



## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

CITY COUNCIL POLICY No. 2022-02

### PUBLIC ART REFERRAL AND ACQUISITION POLICY

The City of Portsmouth is committed to acquiring public art by donation, acquisition or commission. Only original work will be considered for acceptance.

The City Council shall establish a standing committee, whose role will be to oversee the acquisition and de-accession (removal) of public art for all City departments<sup>1</sup>.

Whenever from any source an issue relating to Public Art should be brought to the attention of the City Council, that matter will be referred to the standing committee.

The standing committee will evaluate proposed donations, acquisitions or commissions based on the following criteria:

- The quality of the artwork.
- Appropriateness of the size, scale and materials for the site(s)
- Availability of an appropriate site.
- Costs of installation and maintenance of artwork.
- Condition and durability of the artwork.
- Aesthetic merit.
- Inclusion of a mandatory maintenance plan (including materials used and proper care for such materials)

All donated, acquired or commissioned works of *outdoor* art shall include a cash stewardship donation of at least 10% of the cost of the artwork which will be added to the Public Art Trust for ongoing stewardship of public art. *Indoor* art may or may not require a stewardship donation, depending on the type of art. The standing committee will determine if a stewardship donation is required for a given piece of indoor art, and if so, the amount of the donation. If the artwork is donated, the committee will determine the value of the artwork.

The committee, along with recommendations from appropriate city boards, city staff, and/or committees, will review and recommend pieces of public art to the City Council for acceptance. All final decisions on acceptance shall be made by the City Council.

<sup>1</sup> The Trustees of the Portsmouth Public Library have their own policy for art acquisition. Art-speak will defer to the Trustees of the Library for art acquisition at the Library.

Suitable donations will be accepted unconditionally and free of all obligations and encumbrances. The City reserves the right to relocate donated artwork from time to time; and to not display a donated piece of art. Works from the collection may be considered for removal if they are in poor condition, damaged or deteriorated beyond reasonable repair or conservation or for other good cause.

As pieces of public art are acquired, they will be entered into the City Art and Artifact Index maintained by Portsmouth Public Library staff. If a piece is decommissioned, the date and reason for withdrawal will also be so recorded. Changes of location, whether temporary or permanent will be recorded in the Art and Artifact Index.

This policy shall take effect upon the passage by the City Council.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on **October 24, 2022**  
*(formerly Policy 2009-06)*

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Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC  
City Clerk