

CITY OF BOWIE  
ACQUISITION OF EXISTING PUBLIC ART  
OCTOBER 2010

The City of Bowie may acquire public art in any media through direct purchase, commission, donation, or by contract with the artist. The Bowie City Council designates the Bowie Arts Committee and its staff liaison, the Arts Specialist in the Department of Community Services, the responsibility for acquisition of works of public art, subject to Bowie City Council ratification of the Committee's recommendations. It is the goal of the Bowie Arts Committee's established Public Art Program to acquire works of art of the highest quality which are representative of the community and the diversity of artistic expression.

The Bowie Arts Committee will either work as a full committee to review possible artwork acquisitions or the committee will establish a Public Art Selection Panel to assist in selection of public art for the City. All recommendations from the Public Art Selection Panel shall be approved by the Bowie Arts Committee before they can be sent to the Bowie City Council for ratification. The Bowie Arts Committee, and its designee, the Public Art Selection Panel, will follow all of the appropriate standards and procedures outlined in the Public Art Policy.

Gifts, donations and bequests of public art to the City of Bowie will be considered in a manner similar to all public art proposals. They must be deemed consistent with the overall Public Art Policy established by the Bowie Arts Committee and be accompanied by cost figures and maintenance procedures.

**FUNDING FOR PUBLIC ART**

The City of Bowie has instituted an annual budget allocation for public art. The funds will remain in the City's budget until such time as the City of Bowie deems that there is a need for public art and that the funds are sufficient to initiate public art projects, whether by commission or by acquisition.

The Public Art Policy does not preclude additional funding of public art through the City's budget, private donations, grants or partnerships with organizations including non-profit or charitable organizations, community groups, businesses, or schools.

Before any additional artwork can be considered, the Bowie Arts Committee will establish a Public Art Maintenance Policy that will be part of this Public Art Policy. One consideration is that the budget for any public art will contain an allocation for its maintenance. The Bowie Arts Committee and Arts Specialist in collaboration with others will oversee the maintenance, conservation and restoration of art work on municipally owned or controlled property. Public art maintenance guidelines will be developed by the Arts Specialist.

## CRITERIA FOR ARTWORK

The Bowie Arts Committee may at its discretion accept or decline any offer of artwork an artist either offers the City for purchase or donation. Once the Arts Committee decides to commission, purchase or accept artwork offered for donation, the following criteria will be applied.

**Quality:** Artwork recommended for acquisition by donation or purchase should be of high quality.

**Appropriateness:** Artwork design will be appropriate for the function of the site.

**Preference:** Artwork by regional artists will be given first preference. Other high quality works from artists outside of the region will also be considered.

**Relevance and Compatibility:** Artwork should reflect the intent and objectives of the City of Bowie's Public Art Policy and should be compatible in materials, form, size and content with its surroundings, preservation and integration of natural features for the project.

**Variety:** Style, media and design of the artwork will be chosen to insure a broad representation of tastes within the community and the provision of a balanced inventory of art in public places

**Size:** The artwork should be of a size that can be accommodated in an identified display location, and should be reasonably portable for moving and exhibition purposes.

**Public Safety:** Artwork should not pose any safety hazard to the public.

**Originality:** Only original artwork will be accepted into the collection, unless exceptional circumstances determine otherwise.

**Condition of Work:** The artwork considered for selection must be in excellent condition and be ready for exhibition.

**Budget:** Financial implications including the need for on-going maintenance, storage, installation and relocation of an artwork will be considered during the acquisition evaluation process.

**Diversity of Collection:** To ensure that the artwork collection contains works from a variety of artists and styles, preference may be given to artwork and styles that have not already been selected in the past; however, conditions may require, at the sole discretion of the City Council, that a similar artwork or style may be selected.

Any person involved with the City of Bowie Public Art decisions, whether by commissioning, purchase or donation, must declare any conflict of interest in the matter of acquisition. This includes members of the Bowie City Council, City staff, and the Bowie Arts Committee.

## DONATIONS OF ARTWORK

If artwork is offered to the City as a donation, the Bowie Arts Committee will review the work in terms of whether it satisfies the stated criteria that appear in this policy and whether a suitable and appropriate site exists to exhibit the artwork. It is the responsibility of the Bowie Arts Committee to review such proposals for consistency with the goals of this Public Art Acquisition Policy and either recommend to the City Council to accept or reject such proposed gifts to the City.

Donations of artwork may be made to the City of Bowie's art collection, following the guidelines below:

Artwork offered to the City of Bowie will be reviewed by the Bowie Arts committee based on the selection criteria listed in this policy.

Should an artwork be accepted into the collection, the City of Bowie and the donor will agree upon all necessary documentation to complete the transaction.

Should an artwork not be chosen for the art collection, the donor will be advised of the decision in writing.

Appraisals are the responsibility of the donor, unless agreed otherwise by both parties.

If the value of the artwork exceeds \$1,000, an appraisal by a recognized appraiser is required and shall be paid for by the donor.

If the value of the artwork exceeds \$10,000, two appraisals by two recognized appraisers are required and shall be paid for by the donor.

When a gift is accepted into the City of Bowie's art collection, a tax receipt is issued to the donor.

## DEACCESSION OF PUBLIC ART WORK

Public artwork enters the public environment through a careful process using the best available professional judgment available at the time of selection. In some cases the City of Bowie may choose to relocate the artwork or remove it from public view or declare it surplus property utilizing existing processes. Deaccession will be coordinated with the Bowie Arts Committee, which will provide a recommendation to the City Council for each artwork considered under this process for its consideration.