



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

BOARD POLICY NO: BPOL-010

Greater Vernon Public Art Policy	
Approval Date:	August 17, 2022
Amendment Date(s):	

PURPOSE

This policy shall provide the RDNO Board of Directors, Greater Vernon Advisory Committee (GVAC), RDNO staff, and the community with a clear and consistent decision-making framework related to Public Art and contribute to a lasting legacy through an engaging, diverse, dynamic, and sustainable Public Art Program.

POLICY

The Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) recognizes that art in public places enriches the quality of life of its citizens, adding cultural, social, and economic value. It encourages a sense of belonging, social cohesion, and cultural understanding and allows for the creative expression of our evolving collective history, values, and culture. The RDNO, through its Greater Vernon Public Art Policy, will create an atmosphere that encourages and supports Public Art in Greater Vernon.

The RDNO will support Public Art through a program that includes two streams: RDNO Public Art and Community Public Art; this includes a Public Art Grant Program, and support for the administration of a Greater Vernon Public Art Panel. This policy provides the overall framework for Public Art decision-making related to these programs, and specific procedures related to:

- RDNO Public Art Stream pg 3
- Community Public Art Stream pg 5
- Greater Vernon Public Art Grant Programpg 7
- Greater Vernon Public Art Panelpg 10

Guiding Principles

The planning, conception, selection, and implementation of any Public Art project that is funded in part or whole by the RDNO or located on RDNO-owned or managed property shall be grounded in the following principles:

Engage, Enhance, Embrace: engage with and be reflective of our community; enhance social connections; engage citizens and artists in the creative process.

Include and Innovate: consider accessible interaction, both physical and sensory; reflect the evolving demographics and diverse communities of Greater Vernon; encourage Artwork that is innovative and topical and allows for respectful critical discourse; embrace community engagement to ensure artworks are meaningful to the community.

Respect and Recognize: respect the intellectual and moral rights of the Artist(s); recognize the value of Artists' work with appropriate compensation; encourage the role of Artists in placemaking; respect community standards concerning appropriate subjects and imagery for display in public spaces.

Secure and Sustain: contemplate durability, ongoing maintenance, public safety, and any other relevant technical issue; consider environmental sustainability.

Definitions

- **Artwork** is an artistic product created by or in collaboration with an Artist that can take various forms and media; may have functional and aesthetic qualities; may be object or process-oriented.
- **Artist** is a skilled and recognized practitioner of the fine arts within one or more of various media, including but not limited to painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, music, literature, theatre, film, dance, or electronic arts.
- **Commissioned Artwork** is artwork created by Artist(s) or in collaboration with Artist(s) through a public process (EOI or RFP) and located on RDNO owned or managed Public Space.
- **Community Members** are individuals, ad hoc community groups, or not-for-profit or charitable organizations, including municipalities within Greater Vernon.
- **Community-Engaged Public Art** is Public Art developed partly or entirely with participation or interaction with the public.
- **De-accessioning** is the process of permanently removing an artwork from the RDNO Public Art Inventory.
- **Ephemeral Public Art** is Artworks that happen only once, such as performance art, or sculpture or Artwork that disappears or degrades into the environment over time. Ephemeral Artwork cannot be resold and requires minimal to no de-accessioning plan.
- **Expression of Interest (EOI)** is a call to artists to submit interest, Public Art concepts, and their credentials and qualifications to be considered for a public art project.
- **Gift** is an existing or proposed work of art or funded public art project offered as an unencumbered donation for placement in a Public Space.
- **Greater Vernon Public Art Inventory** is the collection of Public Art held and managed by the RDNO.
- **Public Art** is Artwork located in a Public Space that aims to support economic, cultural, and/or, social objectives and has outcomes that benefit the community.
- **Public Space** is an area that is available and frequently used by the public that can include but is not limited to: parks, greenspace, trails, building exteriors, or publicly accessible interior areas.
- **Request for Proposals (RFP)** is a call to artists to submit a concept proposal for a public art project.
- **Temporary Public Art** is Public Art with a lifespan or Public Space approval of less than 18 months.

Exclusions

This policy shall not apply to the following:

- directional elements such as signage, except as an integral part of a Public Art project;
- landscape architecture and/or gardening, except as an integral part of a Public Art project;
- easily moveable artworks such as paintings, drawings, models, or books;
- artifacts, archival, or art collections in museums, libraries or galleries;
- commemorations that are not created by or with an artist and/or sited in a Public Space; or
- graffiti management or special events.

PROCEDURES

The Greater Vernon Public Art Program has two distinct streams: *RDNO Public Art* and *Community Public Art*.

RDNO Public Art The RDNO Public Art stream provides for RDNO Commissioned Artwork, or Gift(s) accepted into the Greater Vernon Public Art Inventory and located on RDNO-owned or managed Public Space.

Community Public Art The Community Public Art stream provides for Public Art projects initiated through a proposal by Community Members who have requested RDNO funding and/or use of RDNO-owned or managed Public Space within Greater Vernon.

RDNO PUBLIC ART STREAM

1. Acquisition:

- 1.1. Artworks in the RDNO Public Art Stream are acquired and owned by the RDNO and added to the RDNO Public Art Inventory.
- 1.2. The RDNO may acquire Artwork through donation, purchase, or Commissioned Artwork.
- 1.3. RDNO purchased or Commissioned Artwork may be funded through the RDNO Public Art or RDNO Capital budget, external grants, sponsorship, fundraising, or donations.
- 1.4. Donated Artworks must be unencumbered, include acceptable provenance and ownership verification, and will be subject to consideration of acquisition outlined in section 1.5.
- 1.5. Each Artwork that is being considered for acquisition will:
 - adhere to the Guiding Principles of the Greater Vernon Public Art Policy.
 - undergo a selection or review process by a Public Art Panel, based on the established criteria, suitability of the Artwork for display in a Public Space, ability of RDNO to maintain the Artwork, and, any ethical and legal considerations regarding ownership.
 - have a maintenance plan with estimated associated costs.
 - not be accepted if the Artist, Community Member, or Donor requires the Artwork to be located in a specific Public Space in perpetuity.
- 1.6. The RDNO will enter into a written agreement with the Artist or donor of any Artwork accepted through the RDNO Public Art Stream that will address the commitments of both parties in relation to materials, timelines, installation, maintenance plan, insurance, warranty, copyright, payments (including those to sub-contractors), lifespan of Artwork, action upon loss, theft or vandalism, and de-accessioning.

2. Site

- 2.1. The RDNO will identify appropriate RDNO-owned or managed Public Spaces for Public Art through a Greater Vernon Public Art Master Plan.
- 2.2. Additional RDNO-owned or managed Public Spaces may be approved for Temporary Public Art or Ephemeral Public Art on a case-by-case basis.

3. Installation and Maintenance

- 3.1. The Artist will be responsible for the installation of all Artwork within the RDNO Public Art Stream. All installation costs and technical considerations will be submitted and accepted as part of the acquisition process.
- 3.2. The RDNO will be responsible to maintain all Public Art within the RDNO Public Art Stream in accordance with the maintenance plan that is submitted and accepted as part of the acquisition process. The maintenance plans will include but not be limited to: maintenance schedule for lifespan of Artwork, shop drawings, manufacturer's lists, key contacts, maintenance specifications, and budgets.
- 3.3. All contractual requirements for installation and maintenance will be identified in the written agreement with the Artist that is a requirement for acquisition.

4. De-accessioning

- 4.1. The RDNO has authority to de-accession Public Artwork as it sees fit. Situations for this include but are not limited to:
 - The Public Art is deteriorating and restoration is not a feasible solution;
 - The Public Art is no longer relevant to the RDNO Public Art Inventory;
 - The Public Art is discovered to have been stolen, or was offered to the RDNO for acquisition using fraudulent means.
- 4.2. RDNO staff will be responsible for preparing a report to the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee (GVAC) providing options and methods of disposal.

5. Community Engagement and Awareness

- 5.1. The RDNO or designate will be responsible for ensuring that the community is aware of and has the opportunity to engage with public art by:
 - providing opportunities for community input, such as through a Public Art Panel;
 - including community-Engaged Public Art projects (or project components) when appropriate; and,
 - ensuring the public awareness and knowledge of any new Public Art Projects, the decommissioning of Public Art, and the RDNO Public Art Inventory.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC ART STREAM

1. Acquisition:

- 1.1. Artworks in the Community Public Art Stream are acquired and owned by the Community Member proponent, Artist, or property owner of the Public Space. .
- 1.2. Community Public Art Artworks may be purchased or Commissioned with funding from the Greater Vernon Public Art Grant Program, external grants, sponsorship, fundraising, or donations.
- 1.3. Purchased or donated Artworks must be unencumbered, include acceptable provenance and ownership verification, and be subject to consideration of acquisition requirements outlined in section 1.5.
- 1.4. Community Public Art Artworks may be added to any online inventory or other marketing of the RDNO Public Art Inventory at the discretion of the RDNO.
- 1.5. Each Artwork that is being considered for RDNO Public Art Grant funding of use of an RDNO-owned or managed Public Space will:
 - adhere to the Guiding Principles of the Greater Vernon Public Art Policy.
 - undergo a selection or review process by a Public Art Panel, based on the established criteria, suitability of the Artwork for display in a Public Space, written confirmation of a sustainable maintain plan for the Artwork, written confirmation of approval for use of Public Space for the purpose of Public Art by the property owner, and, any ethical and legal considerations regarding ownership.
 - have a funded maintenance plan with estimated associated costs.
 - not be accepted if the Artist, Community Member, or Donor requires the Artwork to be located in perpetuity.
- 1.6. The Artwork owner and/or property owner will enter into a written agreement with the Artist or donor of any Artwork accepted through the Community Public Art Stream that will address the commitments of both parties in relation to materials, timelines, installation, maintenance plan, insurance, warranty, copyright, payments (including those to sub-contractors), lifespan of Artwork, action upon loss, theft or vandalism, and de-accessioning.

2. Site

- 2.1. The proposed site will meet the definition of a Public Space and will have written confirmation of approval for use for the proposed term and for the purpose of Public Art by the property owner. In the case of local government or not-for-profit organizations, this means a motion of support from the Council or Board of Directors.
- 2.2. RDNO-owned or managed Public Spaces may be approved for Artwork acquired through the Community Public Art Stream on a case-by-case basis.

3. Installation and Maintenance

- 3.1. There will be a funded installation plan for all Artwork within the Community Public Art Stream. All installation costs and technical considerations will be submitted and accepted as part of the approval process.
- 3.2. There will be a funded maintenance plan for all Artwork within the Community Public Art Stream. All maintenance costs and technical considerations will be submitted and accepted as part of the approval process. The maintenance plans will include but not be limited to: maintenance schedule for lifespan of Artwork, shop drawings, manufacturer's lists, key contacts, maintenance specifications, and budgets.

4. De-accessioning

- 4.1. The RDNO has authority to de-accession Public Artwork as it sees fit. Situations for this include but are not limited to:
 - The Public Art is deteriorating and restoration is not a feasible solution;
 - The Public Art is no longer relevant to the RDNO Public Art Inventory;
 - The Public Art is discovered to have been stolen, or was offered to the RDNO for acquisition using fraudulent means.
- 4.2. RDNO staff will be responsible for preparing a report to the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee (GVAC) providing options and methods of disposal.

5. Community Engagement and Awareness

- 5.1. The Community Member proponent or Artist will be responsible for ensuring that the community is aware of and has the opportunity to engage with the Public Art by:
 - providing opportunities for community input, such as through a Public Art Panel;
 - including community-Engaged Public Art projects (or project components) when appropriate; and,
 - ensuring the public awareness and knowledge of the Public Art, installation, maintenance, or repair notifications, and the decommissioning of the Public Art.

GREATER VERNON PUBLIC ART GRANT PROGRAM

The RDNO, through the Greater Vernon Public Art Grant Program provides grant funding for Public Art projects within Greater Vernon. The objectives of the Public Art Grant Program are:

- to support and encourage public art on Public Space in Greater Vernon that is not owned by the RDNO;
- to support and encourage temporary and ephemeral Public Art on RDNO Public Spaces.
- to foster community pride, identity, and cohesion through a collaborative artistic endeavor;
- to provide small scale opportunities for artists to gain experience in the field of public art;
- to encourage community innovation and collaboration in the artistic and broader community; and,
- supports the Greater Vernon Public Art Policy Guiding Principles.

Guidelines

1. Funding Allocation

The budget for the Greater Vernon Public Art Grant Program will be established annually by the Board of Directors. Funding applications will be approved by the Board of Directors based on recommendations from a Public Art Panel and technical review results completed by RDNO staff.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Organizational Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a Greater Vernon Public Art Grant program funding, the proponent shall be a community organizations/group that operates within Greater Vernon which includes but is not limited to: not-for-profit organizations, community service groups, community associations, unincorporated community groups. Partnerships are encouraged and welcomed with business, unincorporated groups. Partnership are also welcomed with individual artists and businesses.

- Adhere to the accountability requirements set out with the approval of the grant;
- submit only one application for a single project for each intake. Submissions must be for a one-time, single creative project or a time-limited series. Arts and culture organizations which have received or are applying for Greater Vernon Arts, Culture, and Youth Operating or Project Grants are eligible to apply.

2.2. Project Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a Greater Vernon Public Art Grant program funding, the proposed Public Art Project must:

- meet the definition of Public Art as described in the Greater Vernon Public Art Policy;
- adhere to the Guiding Principles of the Greater Vernon Public Art Grant Policy and associated guidelines;
- have all necessary approvals and permits for the proposed location and/or presentation;
- have a defined lifespan or siting timeline (in perpetuity will not be permitted); and,
- have all costs associated with installation, maintenance, and any other associated costs over the lifespan.

2.3. Funding Eligibility

Eligible Uses for community public art funding includes:

- Artist/technician/designer fees (may include fee/hour plus expenses) for the fabrication and/or installation of the project;
- Materials and supplies (consumables such as paint, canvas, glue etc);
- Costs of setting up a safe venue for art production (insurance, tents, rental fees, permits);
- Documentation (videographer, photographer, editing, printing);
- Coordination/project management (someone to help with logistics and publicity);
- Volunteers and participants (food, beverage, thank you event).

Non-Eligible Uses: Capital improvements not directly related to the project, purchases of permanent equipment, ongoing operational expenses of the applicant(s), retroactive funding for projects already in progress or completed; projects which already receive financial or in-kind support from the RDNO; activities primarily aimed at fundraising; activities or products with a political, religious or commercial purpose; and projects on sites outside Greater Vernon.

3. Selecting an Artist for the Proposal

The applicant may choose to pre-select an Artist to work with for the project proposed, or may request the assistance of the Greater Vernon Public Art Panel Administrator to assist with the process.

4. Selection Criteria and Notification

The selection of Public Art projects through the Greater Vernon Public Art Grant program will be administered by the Greater Vernon Public Art Panel Administrator and adjudicated by a Public Art Panel.

Public Art Grant Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- Does the project meet the objectives of the Community Public Art Program?
- Does the project support and adhere to the Guiding Principles of the Greater Vernon Public Art Policy?
- Does the project have a clear and well developed project description and objective for Public Art (social, cultural, economic development, etc.)
- Does the submission describe the project's fit and significance to the proposed and approved site and surrounding neighbourhood/ location/ event?
- Is the applicant eligible?
- Does the project submission include a timeline and budget that contemplates the creation, engagement, installation, maintenance, and de-accessioning?
- Does the submission include a feasible budget and does the project budget have any matching in-kind or financial support?
- Are the proposed uses of the funding eligible?
- Has the applicant provided adequate information about how all roles and responsibilities will be fulfilled and how the project will be designed and delivered?

5. Application and Reporting Requirements

Proponents must complete a Greater Vernon Public Art Grant Application form that may be amended from time to time.

The application deadline for submission will be March 30 of the year in which the funding is requested, and the project must be completed and funding spent within two years of award. Successful applicants will provide a brief final report within three months of completion. The report will be in a prescribed format with high-resolution images of the project in progress, during any community engagement (if applicable), and upon completion. Receipt of this report is a condition of the applicant's future consideration for any RDNO grant.

GREATER VERNON PUBLIC ART PANEL

The role of a *Greater Vernon Public Art Panel* (PAP) is to evaluate any Artist or Public Art commissioned through the RDNO Public Art stream. Property owners commissioning or considering Public Art through the Community Public Art stream may also utilize this panel selection process.

Panel Administrator

The PAP administrator will be an arms-length not-for-profit organization with a mandate that includes art or design and experience administering Public Art. The PAP Administrator will be responsible for convening a panel to select or review submissions to a public art call or a specific instance of Public Art and disbanding the PAP once the process is complete. The PAP Administrator will also provide the RDNO or other commissioning organization with support on developing a Public Art Commission Agreement and any other technical advice as required and available.

Panel Composition

The PAP members selected by the PAP Administrator will bring expertise or insight related to the Public Art commissioning objectives, site, or other artistic or technical considerations. The PAP will have a minimum of 5 and up to 8 members that will include:

- at least three (3) voting members who are art or design professionals such as practicing artists, curators, art critics, art educators, architects, or landscape architects;
- at least two (2) voting members of local representation selected from a panelist roster with relevant interests in the site, which could include a neighbourhood or community representative from a local association or not-for-profit organization, a business representative, or a resident; and,
- at least one (1) non-voting member representing the proposed site land owner to consider the submission's technical, site, maintenance, or financial impacts.

Depending on the scope of the competition, invited members may include local, national, or international art or design professionals. Art or design professionals shall form the majority of the membership on the PAP.

Panel Types

The PAP Administrator may convene one of two types of panels based on the evaluation needs:

1. Selection Panel: as a Selection Panel, the PAP will review multiple submissions (depending on the form of the call) and recommend one artist/artwork. A Selection Panel approach may be used in the case of multiple submissions received for an RFQ or RFP.
2. Review Panel: as a Review Panel, the PAP will review a single submission to ensure that it meets the program goals and objectives. A Review Panel approach may be used in the case of a Gift, a single submission for an RFQ or RFP, or in the case of an ad hoc Public Art proposal that is submitted by a Community Member.

Panel Roster

The PAP Administrator will regularly promote public participation on the PAP and maintain an open panelist roster via an online application system where public members may submit their interest in participating in a public art panel. All public art proposals will be evaluated using the established criteria for all Request for Expressions of Interest, Request for Qualifications, and Request for Proposals documents. Based on the established evaluation criteria, the PAP will recommend the artist/artwork selection to RDNO staff. Staff will review all relevant technical/ maintenance/resourcing/artistic considerations and bring the recommendation(s) forward to the Greater Vernon Advisory Committee and Board of Directors for consideration of approval.