

4.1.3 Public Art

Type:	Operations – Public Infrastructure
Legislation:	N/A
Delegation:	
Other Related Document:	Public Art Strategy, Public Art Plan, Public Art Panel Policy 4.1.2, Percent for Public Art Local Planning Policy 3.1.9

Objective

This Public Art Policy has been developed to clearly articulate how the Town of East Fremantle will administer the procurement and management of public art.

Other documents have been developed to support this policy and provide detailed procedures for administering aspects of the Public Art Strategy.

The vision is to develop public art that captures the spirit of East Fremantle, is responsive to East Fremantle's history, distinct neighbourhoods, Town Centre and river foreshore.

Policy Scope

This policy will affect art and public art acquisitions including paintings and donated artworks, pictures and photographic works and functional equipment for public places.

Policy

Section 1: Objectives

The objectives of the Public Art Policy provide the strategic context and direction for all public art planning.

1.1 Cultural

To enhance the cultural and aesthetic environment of East Fremantle by:

- interpreting aspects of its unique cultural heritage;
- ensuring that public artworks respond to the site;
- valuing quality over quantity; and
- acknowledging and celebrating Aboriginal culture and stories.

1.2 Sustainability

To contribute to a sustainable environment by using public art to:

- develop environments where walking and cycling is encouraged; and
- demonstrate environmentally responsible use of materials, services and lighting.

1.3 Social

To enhance social cohesion within East Fremantle by:

- creating landmarks that provide reference points and enable people to orientate themselves;

- using public art to develop attractive, diverse places, that the community enjoy; and
- using public art to develop meeting places, that community members want to visit.

1.4 Economic

To contribute to economic vitality within East Fremantle by using public art to develop:

- unique and recognisable places, enhancing the 'place brand';
- employment opportunities for local artists, craftspeople and associated businesses; and
- social, cultural and economic confidence, thereby stimulating investment and economic growth.

Section 2: Principles

The following principles should be used to guide the development of all public artwork in the Town of East Fremantle:

2.1 Place-making

Public art should be designed to enhance the experience of and activate public spaces.

2.2 Site Specific

Public art should be designed to be responsive to its specific location.

2.3 Universal Access

Public art should be designed to engage, and include our diverse community, irrespective of age, ability, social or cultural background.

2.4 Local and Unique

Public art should be designed to contribute to creating a sense of place developing identity and pride in a community.

2.5 Best Practice

Public art should be designed in accordance with professional standards, to ensure public safety and the longevity of the work in accordance with the intent of the artwork.

2.6 Collection Management

Any public artwork commissioned should be maintained, conserved and preserved in accordance with a Maintenance Plan, which should be provided to the Town by the Artist at hand-over.

2.7 Criteria

Public art in the Town of East Fremantle should satisfy all the following criteria:

- be located where it can be clearly seen from the public realm;
- be an original artwork;
- be of high quality;
- be durable, sustainable and easy to maintain;
- contribute to an attractive and stimulating environment;
- not detract from the amenity or safety of the surrounding area;
- where considered appropriate, be lit at night;
- be responsive to the site and reflect the local area's natural, physical, cultural and/or social history, considering surrounding buildings and activities;
- consider the existing public art in the vicinity to avoid repetition and to ensure the artwork is unique;

- the project may be curated and coordinated by a specialist public art consultant;
- be resistant as possible to vandalism; and
- have a minimum lifespan of twenty years unless otherwise stated in the Artist's brief.

Section 3: Resources

The Town of East Fremantle will ensure the successful progression of public art and allocating appropriate funds in accordance with the Town's budget.

The Town of East Fremantle will allocate an annual budget to enable the delivery of a quality public art program. If these funds are not spent within the financial year, the budget allocation will be included in the Arts & Sculpture Reserve.

The Town of East Fremantle will also make budget provisions to care for works in the Council's Public Art Collection.

3.1 Percent for Public Art – Town of East Fremantle Works

The Town of East Fremantle will allocate a minimum of one percent (1%) of any capital building works project budget to integrating public art into each Council project. This applies to, but is not limited to, all Capital Works Building Projects (excluding public works infrastructure) and all Urban Design Projects with a minimum budget of \$1 million with a maximum cap of \$100,000

Maintenance projects, land acquisitions and general capital expenditure are exempted.

Private developers are required to adhere to the Town of East Fremantle's Local Planning Policy - Percent for Art.

3.2 Arts & Sculpture Reserve

The Arts & Sculpture Reserve is the means for collecting and administering monies for the Public Art Strategy. The purpose of the Reserve is to fund the Public Art Strategy and to accumulate a fund to support major public art projects.

Council will consider a contribution to the Arts & Sculpture Reserve each year. Of this, an amount is made available for the implementation of the Public Art Strategy as outlined in the Public Art Annual Action Plan. Reserve funds are also acquired through developer contributions via the Local Planning Policy - Percent for Art. .

3.3 Project Planning

The Town of East Fremantle will endeavour to take a design exemplar approach to all public art projects by taking time to design well in the initial planning stage and by involving artists at the earliest stage of the design of public spaces and new developments.

3.4 Public Art Panel

A Public Art Panel will be appointed to provide guidance for the Council's Public Art Strategy. The Public Art Panel has responsibility for overseeing and making recommendations to the Council on matters related to the Public Art Strategy.

See Public Art Panel Policy 4.1.2

3.5 Acquisitions

The Council may consider employing a public art curator to prepare a report on proposed new acquisitions. The report will include an assessment against the criteria and principals outlined in this policy as well information on installing the work and best practice. This report will be provided to the Public Art Panel to ensure informed decisions are made.

3.6 Management of the Collection

The Town will:

- Review the collection, update the database and submit a condition and insurance report (as required) and make recommendations regarding the general maintenance and conservation of the collection and an appropriate maintenance budget allocation for the collection;
- The collection shall be well maintained and the annual budget allocation should reflect the conservation requirements of the current collection based on recommendations sought from suitably qualified professionals;
- The public art collection database shall detail all works, including the name of artists, work title, date of production, media, technical details, size, preferred viewing specifications, inscriptions, comments or background by the artist and others etc;
- A comprehensive photographic archive shall be maintained; and
- The collection shall be valued at least every five years, or as recommended by professional advice and the valuation is to be recorded in the collection database.

3.7 Planning

The Town of East Fremantle will prepare a Four Year Public Art Action Plan as a framework to guide the implementation of the Public Art Strategy.

The Four Year Public Art Action Plan will provide a strategic platform for the ongoing development of the Public Art Strategy with clear direction and enough flexibility to evolve and change as necessary.

3.8 Promote

The Town of East Fremantle will provide media announcements, signage, publications, online and other methods to promote its Public Art Collection.

Section 4: Related Policies and Plans

Interpretation and implementation of this Policy is in accordance with the Town of East Fremantle documents as outlined below.

- Town of East Fremantle Public Art Strategy
- Town of East Fremantle Local Planning Policy - Percent for Public Art
- Town of East Fremantle Public Art Annual Action Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21
- Town of East Fremantle Public Art Panel Policy

Other Related Policies or Plans

- Town of East Fremantle Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

Section 5: Definitions

Public Art

For the purposes of this Policy, public art is defined as a work of art that is created by an artist, sited in a visually accessible public location. Public art can include (but is not limited to):

- *the artistic treatment of functional equipment such as bike racks, benches, fountains, playground equipment, light posts or shade structures which are unique;*
- *landscape art enhancements such as walkways, bridges or art features within a public garden;*
- *murals, tiles and mosaics covering walls, floors and walkways; and*

- *sculptures, free-standing or incorporated as an integral element of a building's design, paintings, pictures and photographic works.*

Public art does not include:

- *business logos;*
- *advertising signage;*
- *art objects which are mass produced or off the-shelf reproductions; and*
- *landscaping or architectural features which are considered by the Town to be normally integrated into the building or development.*

Attachment

For an extended list of detailed definitions please refer to the Appendix.

Responsible Directorate:	Corporate Services
Reviewing Officer:	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Decision making Authority:	Council
Policy Adopted:	21/10/17
Policy Amended/Reviewed:	17/9/19
Former Policy No:	4.2.6

A. Types of public art

The descriptors that follow indicate the diversity of approaches to public art projects.

Ephemeral Artworks: those works that are short lived, based on a specific occasion or event and are transitory in nature. Ephemeral art describes projects that may be environmental, lighting or projection where there is no physical artwork created. The term also applies to physical works in non-permanent materials such as natural found materials that degrade as part of the art process.

Functional Artworks: where the primary purpose of the element is utilitarian such as seating, lighting, bollards, rubbish bins, bike racks, shelters and paving. These can vary in form, scale or quantity, dependent on the location. Functional works can reinforce a design aesthetic or thematic concern and be playful, delightful or sophisticated.

Ground Plane Artworks: form part of the ground in a public setting and may be experienced as carved/shaped paving elements, metal relief elements, toughened glass panels and ceramic or mosaic inserts, amongst others. Ground plane works are designed to be viewed closely by pedestrians in the space, potentially slowing their movement through the area and creating the opportunity for an intimate and personal engagement between the work and the viewer. Ground Plane works are useful as a way finding tool.

Iconic Artworks: a significant, freestanding work, where the approach is largely independent of other considerations.

Integrated Artworks: works that are fully incorporated within the design of the built or natural environment.

Interactive Artworks: are works that are designed to encourage a tactile response.

Interpretive Artworks: where the primary purpose of the artwork is to tell a story, describe, educate or comment on an issue, event or situation.

Intervention Artworks: provoke an idea or thought or an element of surprise often in an unexpected location.

Landmark Artworks: could be considered a signature or icon for a city. Large in scale or ambitious in concept, such works tend to be major stand-alone commissions and not part of a capital works project.

Medium Scale/Human Scale Artworks: are artworks approximately the size of an average person. These artworks are easily interacted with and are accessible to pedestrians.

Memorial: a structure, sculpture or other object erected to commemorate a person or an event.

Nodal Artwork: an artwork that comprises of a series of component parts and a central focus element.

Site Specific Artworks: designed specifically for and responding to a particular site through scale, material, form or concept.

Permanent Artworks: refers to public art with a lifespan of at least twenty years.

Plaque: a flat tablet or sign, affixed to an object, building or pavement, of metal, stone or other appropriate material, which may include text and/or images in order to provide interpretive information. Plaques may identify an artwork, commemorate a person, place, object or an event and/or provide historical text or information relevant to its location.

Street Art: may include spray or aerosol art, stencils, sticker art, paste-ups (wheat pasting and poster art), video projection, art interventions, guerrilla art, flash-mobbing and installations.

Temporary Artwork: refers to artwork that is made to last for a specific duration for example, one week or one year. This may include one off or scheduled events such as outdoor exhibitions or installations. The dynamic nature of temporary works are an important place activation tool.

Textural Artworks: are small in scale, often items of architectural, streetscape and landscape detail, which contributes to the local character of a place.

Transition Artworks: provide an element that links one space to another such as an internal to an external public space or a hardscaped space to a landscaped space.

B. Definitions

Artist

A professional visual artist can be defined as a person who fits into at least two of the following categories:

- a person who has a tertiary qualification in the visual arts, or when the brief calls for it, other art forms such as multimedia;
- a person who has a track record of exhibiting their artwork at reputable art galleries that sells the work of professional artists;
- a person whose work is represented in major public or private collections; and

A person who earns more than 50% of their income from arts related activities, such as teaching, selling artwork or undertaking public art commissions. In some cases, this definition may be relaxed where it may be specified for a particular project.

For example, a project involving emerging artists, Indigenous artists, students or street/graffiti artists.

Artist Fees

That portion of the art project budget reserved for payment to the artist for his/her creative services for design, fabrication, and/or project management services.

Artwork or Work of Art

Any work or object designed by an Artist.

Collection Management

The administration and management of an Art Collection. This encompasses the management of collection records both electronic and hard copy, the database, catalogues, inventories and condition assessments, maintenance and conservation programs, accession of new acquisitions and overseeing the deaccession, disposal or relocation of public artwork.

Community Art

A process where the community initiates or participates in the art project.

Contemporary Art

Artwork created in the present day that engages with issues relevant to its time or uses materials and processes that are at the forefront of arts practice.

Hand-over

The transfer of ownership of an artwork from one party to another. This includes the transfer of legal title and the supplying of the Maintenance Manual and other associated contractual documents.

Maintenance Manual

Those forms completed by the artist detailing the maintenance and technical information for the completed artwork.

Public Art

Public art is a work of art that is created by an artist, sited in a visually accessible public location. Public art can include (but is not limited to):

- the artistic treatment of functional equipment such as bike racks, benches, fountains, playground equipment, light posts or shade structures which are unique;
- landscape art enhancements such as walkways, bridges or art features within a garden;
- murals, tiles and mosaics covering walls, floors and walkways; and
- sculptures, free-standing or incorporated as an integral element of a building's design, paintings, pictures and photographic works.

Public art does not include:

- business logos;

- advertising signage;
- art objects which are mass produced or off the-shelf reproductions; and
- landscaping or architectural features which would normally be integrated into the building or development.

Public Art Maintenance & Conservation Program

The coordinated administration of regular treatments, professional conservation and repairs to works in an Art Collection to maintain their integrity.

Public Art Consultant

A professional specialising in public art, engaged to provide expert advice or project management.

Public Art Project Manager

A professional employee or contractor responsible for the planning, execution, contract management and close-out of the public art project.