



## 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.

This policy does not apply to temporary art exhibits, which are governed by RHPL's Display Policy.

### 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 City 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 **Definitions**

**Commissioned Art** means a work of art created by a selected artist by request of RHPL for a specific site and subject to the terms and conditions of this policy.

**Donated Art** means existing artwork given to the Library in the form of a bequest, a gift, or a sponsored acquisition and subject to the terms and conditions of this policy.

**Purchased Art** means works that are purchased and subject to the terms and conditions of this policy.

**Works of Art** include artistic creations in any medium, whether fixed or freestanding, including but not limited to murals, paintings, textile works, stained glass, and sculptures, intended to be freely accessible to the general public in a significant public interior area in the Library or in a visible accessible external location.

**Deaccessioning** is the process of removing an object from the collection, catalogue, or register. The Library continues to own an object after it has been deaccessioned; the object is simply no longer part of the permanent collection.

**Disposition** is the transfer of ownership, or other disposal of an object, after the object has been deaccessioned. The Library may choose not to dispose of an object after it has been deaccessioned.

#### 4.0 **Selection of Art**

##### 4.1 **Criteria for Adjudicating Selection of Art**

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

- a. Selected through a majority vote of the members of the Art Committee.
- b. Relevance to Richmond Hill, its residents, and library customers.
- c. Deemed to be of professional quality.
- d. Celebratory of the culture and art of local Indigenous communities
- e. Celebratory of the diverse population and interests of the community
- f. Suitable to be viewed by the public of all ages. This is not meant to censor controversial works but to ensure that the Library is suitable for all ages to visit.
- g. The piece should ideally number within the restricted set termed “Original” to avoid large commercial editions of paintings or drawings.
- h. Spatial characteristics should not solely dictate the acquisition of a work. However, very large works will be predicated on availability of suitable space.
- i. 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.

- j. 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.
- k. Evaluation must occur as to extra display requirements such as museum quality matting and framing of drawings or prints, stands for sculpture, etc.
- l. The selection criteria will be reviewed periodically.
- m. The Donations Policy of the Richmond Hill Public Library Board is the reference document for all donations.

## **4.2 Donated Public Art**

Donated public art works must be accompanied by:

- a. A warranty of good legal title.
- b. A good record of provenance and must be authenticated, if required.
- c. A statement of current market value, completed by a certified appraiser.
- d. Information related to maintenance and conservation requirements.
- e. 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.

Wherever possible, donated public art will include a monetary donation for the maintenance and conservation/restoration of the work being donated, the amount of which will be negotiated as part of a contractual agreement. The Library reserves the right to refuse donated public art without explanation.

## **5.0 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 the site.

## **6.0 Deaccession and Disposition**

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

The criteria to deaccession or dispose of public art include, but are not limited to:

- a. The object is not in keeping with the Library's mission or the character of the permanent collection.
- b. The object is intrinsically poor in quality or lacks aesthetic or historical importance.
- c. The object is in such poor condition that it cannot feasibly be restored to a state worthy of display.
- d. The authenticity or attribution of the object is determined to be false or fraudulent.
- e. The Library is unable to care for the object because of the object's unusual display, storage, or treatment requirements.
- f. The object perpetuates harmful ideologies that no longer reflect the Library's values.
- g. The Library's possession of the object may not be consistent with the terms of this policy or applicable laws.

The deaccessioned public art may be moved into storage or loaned to another institution, unless otherwise negotiated through a written contractual agreement.

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

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

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.

## 7.0 **Related Policies**

Donations Policy

Display Policy

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