

**ATTACHMENT B**

**INTERIM ACQUISITION GUIDELINES FOR  
ACCESSION OF ARTWORKS AND OTHER  
CULTURAL OBJECTS 2006 (FOR  
INFORMATION)**

City of Sydney

# Public Art Guidelines 2006

Interim Acquisition Guidelines

For Accession of Artworks and other Cultural Objects



September 2006

*city of villages*

## 1 Preface

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The Sydney Open Museum is the City of Sydney's collection of monuments, memorials, sculptures and fountains located in public spaces. As a collection it reflects the history, priorities and creative heart of the City, and contributes significantly to the beauty of the public domain.

The primary process of acquiring art and other cultural objects into the Sydney Open Museum is through direct commissioning or purchase. On occasion the City has been recipient of gifts by private individuals or transfers of artworks by other authorities or developers. These guidelines provide a process and criteria for new works regardless of their provenance.

## 2 Purpose

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To ensure that new art works and cultural objects are in agreement with the City of Sydney Public Art Policy and with the Council's vision for Sydney.

## 3 Process

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Commissioning and purchase of artworks and/or cultural objects may be integrated with particular Capital Works Projects or may be stand-alone or curated art projects in keeping with the City of Sydney's Strategic Plan and Public Art Strategy.

The commissioning process will vary depending on the nature of the project but will include some form of competitive tendering and a creative response to a brief.

Works at concept design stage will be assessed by the Public Art Committee who will then make a recommendation regarding the suitability of the artwork for the collection. Depending on the work, the recommendation will be passed to Council or the CEO for approval.

Gifts and bequests of artworks and/or cultural objects will be presented to the Public Art Committee who will make a recommendation regarding the suitability of the artwork for the collection. Depending on the work, the recommendation will be passed to Council or the CEO for approval.

Where artworks and/or cultural objects are to be transferred to the care of the City, they will be assessed by the Public Art Committee who will then make a recommendation regarding the suitability of the artwork for the collection. Depending on the work, the recommendation will be passed to Council or the CEO for approval.

All objects entering the permanent collection will be accompanied by a legal document transferring full rights of ownership to the City of Sydney. Council will have exclusive copyright licence of the works, however full copyright will remain with the artist/author of the work/object.

## 3 Process *(continued)*

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All objects entering the permanent collection will be listed in the Sydney Open Museum Database. All objects acquired for the collection will be documented and the City of Sydney shall retain records of accession.

All artworks/cultural objects donated by gift or bequest or transferred to the City must be accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. Provisions for the installation of new body of work, and the maintenance of the artwork must be allocated to the maintenance schedule operated by the City of Sydney.

The objects shall be acquired into the collection as long as they retain their physical integrity, their authenticity, and so long as they strengthen and reinforce the mission and goals of the City's Public Art Policy.

A period of review (for example, ten years) should be allocated to each work on accession, under the advice of the Public Art Committee.

Objects will only be acquired if they have legal and ethical provenance. The collection of objects shall be conducted in accordance with the Standards of the Codes of Ethics of the Museums Association of Australia.

## 4 Criteria

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New acquisitions should be based on the following criteria:

- Standards of excellence and innovation.
- The integrity of the artwork or cultural object.
- Relevance and appropriateness of the work to the context of its site.
- Relevance and appropriateness of the work to the City of Sydney.
- Consistency with the City's Public Art Policy
- Consistency with Council's Vision for Sydney
- Consistency with current planning, heritage and environmental policies and Plans of Management.
- Consideration of public safety and the public's access to and use of the public domain.
- Consideration of maintenance and durability requirements.
- Evidence of funding source and satisfactory budget including an allocation for ongoing maintenance.
- Non-duplication of monuments commemorating the same or similar events.