC ART POLICY

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Purpose

To guide the planning, development, implementation and care of public art in Mosman.

Objectives

To:

- Guide a coordinated approach to the development and management of public art in Mosman that reflects the cultural aspirations of the community.
- Facilitate the procurement of public art that is meaningful, relevant, diverse in character and aesthetically pleasing and that complements and enhances the natural and built environments of Mosman and reflects its unique character, history, values and aspirations.
- Ensure that public art in Mosman is appropriately resourced and effectively managed.
- Preserve, conserve and where necessary, restore public art in Mosman.
- Ensure that public art in Mosman is appropriately acknowledged and recorded, and that a public art register is maintained.

Scope

The Public Art Policy guides and forms the criteria for the assessment of all Public Art commissioned by the Council, or acquired by purchase, donation or transfer, as well as providing a framework for the management and promotion of the collection of Public Art, known as the Mosman Public Art Collection. The Mosman Public Art Collection is managed as a subset of the Mosman Art Collection.

A key feature of the Public Art Policy is the integration of art into the fabric of Mosman. Public Art can enrich the public domain and artists can contribute to shaping and transforming the urban realm in ways that reflect, accentuate and give meaning to Mosman's unique environment, history and community.

The overall goal of the Public Art Policy is to generate significant benefits, tangible and intangible, in the long-term development of Mosman as a vibrant harbourside village where community, lifestyle and heritage are valued and where residents feel safe and connected.

Council will foster the development of a diverse Public Art collection in terms of style, media, content and location, and encourage, support and implement the creation of high quality public artworks that contribute to the image and identity of Mosman.

Location

Council will initiate, facilitate and implement Public Art projects in public spaces owned by Council where funding permits. Council may also collaborate with other levels of government or private interests in Public Art projects for private or commercial buildings and facilities where public spaces are available. Priority areas for the provision of Public Art include Council's civic precinct, laneways, Military Road retail spine and foreshore areas. Works may also be incorporated into parks, pocket parks and pathways.

Council will also strongly encourage the provision of public art outcomes in significant private development projects.

Project Selection, Quality Control and Management

Council is committed to achieving artistic excellence in all commissioned and acquired Public Art works. The selection of Public Art projects will be based on the criteria of significance, integrity, relevance to the proposed site, durability and quality in aesthetic, conceptual and technical terms. The assessment and artistic management of all Public Art projects will be guided by the Mosman Art Gallery Director, who may be assisted by external consultants where necessary and Council's Art and Culture Community Consultative Committee.

Commissioning works of art, including site-specific Public Art works, is undertaken by the Mosman Art Gallery Director in accordance with the Mosman Art Collection Policy and relevant Council delegations.

When considering the acquisition of newly commissioned or existing Public Art works, due regard will be given to the following:

- the location and suitability of works for specific sites
- appropriate recompense for the work of artists and art workers
- the management and resource implications of accepting loans, gifts or purchases
- the financial and legal implications of accepting improperly valued loans or gifts or improperly priced purchases
- the social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts on the community
- insurance requirements
- lifespan of the work
- all acquisitions are approved on the basis that adequate provisions exist for cataloguing, conservation, maintenance, storage and exhibition of a professional standard
- all works must be in excellent condition

Clear legal title must be substantiated and is required for all art works permanently acquired.

Resourcing

Council will include Public Art as an integral component of relevant capital works programs and budgets, through the use of dedicated funds where applicable.

Council will consider capital expenditure for Public Art through a dedicated fund as part of its annual planning and budgeting process. This fund, as a restricted account, will allow for expenditure to accrue over several years budgets if required. Maintenance of Public Art will be addressed as a separate budget item by Council.

Council will also seek to establish partnerships with other government agencies, community organisations, commercial enterprises and members of the public to initiate, plan and implement Public Art projects where Council funds are considered insufficient. In addition, grant opportunities will be investigated and secured by Council wherever possible.

Donations and Gifts

Council may use the legal status of the Mosman Art Gallery to provide incentives for the raising of cash donations and acceptance of gifts of Public Artworks.

Gifts of Public Art are encouraged, provided such gifts comply with the Mosman Art Collection Policy guidelines, can be sited appropriately, are safe to be displayed, do not cause public offence and do not commit Council to unreasonable financial outlay. The Mosman Art Gallery Director has the right to accept or refuse such offers of gifts as they occur. Gifts are only accepted where the donor has legal title to the work and the gift is made on the basis of a total transfer from the donor to Mosman Council.

The Mosman Art Gallery is registered by the Australian Taxation Office as both a Deductible Gift Recipient (for cash donations) and as a Participating Recipient Institution under the Federal Government's Cultural Gifts Program (for gifts of artwork). These programs are administered in accordance with the gift provisions of the income tax law and with the advice of technical experts. The Cultural Gifts Program is administered by a secretariat based in the Federal Ministry for the Arts.

Preservation, Conservation and Restoration

Council recognises the Mosman Public Art Collection as a major community asset which requires professional standards of management, care and conservation to ensure its preservation for future generations.

For asset management purposes, Public Art will be treated as a separate asset category. An asset management register for Public Art will be established listing location, description (with photos), value and timing of maintenance activities.

In the event of the need to remove, relocate, modify or de-accession a public artwork, the Mosman Art Gallery Director will consult with the artist/s, with the aim of negotiating a mutually satisfactory outcome. Where agreement cannot be reached, Council's position will be given precedence. In the event of the need to repair a public artwork, the relevant artist/s will be given first option to complete the work.

De-accessioning Artworks

To maintain and safeguard standards, all works within the Public Art Collection are subject to periodic review. As a sub-set of the Mosman Art Collection, public artworks will be considered on a case-by-case basis for de-accessioning based on the criteria set out in Council's Art Collection Policy.

Collection Reporting

The Public Art Collection is maintained and displayed in accordance with industry standards and conventions of conservation, handling, storage, record-keeping (including a central catalogue containing photographs of each object, a brief description, and an accession number) and security.

The Mosman Art Gallery Director is responsible for the overall management of the Public Art Collection. Mosman Art Gallery staff will undertake a stocktake and condition report audit and valuation of all permanent Public Art once every four years.

Related Information/Glossary

Create NSW – NSW Government Public Art Toolkit (2023)
Mosman Art Collection Policy (2023)
Mosman Art Collection Trust Deed (2015)

Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years unless otherwise directed by the Executive Team.

Contact

Enquiries should be directed to the Manager Cultural Services/Mosman Art Gallery Director on 9978 4009.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Reference