



TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION Municipal Art Collection

DEACCESSION POLICY

PURPOSE

TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR THE REMOVAL, SALE, RELOCATION, AND/OR DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC WORKS OF ART IN THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION.

DEFINITION

DEACCESSION IS TO REMOVE AN OBJECT OF ART FROM THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION INCLUDING REMOVAL OF THE ARTWORK FROM ITS PUBLIC SITE, THE MAINTENANCE CYCLE, AND TRANSFERRING RECORDS, BOTH HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC, INTO A DEACCESSION COLLECTION FILE.

POLICY

1. AN ARTWORK MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DEACCESSION UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ONLY:

- A. SECURITY - THE CONDITION OR SECURITY OF THE ARTWORK CAN NOT BE REASONABLY GUARANTEED.
- B. THEFT - ALL STOLEN ARTWORKS WILL BE DOCUMENTED THROUGH AN OFFICIAL POLICE REPORT AND A REPORT PREPARED BY THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SITE OF LOSS.
- C. INAUTHENTIC - THE WORK IS DISCOVERED TO BE INAUTHENTIC, FRAUDULENT, OR STOLEN.
- D. DAMAGE BEYOND REPAIR - THE WORK HAS BEEN DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR, DAMAGED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT NO LONGER REPRESENTS THE ARTIST'S INTENT, OR DAMAGED TO THE EXTENT THAT THE EXPENSES OF RESTORATION AND REPAIR IS FOUND TO EXCEED CURRENT MARKET VALUE OF THE ARTWORK. IN THE EVENT THE ARTWORK IS DAMAGED, STAFF WILL PREPARE A REPORT THAT DOCUMENTS THE ORIGINAL COST OF THE ARTWORK, ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE, AND THE ESTIMATED COST OF REPAIR.
- E. LOSS OF SITE - THE TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO FIND A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR EVERY ARTWORK IN THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION; HOWEVER, LACK OF SITING OR PROPER STORAGE COULD MERIT DEACCESSIONING.
- F. SITE ALTERATION - FOR SITE-INTEGRATED ARTWORK, IF THE SITE FOR WHICH A PIECE OF ARTWORK WAS SPECIFICALLY CREATED IS STRUCTURALLY DAMAGED OR OTHERWISE ALTERED SO THAT IT CAN NO LONGER ACCOMMODATE THE WORK, OR IF THE PIECE IS MADE PUBLICLY INACCESSIBLE BY A CHANGE IN ITS SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS NEW CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION, THAT ARTWORK MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DEACCESSION.
- G. TEMPORARY ACQUISITION - THE ARTWORK WAS PURCHASED AS A SEMI-PERMANENT ACQUISITION AND THE CITY'S OBLIGATION IS TERMINATED.
- H. SAFETY - THE ARTWORK ENDANGERS PUBLIC SAFETY.
- I. EXCESSIVE REPRESENTATION - THE WORK IS DUPLICATIVE, OR EXCESSIVE IN A LARGE HOLDING OF WORK OF THAT TYPE OR OF THAT ARTIST.
- J. AESTHETIC VALUE - THE WORK HAS NOT WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME. IT HAS BEEN PROFESSIONALLY DETERMINED TO LACK AESTHETIC OR ARTISTIC VALUE TO JUSTIFY ITS CONTINUED UPKEEP AND STORAGE WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION.

- K. CONTENT - ONCE THE ARTWORK HAS BEEN ACCESSIONED INTO THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION, IT MAY NOT BE DEACCESSIONED ON THE BASIS OF CONTENT.

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH BIENNIAL CYCLICAL MAINTENANCE SURVEY, IN THE EVENT THAT WORKS OF ART ARE THREATENED BY ANY OF THE ABOVE CRITERIA, STAFF WILL PREPARE A RECOMMENDATION FOR DEACCESSION OF ARTWORK FROM THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION FOR REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND ACTION BY THE TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION.

3. IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF THE TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT ALL DISPOSALS WITH REGARD TO THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION BE FORMALLY AND PUBLICLY CONDUCTED AND ADEQUATELY DOCUMENTED.

4. ARTISTS WHOSE WORK IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR DEACCESSION SHALL BE FORMALLY NOTIFIED BY MAIL USING THE CURRENT ADDRESS OF RECORD ORIGINALLY PROVIDED BY THE ARTIST.

5. ALL ARTWORK UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR DEACCESSION WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A STAFF REPORT THAT INCLUDES:
 - A. REASONS FOR THE SUGGESTED DEACCESSION.
 - B. ACCESSION METHOD, COST, AND CURRENT MARKET VALUE.
 - C. DOCUMENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE ARTIST.
 - D. PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF SITE CONDITIONS (IF APPLICABLE).
 - E. OFFICIAL POLICE REPORT (IF APPLICABLE).

6. A PERMANENT RECORD OF THE ARTWORK'S INCLUSION IN MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION, AND REASONS FOR ITS REMOVAL, SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN A DEACCESSIONED COLLECTION FILE, AND WILL BE KEPT AS A SEPARATE SECTION OF THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION RECORDS.

7. THE ARTWORK, OR ITS REMAINS, SHALL BE DISPOSED OF BY THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF OR ITS AGENTS UPON DEACCESSION ACTION. THE ARTIST WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THE ARTWORK, OR ITS PARTS, BEFORE DISPOSAL BY SALE, DONATION, TRADE, OR DESTRUCTION.

8. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL DEACCESSION ARTWORK FROM THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION BY ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION; HOWEVER, THE CITY MANAGER IS AUTHORIZED TO REMOVE ARTWORK FROM THE COLLECTION IF THE VALUE OF THE ART IS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN HIS PURCHASING AUTHORITY.

9. THE TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION'S ACTION REGARDING DEACCESSIONED ARTWORK WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE ASSET MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

10. DISTRIBUTION OF SALES FUNDS - IN THE EVENT THAT THE REMOVED ARTWORK IS SOLD, PURSUANT TO THE SUBSECTIONS ABOVE, THE PROCEEDS OF SUCH SALE SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE MUNICIPAL ART FUND OF THE CITY OF TACOMA.

11. NO CURRENT MEMBER OF THE TACOMA ARTS COMMISSION OR STAFF TO THE COMMISSION OR ANY MEMBER OR STAFF WHO HAS SERVED ON OR FOR THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE MOST RECENT TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF CONSIDERATION OF DEACCESSION SHALL BE ALLOWED TO BID AND/OR PURCHASE A DEACCESSIONED ARTWORK.