



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: JUNE 25, 2009

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| Session: | Public Session |
| Subject: | Public Art Policy: Assumptions and Guiding Principles |
| Prepared By: | Margaret Mitchell, Barbara Jessop, Susanna Hubbard Krimmer |
| Presented By: | Margaret Mitchell |
| Purpose of Report: | For Decision: Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Public Art Policy: Assumptions and Guiding Principles be approved by the Library Board. Following this approval, staff will draft a recommended policy to bring to the Board for approval at its meeting of September 2009.

Issue / Opportunity

In the past, London Public Library has obtained pieces of public art. Examples include: statue of the reader in the Rotary Reading Garden, stained glass windows at Landon, embroidery of Thames River in Central Library. In May, the Library received a proposal for the donation of a piece of public art. After discussion with the City's Culture Office and a review of past library experience in procuring public art, it was determined that, prior to moving forward on this donation, a policy should be developed to establish criteria and processes for procurement. Consistent with past practice, the first step to the process is the adoption of guiding principles and assumptions to guide policy development.

Background & Review

In 2007 (amended 2009) the City of London approved its Public Art Policy upon the recommendation of the Creative City Task Force. This document can be found at

http://www.london.ca/d.aspx?s=/Committees_and_Task_Forces/Creative_City/publicart.htm

The City's policy governs art intended to be installed on City-owned lands and facilities. The Library was advised that Library facilities and land were excluded from the policy.

The Library currently has an *Art and Display Policy* which governs the display, not procurement, of art by local community artists in branch library locations.

Assumptions and Guiding Principles

The draft assumptions and guiding principles are attached in Appendix 1. They are intended to guide in the development of policy and procedures.

Next Steps

Following approval of the **London Public Library (LPL) Public Art Policy: Assumptions and Guiding Principles**, staff will create a recommended draft policy to bring to the Board for approval at its meeting of September 2009. Staff will also seek further peer review in the development in the draft policy and processes.

London Public Library: Public Art Policy Development

Assumptions:

The purpose of the London Public Library Art Policy (the “policy”) will be to provide a mechanism by which the Library may acquire significant pieces of public art through a variety of means.

Public art in the Library will enhance the Library as public space and its role as a significant cultural institution.

The policy will clearly define what public art is and what it is not, for the purposes of this policy.

Guiding Principles:

The policy will be consistent with the principles of the City of London Public Art Policy.

The policy will apply to all buildings and lands owned/rented by the Library, except where the building is situated on City of London land, which would be governed by the City’s policy.

This policy governs public art acquired through selection, commission or donation.

Public art will be funded as a value-added component, outside of the operating budget, including maintenance costs.

Financial processes for the acquisition of public art in the Library will be developed under this policy.

Contracts with donors, artists, galleries, etc. such as ownership, copyright, maintenance, use, de-accessioning and other issues governed by legislation will be prepared for any acquisition.

The Library will retain the right to determine, in consultation with the donor or artist, the site for the art.

The acquisition of public art will not interfere with the Library’s role in encouraging the temporary displays of art by local artisans, students, as authorized under the Art Exhibits and Displays Policy.

Input from public juries or art specialists and/or organizations may be considered as part of the acquisition process.

The CEO and authorized Directors/Managers will act for the London Public Library in the acquisition of public art, in accordance with the governance and procurement policies of the London Public Library.