

PUBLIC ARTS POLICY

Policy/Procedure Type	Council
Responsible Department	Community & Organisational Development
Responsible Officer	Cultural Development Coordinator
Related Policies and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorials Policy
Community Plan 'Towards 2050' Link	1. Community 1.4 We support creativity, cultural expression, and learning.
Date Originally Adopted	25 October 2010
Last Review Date	8 December 2025
Next Review Date	December 2028
ECM Document No.	9171033

1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. The City of Unley is committed to the creation and ongoing support of public arts and culture that reflects the social, economic and environmental character of the City, built and natural.
- 1.2. Council will commission, support and advocate for public arts that stimulate thinking, invite interaction, celebrate diversity, increase awareness of local identity and heritage, allow for contemplation and question assumptions.
- 1.3. Council believes that the encouragement and creation of public arts and the involvement of the community in this process is fundamental to sustaining arts and culture in the City of Unley.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all existing and future artworks in the public realm under the direction of Council.

3. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The objectives of this policy are:
 - (a) To promote public arts projects within the public realm that improve the attractiveness and aesthetics of the City of Unley;

- (b) To provide a variety of opportunities for artists, practitioners and the community;
- (c) To provide opportunities for ephemeral, temporary and permanent artworks;
- (d) To enable the community to contribute to the conception, creation and implementation of public arts;
- (e) To increase awareness among the community of the value and role of public arts;
- (f) To develop a culture that values the contribution of public arts in all areas of Council;
- (g) To create artworks which have a relevance in terms of location, context, use of materials, medium and lifespan;
- (h) To value and protect the integrity of public arts and rights of artists by providing guidelines and support for industry best practice on the commissioning, maintenance and deaccessioning processes associated with the delivery of arts in public spaces;
- (i) To ensure a strategic and realistic approach to the commissioning and acquisition of quality permanent and temporary public arts on the commissioning, maintenance and de-accessioning processes associated with the delivery of arts in public spaces under the control of the City of Unley;
- (j) To provide clear and prescriptive criteria and conditions for the evaluation, acceptance, development, approval, management, insurance, safety and maintenance of public artworks by Council and third parties.

3.2. This Policy is underpinned by the following principles:

- (a) Engage Unley
 - Public art works are contextual and provide recognition and celebration of the City of Unley, its history, environment and community.
 - Art works use, include or express Unley as a focus within the content, themes or responses.
 - A culture of participation and interaction is encouraged where every aspect of public art is related to connecting people, places, histories and narratives.
 - Sensitivity to community aspirations for identity and interpretations of place are considered in public arts projects and programs.
- (b) Foster Creativity
 - Opportunities and support are provided for artists and the community to be creative.
 - A demand for excellence, creativity, innovation and craftsmanship in public arts is fostered within the community, Council and other stakeholders.
- (c) Encourage Diversity
 - Programs that respect physical, social and cultural diversity of the City of Unley.
 - All members of society are represented.

- (d) Deliver Artistic Value
 - Projects and programs of the highest artistic quality that encourage creativity and put the artist's vision at the centre of the project conception.
 - Projects and programs that enrich human experiences through aesthetic experience, contribute to the aesthetic of the place or the enjoyment it provides.
 - Innovate and challenge through public arts to engage wider participation in debate.
 - Commission a highly visible contemporary public art collection that is progressive, innovative and embraces a variety of stimulating approaches, media and scales.
- (e) Be Relevant
 - A dynamic and robust public arts culture is fostered that is constantly evolving, requiring numerous responses that reflect changes to society and the shifting and contested concept of the public.
 - New cultural conversations inspire the creation of public arts that provide a new cultural conversation in Unley, creating artworks which have the capacity to entertain, question, provoke and introduce new ideas into the City.
- (f) Lead Best Practice
 - Public arts in the City of Unley reflects and leads best practice in conceptual artistic development, community engagement, commissioning, maintenance and de-accessioning of existing and future artworks.
- (g) Respect Artists
 - Engagement with artists is conducted with the principles of access, inclusion and diversity.
 - Rates of pay for professional artists or in-kind provisions for emerging artists, hobbyists and volunteers follow national standards. These include remuneration for concept development, engagement and commissioning.
 - Professional development for local emerging artists is supported through mentorship opportunities with professional artists on specific projects.
 - Intellectual Property rights are complied with.

4. DEFINITIONS

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Council	The Elected Member body representing the City of Unley community, or, staff operating under delegated authority to act on behalf of Council.
Public Arts	Sculptural, visual, digital, oral, literary and performance arts practices, media and evolving art forms that demonstrate creative or cultural intent. The form, style, commissioning and implementation require unique descriptions to further define the type, size, purpose, function and length of duration of the art works.
Community	"The public" which includes ratepayers, residents and all people who live, work, study, conduct business or use the services, facilities and public places in the City of Unley. These people are often referred to as "stakeholders" in the affairs of Council.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Ephemeral	Public arts which may erode or deteriorate over time, disappearing altogether.
Temporary	Public arts that are not permanent and will exist for short periods of time and be removed, or de-accessioned.
Permanent	Public arts that remain and become constant features within the fabric of the City.
De-accession	To remove a work of art from public display temporarily or permanently.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Role</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
Elected Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for the approval and adoption of this Policy Must comply with the requirements of this Policy
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves or delegates all aspects of the procurement, commissioning, associated budgets, maintenance, de-accession and completion of ownership of any existing or future artworks owned by the City of Unley.
Manager Community Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for management of all public arts projects
Manager Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for engineering, maintenance and monitoring of all artworks
Manager Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for approval of relevant planning and building requirements
Cultural Development Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for the review and application of this Policy
All Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must comply with the requirements of this Policy

6. STATEMENT

6.1. Resourcing and Funding

- 6.1.1. Funding and resourcing for public art projects must be realistic to ensure the required scope, intent or scale of the works can be delivered.
- 6.1.2. External funding is actively sought from other councils, Create SA, other State and Government sources, private sector and local not for profit agencies appropriate to each project.

6.2. Partnerships

- 6.2.1. Partnerships, relationships and associations are established, maintained and strengthened that assist in the funding, curating, commissioning and delivery City of Unley projects and programs with interested parties including government departments, community-based organisations, developers, private business and tourism agencies.

- 6.2.2. Advice and advocacy are both sought and given to arts organisations with a focus on public arts such as National Association of Visual Arts (NAVA) and Guildhouse.

6.3. Planning

- 6.3.1. Good planning principles, procedures and actions facilitate the planning, creation and implementation of public arts in the City of Unley.
- 6.3.2. Public art opportunities and treatments are considered within all urban design, main street precinct and place making projects.
- 6.3.3. Agreed guidelines and procedures are established to guide the development, implementation, and preservation of public art works.
- 6.3.4. Regular reviews and audits to consider future requirements and potential for new or adapted public art works.

6.4. Procurement

- 6.4.1. The City of Unley may implement any of the following types of procurement:
- Open procurement process
 - Direct invitation
 - Select process
 - Direct Purchase
 - Acquisitive Prize
- 6.4.2. Council will enter contracts with artists and pay fees for the development of public art in accordance with national industry standards and Council's Procurement Policy. Staged agreements may be applied subject to the complexity of the project(s).
- 6.4.3. Assessment during the procurement and commissioning process will be based on criteria developed for each unique project brief. Accordingly, the composition of assessment panels will be determined by the location, scale and level of public interest. This may include Council Administration, Elected Members, invited external parties/ experts and/ or community members.
- 6.4.4. In instances where a proposed procurement is of a unique and subjective nature, an Exemption Request will be pursued as required and provided for in Council's Procurement Policy.

6.5. Documentation

- 6.5.1. Processes, programs and registers are established and maintained for the recording and capture of public arts in the City of Unley; these include asset mapping, professional media documentation, promotion and digital storage to ensure the lasting presence of all public art works.
- 6.5.2. Council acknowledges that community play an active part in the documentation and recording process and capitalise on existing social media platforms.
- 6.5.3. On site acknowledgement and attribution respects the art works, the location, and the artist(s) under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Moral Rights).

6.6. Maintenance, Care and De-accession

- 6.6.1. Work Health and Safety, Development and Building compliance, insurances and safety and risk assessments are undertaken in relation to the design, installation, maintenance and refurbishment of existing and future public art works.

- 6.6.2. Care of existing and future collections and ongoing maintenance operations are funded to ensure a continuous cultural connection is maintained between the public artworks and the City. Maintenance schedules are negotiated with artists during the process of commissioning and implementation. Where possible, original artists will be given first opportunities to maintain, repair or amend artworks
- 6.6.3. Appropriate timeframes (to be determined by each individual project) are applied for the life of the art works in conjunction with the creators and curators.
- 6.6.4. De-accessioning of artworks will be determined by Council Administration based on deterioration, damage or appropriateness of content. This will be done in discussion with the original artists where possible.

6.7. Evaluation

- 6.7.1. Criteria for the evaluation of public arts are established in the early stages of each project. Criteria are based on the objectives of promoting debate, encouraging change, expanding thinking and good governance. Evaluation will be undertaken with key stakeholders.

6.8. External Input

- 6.8.1. Council reserves the right to seek external professional expertise in the drafting of project briefs, commissioning and assessment of tenders/submissions, and with ongoing curating, valuation, and de-accessioning of public art works under its care and control.

7. DELEGATIONS

- 7.1. Full information about the subdelegated powers and duties is contained in the Council Delegations Register.
- 7.2. The Chief Executive Officer or their delegate is delegated to approve the procurement, commissioning, associated budgets, maintenance, de-accession and completion of ownership of any existing or future artworks owned by the City of Unley.

8. LEGISLATION

- *Copyright Act 1968*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*
- *National Construction Code 2022*
- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*

9. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

- 9.1. The Policy is available for public inspection during normal office hours at:

The Civic Centre,
181 Unley Road, Unley SA 5061.

A copy may be purchased for a fee as determined annually by Council.

It is also available for viewing, download and printing free of charge from the Council's website www.unley.sa.gov.au.

10. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Version No.	Comment
25 October 2010	Version 1	C758/10
22 October 2012	Version 2	C564/12
26 May 2014	Version 3	C1139/14
22 July 2019	Version 4	C0065/19
8 December 2025	Version 5	C1679/25