



1. Introduction

The Northern Beaches Council Public Art Policy recognises that public art consists of a highly diverse and constantly evolving range of activities and outcomes.

The Public Art Guidelines support the objectives and principles of the adopted Public Art Policy, as well as providing prescriptive criteria and conditions for the evaluation, acceptance, procurement and ongoing management of public art across the Northern Beaches. This is a reference document that can be amended through internal processes.

1.1 Aims of the Guidelines

To develop a framework for the management and promotion of public art as follows:

- Provide guidelines for permanent, temporary and community public art that enhances, animates and gives meaning to the unique natural, cultural and social environment of the Northern Beaches
- Provide guidelines for art that is appropriate to the character and significance of its location and determine the robustness required for day to day use in the public domain
- Provide a framework of objectives for the commissioning of art that will strengthen and support Council's values and vision and enhance the public domain
- Provide a clear, consistent and transparent system for the evaluation and formal acceptance of artworks acquired by Council
- Provide information on procedures for the acceptance and procurement of public art
- Provide a framework for sustainable, best practice management and care of Council's collection of public art

2. Guidelines for Artwork Proposals

2.1 Commissions

Council is committed to implementing a curated approach to commissioning large-scale and permanent public art projects across the LGA, creating an open and transparent commissioning and approval process responding to specific sites and opportunities; establishing a Public Art Selection Panel to provide expert advice, and instituting a robust project methodology framework to manage the final delivery of artwork. Artworks approved for commission will be evaluated in response to the objectives, principles and criteria of the Policy and other relevant plans and strategies.

2.2 Gifts/Bequests/Loans

Offers of gifts, donations, bequests or loans of art are encouraged if they meet the objectives and principles of the Policy. Any proposed donation or loan will be required to comply with the principles and objectives of the Policy and Guidelines prior to acceptance.

2.3 Temporary Art Projects

Council encourages the animation of public places with temporary, ephemeral or community art projects. Approved art projects, performances, festivals and events do not require separate development consent but will need to engage with Council's Event Booking Procedure. Organisers of temporary art projects (including internal teams) should also consult the Sustainable Events Policy for information on procedures and obtaining permits and permission.

2.4 Community Art Projects

Council will facilitate and support a range of creative arts practices that involve community participation - from collaborative design through to the actual creation of artworks in public spaces - to enhance community engagement, raise community awareness and contribute to positive cultural development outcomes and inclusive opportunities for the communities of the Northern Beaches.

2.5 Art in Private Developments

As part of Council's commitment to creating and managing high quality and significant places within the Northern Beaches, and recognising the special ability of artists to contribute to a sense of place, Council encourages the participation of artists in the design of the built environment. Council encourages the private sector to integrate art in the design and budgeting of all appropriate development projects, particularly in those areas physically accessible or visible to the public such as open spaces and building foyers and facades. The private sector may be required to provide public art through conditions of consent to a Development Application. The Public Art Policy and Guidelines will be used as a guide in the consideration of design objectives and procurement procedures, in conjunction with appropriate available professional expertise and resources within Council.

3 Criteria for Evaluation

All proposals for artworks submitted to Council will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Consistency with the objectives and principles of the Northern Beaches Council's Public Art Policy
- High standards of artistic quality
- Supports community connection through creative expression
- Originality and integrity of the artwork
- Technical feasibility and ability to successfully realise the proposal
- Contribution of the artwork to the animation, enhancement, enjoyment or understanding of its context
- Appropriateness of the artwork to the context of the site
- Impact on the public's day-to-day use of the public domain
- Durability of the artwork and its ability to withstand weathering and physical contact over time
- Safety of artwork including (but not limited to) the design, choice of materials and proposed location
- Life cycle costs
- Consistency with relevant planning, urban design, heritage and environmental legislation, policies and Plans of Management. Note that obscene, offensive, obnoxious, derogatory or defamatory material, as defined in NSW Legislation, will not be permitted.

4 Conditions

The following conditions are mandatory for all permanent public art proposals submitted to the Council. These conditions must be met or agreed to prior to formal acceptance of any public artwork and will be incorporated into all commissioning or procurement contracts.

4.1 Contracts

Council will issue contracts or joint agreements for all public art whether commissioned by Council or proposed by third parties, including other government agencies. Issues to be addressed include ownership, insurances and other matters to be determined on a case by case basis.

4.2 Funds

Proposals for public art must demonstrate sufficient funds to cover all aspects of the project costs including permits, procurement, installation and plaques. In addition, Council may require an upfront contribution for the ongoing maintenance of the artwork. The exact amount of the maintenance contribution is to be calculated upon completion of the maintenance schedule.

4.3 Life and Review of the Artwork

All permanent public art accepted by Council will generally be on the basis of an agreed timeframe or duration. This timeframe may be reviewed at any time during the originally agreed life cycle if Council has concerns regarding the condition of the artwork or safety aspects.

4.4 Relocation, Removal and Disposal

Council may at its absolute discretion and at any time relocate, remove or dispose of public art on land which it owns. Council will respect the provisions of the Copyright (Moral Rights Amendment) Act and give artists the opportunity to indicate preferred disposal options in commissioning contracts. Council will use its best endeavours to consult with the artist when it wishes to relocate or dispose of an artwork.

5. Proposals

For Council to give consideration to the installation of art objects within the public domain it will require well-developed proposals that address the Principles in the Public Art Policy and Criteria for Evaluation (Section 3) and include the following additional details:

- Artwork description and/or project rationale
- Artist/s or proposed method to select artist/s
- Preferred site description
- Budget estimate
- Program outline

5.1 Delivery Procedures

Procedures for the commissioning, public consultation, procurement and formal acceptance of public art may vary according to the type of project, the procurer and the preferred site. Specific details of delivery procedures will be agreed with Council on a case by case basis.

5.2 Development Approval

Permanent public art proposals may require development consent, and as such, advice will be sought from Council's planning teams prior to the commencement of all public art projects. Most temporary and all community public art proposals will be considered 'exempt development' under SEPP No. 60 Exempt and Complying Development if they comply with the provisions of Council's Sustainable Events Policy, however approval must be obtained from Council for the temporary occupation of the public domain.

5.3 Collection Management

The Public Art Collection will be managed in accordance with the Northern Beaches Cultural Collection Management and Gifts Policy and Guidelines. This includes the maintenance of a database of permanent public artworks that is regularly updated to include artworks that have been recently procured. The database records the details of each artwork, its provenance, location and an outline of routine maintenance requirements.