

City of Sydney

Interim Guidelines for Public Art in Private Developments



September 2006

city of villages

1 Preface

The City of Sydney's Public Art Policy presents the framework for the care, acquisition and management of public art in the City of Sydney Local Government Area. These guidelines form part of this framework and are intended to assist developers, art consultants, artists, architects, landscape architects and project managers in the provision of public art in private developments. They should be read in conjunction with the City of Sydney Public Art Policy 2006.

The City recognises the benefits, both cultural and economic, that the integration of public art into the urban fabric can have both for developments and for the city as a whole. The engagement of developers, architects and landscape architects in the procurement of public art will help to make Sydney an even more interesting, distinctive and culturally diverse city.

The incorporation of works of art in a development and the inclusion of artists in the design process are encouraged by the City of Sydney in all developments. However, the inclusion of public art is not a prerequisite for approval in single dwelling houses or other small developments and in these instances is to be pursued at the discretion of the owner or developer.

These Guidelines apply to:

- a) all urban renewal areas requiring a Master Plan or Stage 1 DA; and
- b) all privately initiated multiple residential, commercial or industrial projects which include a significant amount of public (or publicly accessible) space or which have a construction value exceeding \$10 million.

2 Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is:

- To ensure that high-quality public art is included in accessible public spaces in all large scale developments;
- To assist owners and developers in the commissioning, procurement and display of public art;
- To ensure works of public art are constructed and installed in accordance with Development Consent.

3 Public Art Process for Master Plan Sites or Stage 1 DAs

Developers of sites requiring a Master Plan or Stage 1 DA may engage a public art consultant to assist in the preparation of documents and the selection of artists.

The following three documents are required:

(1) **Preliminary Public Art Plan** to be submitted with the Master Plan for master Plan sites or with the Stage 1 DA

The Preliminary Public Art Plan should include an analysis of the precinct, planning requirements and any studies pertinent to the public art objectives. It should identify public art opportunities, propose a methodology for the selection and commissioning of artists and provide an estimated budget and program for the inclusion of artists.

The Preliminary Public Art Plan will be reviewed by the Public Art Committee for comment and any recommendations will be recorded and passed on to the developer.

(2) **Detailed Public Art Plan** to be submitted at the DA Stage of a Master Plan site or with the Stage 2 DA

The Detailed Public Art Plan should include the public art concept/s illustrated in such a way that the form, dimensions, materials and location of the proposed artwork are clearly communicated. It should include a brief statement explaining the rationale behind the artwork and should demonstrate how the proposed work will relate to the proposed development and site.

It should provide a program for documentation, fabrication and installation and integration with the construction program for the development. It should also provide engineer's drawings, expected maintenance requirements and deaccessioning agreements.

The Public Art Plan will be reviewed by the Public Art Committee for comment and any recommendations will be recorded and passed on to the developer.

The Detailed Public Art Plan is a condition of Development Consent.

(3) **Final Public Art Report** to be submitted at Occupation Certificate Stage

The Final Public Art Report is to satisfy the City that the public art has been delivered and the public art commitments have been fulfilled. This will enable the Occupation Certificate to be released.

The Final Public Art Report should provide information about the artworks and artist, the fabrication and installation of the work, the documentation and engineers' drawings, the maintenance requirements, any additional relevant information regarding ownership, and copyright of the work.

The Public Art Report is a condition of Occupation Certificate.

4 Public Art Process for Developments with Publicly Accessible Space and/or Construction Cost >\$10 Million

The following two documents are required:

(1) **Detailed Public Art Plan** to be submitted at DA Stage

The Detailed Public Art Plan should include the public art concept/s illustrated in such a way that the form, dimensions, materials and location of the proposed artwork are clearly communicated. It should include a brief statement explaining the rationale behind the artwork and should demonstrate how the proposed work will relate to the proposed development and site.

It should provide a program for documentation, fabrication and installation and integration with the construction program for the development. It should also provide engineer's drawings, expected maintenance requirements and deaccessioning agreements.

The Public Art Plan will be reviewed by the Public Art Panel for comment and any recommendations will be recorded and passed on to the developer.

(2) **Final Public Art Report** to be submitted at Occupation Certificate Stage

The Final Public Art Report is to satisfy the City that the public art has been delivered and the public art commitments have been fulfilled. This will enable the Occupation Certificate to be released.

The Final Public Art Report should provide information about the artworks and artist, the fabrication and installation of the work, the documentation and engineers' drawings, the maintenance requirements, any additional relevant information regarding ownership, and copyright of the work.

The Public Art Report is a condition of Occupation Certificate.

5 Criteria

Public artworks in private developments should be of a scale appropriate to the development and thoughtfully sited to create a point of interest or define a space. “Plonk” art (public art which is not commissioned specifically for a site) is not encouraged but it is not excluded if the rationale behind the selection of the work is deemed by the Public Art Committee to be sound.

The Criteria

Evaluation and approval of all artworks and monuments will be based on the following criteria:

- Standards of excellence and innovation
- The integrity of the work
- Relevance and appropriateness of the work to the context of its site
- 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

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.