

Artwork Collection Policy

Objective

1. To further develop and maintain a visual art collection of state and local significance and repute that reflects the cultural aspirations of the community.
2. To collect works of visual art of demonstrable excellence by artists of significance and who have a connection with Western Australia or the Great Southern region, with particular emphasis on contemporary WA art, all art of local significance, particularly that by local artists.
3. To collect works of visual art of heritage and historical value.
4. To collect or commission selectively, works of art which enhance the civic buildings and public areas of the City and which foster an understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts among members of the general public.
5. To collect works of significance for the fostering of research and reference.
6. To ensure the preservation and safe keeping of the collection.
7. To maximise accessibility to the collection.
8. To heighten the public profile of the collection leading to greater community awareness, involvement and support.

Policy Statements

9. **Acquisitions:** All acquisitions, whether through purchase or unconditional donations or bequests (other than works acquired as prize winning entries in the Albany Art Prize) are to be reviewed by members of an acquisition panel of 5 or more members selected by the Albany Arts Advisory Committee, with reference to their expertise and interest in collection management, together with the coordinator/curator of the collection. The panel will make its recommendations on acquisitions to Council through the Albany Arts Advisory Committee.
10. **De-Accessioning:** De-accessioning is an integral part of collection development and improvement, and will be considered in the following circumstances, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 3.58 of the *Local Government Act 1995*:
 - a work is deemed to have deteriorated beyond repair;
 - the conservation and maintenance of a work causes an unreasonable strain on the assets of the collection, the cost of long-term care for a work outweighs its intrinsic or actual value,
 - and a work endangers other works in the collection;
 - low artistic merit;
 - duplication;
 - theft, loss or damage;
 - the possibility of upgrading by exchange;
 - unsuitability for exhibition/display purposes; and
 - confirmation that a work is a forgery or which has been falsely or wrongly attributed.
11. Proceeds from sales shall be placed in a reserve account for future artwork acquisitions.
12. **Management:** The Coordinator / Curator of the collection is responsible for all registration aspects of the collection.

13. **Artworks on Loan:** Works from the collection will only be loaned to professionally operated class “A” and “B” galleries or exhibition spaces that can demonstrate an ability to provide appropriate handling and security, together with controlled environments where available, and museum standard practices for the exhibition of artworks.
14. **Conservation:** A regular conservation survey of the collection will be undertaken by qualified conservator/s to identify works in need of immediate care and to develop an ongoing maintenance program.

Scope

15. This policy applies to:
 - a. The City of Albany permanent art collection comprises nearly 300 works of art with an emphasis on early 20th century works by Australian artists donated by Sir Claude Hotchin in the 1950’s and 60’s, and artworks acquired through the Albany Art Prize. These latter items are largely by Western Australian artists practising in the mid to late 20th century and early 21st century. There are a number of other works, which have been donated or bequeathed over the years since 1950.
 - b. This Artwork Collection Policy provides the direction for acquisitions, gifts and loans to the City’s collection and for its management and conservation. The Policy aims to build upon and consolidate existing strengths in the collection with a particular emphasis on contemporary Western Australian art and art of local significance, particularly that by local artists. It will include, as well as contemporary art, sections of works of art of heritage and art historical value.

Legislative and Strategic Context

16. This policy directly relates to the following elements from the Community Strategic Plan Albany 2023:
 - **Key Theme:** A Sense of Community.
 - **Strategic Goal:** To create interesting places, spaces and events that reflect our community’s identify, diversity and heritage.

Review Position and Date

17. This policy and procedure is to be reviewed by the document owner every two years.

Associated Documents

- Council Policy: Art in the Public Domain Policy
- Delegations Register (2017: Power to Remove, Impound & Dispose Property)
- Artwork Collection Policy Guidelines

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