



# CITY POLICY

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**POLICY NUMBER: C549**

**REFERENCE:**

C458B Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas  
C459 Statuary Policy  
C547 Public Art Administration, Registration and Outreach  
C548 Public Art Accession, Selection Criteria and Gift Policy  
Public Art Master Plan – City Council 17/18 September 2008

**ADOPTED BY:**

City Council  
19 June 2009

**SUPERSEDES:**

**New**

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**PREPARED BY:** Edmonton Arts Council

**DATE:** 9 April 2009

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**TITLE:                   Public Art Conservation, De-accession and Re-site**

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**Policy Statement:**

Conservation and maintenance of public art is integral and inherent to preserving the Civic Art Collection, which is a valuable asset of the City of Edmonton. When properly conserved, public artworks can dramatically increase in value and importance over time.

Conversely, valuable artworks left unattended and neglected can quickly deteriorate to the point of being a safety concern for the public, render the artwork cost ineffective to conserve, and therefore require re-siting or even de-accession. Unmaintained artworks reflect negatively on public art in general, and on the overall image of the City.

The City of Edmonton will conserve and maintain public artworks in the Civic Art Collection, and when advisable, de-accession and re-site public artworks.

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**The purpose of this policy is to:**

Maintain a high quality collection of public art, with standards for removing artworks from the collection or for re-siting artworks.



# CITY PROCEDURE

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Art Bank:** An account set up to hold funds for public art conservation and outreach programming; to accept donations to fund public art projects; and to fund the protection of Civic Art Collection Artworks not currently on public display.
- 1.2. **City of Edmonton (City):** The official City of Edmonton municipality, a corporate entity.
- 1.3. **Civic Art Collection:** All Public Artworks recognized as being owned by the City of Edmonton.
- 1.4. **Conservation of Artworks (Conservation):** The protection, preservation, or restoration of a public artwork by a qualified Conservator.
- 1.5. **Conservator:** Skilled experts who plan, co-ordinate and participate in the preservation and conservation of cultural property, and study environmental influences relating to their preservation. Formal qualifications may include membership to a professional organization such as the CAC-ACCR (Canadian Association for Conservation).
- 1.6. **Edmonton Arts Council (EAC):** A not-for-profit society and charitable organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The EAC has a service agreement to provide arts and cultural services for the City of Edmonton.
- 1.7. **De-accession:** The procedure of removing a Public Artwork from the Civic Art Collection.
- 1.8. **Maintenance of Artworks (Maintenance):** The inspection and routine work of keeping a public artwork in a high quality condition by City or EAC staff.
- 1.9. **Public Art (Artwork or Public Artwork):** Any original work of art that is accessible to the general public. Typically, the creation of a Public Artwork takes into consideration site and context as part of its process; the Artwork can be functional, integrated or discreet to its site (types are further described in the MAP). Public Art mediums can include, but are not limited to: sculpture, installation, paintings, drawings, prints, photography, multi-media projects, murals, mosaics, land art/earth works, or projects which incorporate design, architecture, or landscape architecture. An edition, multiples or series of artworks may qualify provided the run is limited and consistent with professional artistic standards. While it is recognized that architecture, interior design, and landscaping are artistic in nature and have artistic components, this policy defines Public Art as a distinct component of a building project that, while it may be integrated to its site, is created by a person engaged as an Artist or its creation is directed by an Artist.



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**1.9.1. Public Art Committee (PAC):** a committee mandated through the Percent for Art to Provide and Encourage Art in Public Areas C458B. PAC is a committee of the EAC. The Public Art Committee is comprised of, but not limited to, individuals who are visual artists, curators, architects, landscape architects, civil engineers and business representatives.

**1.10. Re-site:** The procedure of moving a Public Artwork from its current site to a new site location.

## 2. PROCEDURES

### 2.1. CONSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE

**2.1.1.** Conservation and Maintenance requirements will be a consideration in determining Accession or Acquisition of all Public Artworks for the Civic Art Collection.

**2.1.2.** The EAC will provide schedules, direction and resources for the Conservation and Maintenance of Artworks in the Civic Art Collection.

**2.1.3.** Conservation work plans and schedules will be determined by the EAC based on direction provided by a Conservator and PAC.

**2.1.4.** A Conservator, on a case-by-case basis, will determine the qualifications of individuals permitted to implement Conservation work plans for specific Artworks. In determining qualified individuals to implement a Conservation plan for an Artwork, the Conservator will consider the Artist who created the Artwork, specialized service providers, and City or EAC staff.

**2.1.5.** Arts Bank funds withheld from public art project budgets as identified in Public Art Administration, Registration and Outreach Policy (C547) will be used to fund Conservation work.

**2.1.6.** Maintenance schedules and procedures for Artworks in the Civic Art Collection will be provided by the EAC to the City Departments responsible for their implementation.

**2.1.7.** The City will provide timely information, resources, and assistance to the EAC in the Conservation and Maintenance of the Public Artworks in the Civic Art Collection.

### 2.2. DEACCESSION AND RESITING

**2.2.1.** A De-accession or Re-site of a Public Artwork owned by the City will occur when any one of the following situations occurs:

**2.2.1.1.** The Artwork's site will be eliminated.



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- 2.2.1.2. The Artwork's site has changed and is no longer appropriate or secure for the Artwork.
- 2.2.1.3. The Artwork in its site creates a potential danger to members of the public.
- 2.2.1.4. The cost of maintaining or restoring the Artwork is prohibitive.
- 2.2.1.5. There has been significant and documented adverse reaction to the Artwork from the public over an extended period, normally a minimum of ten years from the date of acceptance of the Artwork into the Civic Art Collection.
- 2.2.1.6. The artwork is deemed by the EAC and the City to no longer be suitable for the purposes of the Civic Art Collection.
  
- 2.2.2. If an Artwork in the Civic Art Collection is re-sited, the new site will be selected by the City based on recommendations from PAC on suitable locations for the Artwork and the suitability of the Artwork for the location, including community acceptance of the Artwork in that location.
  
- 2.2.3. If an Artwork is De-accessioned from the Civic Art Collection, an appraisal of its current value will be done and, on that basis, the Artwork will be offered for sale or as a gift first to the Artist who created the Artwork. If the Artist does not purchase the Artwork, the Artwork will next be offered for sale or as a gift to organizations or individuals resident in the city of Edmonton.
  
- 2.2.4. Arts Bank funds withheld from public art project budgets as identified in Public Art Administration, Registration and Outreach Policy (C547) will be used to fund De-accession and Re-site of Public Artworks.
  
- 2.2.5. The City will provide timely information, resources, and assistance to the EAC in De-accessioning and Re-siting of Artworks in the Civic Art Collection, including provision of temporary storage spaces.