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Adopted by Council: July 27, 2010 Amended by Council: September 28, 2020		

POLICY 8703:

RICHMOND PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

1. APPLICATION AND INTENT

- 1.1 **Public art** is defined as artwork in the public realm, which is accessible physically or visually to the public and possesses aesthetic qualities. Public Realm includes the places and spaces, such as building facades, parks, public open spaces and streets, which provide physical or visual access to the general public.
- 1.2 **Public Art Program:** Public art animates the built and natural environment with meaning, contributing to a vibrant city in which to live and visit. By placing artwork in our everyday environment, the Public Art Program sparks community participation in the building of our public spaces, offers public access to ideas generated by contemporary art, celebrates community history, identity, achievements and aspirations, encourages citizens to take pride in community cultural expression and creates a forum to address relevant themes and issues of interest and concern to Richmond's citizens.

2. PROGRAM GOALS

- 2.1 The Public Art Program strives to:
 - a) **Spark community participation** in the building of our public spaces, encouraging citizens to take pride in public cultural expression;
 - b) **Provide leadership in public art planning** through civic, private developer, community and other public interest initiatives to develop the City's cultural uniqueness, profile and support of the arts;
 - c) **Complement and/or develop the character of Richmond's diverse neighbourhoods** to create distinctive public spaces, which enhance the sense of community, place and civic pride;
 - d) **Increase public awareness**, understanding, and enjoyment of the arts in everyday life, and provide equitable and accessible opportunities for Richmond's diverse community to experience public art;
 - e) **Encourage public dialogue** about art and issues of interest and concern to Richmond residents; and
 - f) **Encourage public art projects that work towards achieving a more sustainable community**, environmentally, economically, socially and culturally.



3. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the Public Art Program are:
- a) **Increase opportunities for the community and artists** to participate in the design of the public realm;
 - b) **Develop original site-specific works of art** in order to contribute to cultural vibrancy;
 - c) **Select art through an arms'-length process** incorporating professional advice and community input that ensures the quality of art and its relevance to the community and site;
 - d) **Ensure that a public and transparent** process is maintained to develop and accept public art;
 - e) **Enter into partnerships** with private and public organizations to further public art in the City; and,
 - f) **Ensure that public art, and the environs of that art, are maintained** in a manner that will allow for continued public access to, and enjoyment of, these artworks in appropriate settings.
- 3.2 The Public Art Program will maintain a continuous, consistent and affordable funding mechanism to support the City's commitment to public art.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Council approval is required for all public art plans and projects on City controlled property.
- 4.2 For public artworks on private property, Council approval is required for Terms of Reference for artworks with budgets over \$250,000 based on the total dollar value for the voluntary public art contribution as determined at the Development Permit Application stage.
- 4.3 The City will develop administrative procedures relating to the management of projects, including: selection processes, developer contributions, donation and de-accession guidelines, site considerations, documentation and maintenance (the "Public Art Program Administrative Procedures Manual").
- 4.4 The City will maintain a Public Art Program Reserve to hold public art allocations from both public and private sources for capital expenses.
- 4.5 The City will maintain a Public Art Program Operating Provision to hold public art allocations from private sources for operating expenses relating to the administration of the Public Art Program.



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5. CIVIC PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

5.1 General

- 5.1.1** The City’s policy is to provide leadership in public art by incorporating public art, at the planning stages, into the development or renovation of civic infrastructure, buildings, parks and bridges, and to encourage collaboration between the Public Art Advisory Committee, City staff, artists, engineers, design professionals and the community to enrich such projects.
- 5.1.2** The priority for civic public art projects will be to fully integrate the artwork into the planning, design and construction of civic works and to select and commission an artist to work as a member of the project consultant design team, in order to maximize opportunities for artistic expression and minimize material and construction costs.

5.2 Project Identification

- 5.2.1** The City will identify and prioritise specific areas within the City and types of capital projects appropriate for the inclusion of public art. Applicable projects include:
 - a) New building construction;
 - b) Major additions or renovations to existing buildings;
 - c) Park development projects;
 - d) Environmental programs; and
 - e) New engineering structures.
- 5.2.2** Projects appropriate for consideration should:
 - a) Have a high degree of prominence, public use and/or public realm impact;
 - b) Achieve or enhance project objectives or other City objectives (e.g. beautification, liveability, multiculturalism, sustainability, cultural or environmental interpretations);
 - c) Promote opportunities for meaningful community participation; and/or
 - d) Complement existing public artworks or public amenities in the local area, and/or fulfil a need identified in that community.
- 5.2.3** The City will undertake artist-initiated public art projects from time to time. Artists will be invited to submit proposals for concepts and locations of



their own choosing, and may be asked to respond to a specific topic of community interest or importance.

5.3 Funding

5.3.1 Each year, the City will commit an amount of funds equivalent to a minimum of 1% of each Capital Project Budget, to the planning, design, fabrication and installation of public art, provided that:

- a) Capital projects for equipment and land acquisition are exempt;
- b) Infrastructure utilities projects - water supply and sewerage - which are funded solely from restricted sources, are exempt; and
- c) For eligible projects, allocations are based on the construction costs of capital projects, and exclude soft costs (i.e., administration, professional and legal fees, furnishings, and permit fees).

5.4 Donations and/or Gifts of Artwork(s)

5.4.1 Private donations or gifts of artworks may be accepted into the City's public art collection, provided that:

- a) The artworks are assessed on their artistic, environmental, cultural, historical and social merits before being accepted into the City's public art inventory;
- b) A suitable site can be identified; and
- c) Funds are made available for the ongoing maintenance and conservation of the artwork.

5.5 Purchase Pre-Existing Artwork

5.5.1 The City may add to its public art inventory by purchasing pre-existing works of art from time to time.

5.6 De-accession

5.6.1 De-accession is defined as any actions or set of procedures that result in the cessation by the City of its ownership and possession of works of art installed in public places, through sale, exchange, gift or any other means.

5.6.2 Provided that the de-accession of the artwork is not contrary to the terms on which it was received by the City, the City may de-accession artworks from the City's inventory when necessary:

- a) Through a considered public review and assessment process;
- b) If the de-accession of the artwork is evaluated on a case by case basis; and



- c) If the de-accession of the artwork is endorsed by Council.

6. PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

6.1 General

The City's policy is to encourage the private sector to support the integration of public artworks in the community during the rezoning and development permit processes, and the collaboration of artists, design professionals and the community in the design of that art.

6.2 Project Identification

- 6.2.1** Applicable projects include new building construction, major additions or renovations to existing buildings, as follows:
 - a) For residential uses containing 10 or more units; and
 - b) For non-residential uses with a total floor area of 2,000 m² (21,530 ft²) or greater.
- 6.2.2** The following uses or occupancies of all or part of a development or building are exempt from contributing to the Public Art Program:
 - a) Community Amenity Space, Community Care Facility, Congregate Housing, Child Care, Health Services, Education and related uses as defined under the Richmond Zoning Bylaw, as amended from time to time;
 - b) Purpose-built non-market rental and subsidized social housing projects and/or units secured through the City's Affordable Housing Strategy; and
- 6.2.3** Public art should be sited in locations that meet the following criteria:
 - a) Visibility and accessibility (as appropriate to the art work) for pedestrians and/or motorists;
 - b) Proximity to high pedestrian activity areas, e.g. active retail areas, transit stops (especially those serving high ridership routes), places of public gathering, public open spaces and recognized pedestrian routes;
 - c) Opportunities to expand on existing or future public artworks as part of an existing or proposed multi-artwork public art plan; and/or
 - d) Places of special heritage or community significance.



6.3 Funding

- 6.3.1** The public art contribution rate for private sector public art projects is an amount equivalent to a minimum value of 0.5% of the estimated total project construction cost:
- a) Contributions are based on construction costs and exclude soft costs (i.e., administration, professional and legal fees, furnishings, development cost charges, and permit fees);
 - b) For the purpose of calculating public art contributions for private development, only floor areas that make up the calculation of density as set out under the Richmond Zoning Bylaw, as amended from time to time, are included;
 - c) Floor areas for uses set-out under 6.2.2, above, are excluded; and
 - d) This contribution funds the planning, design, fabrication and installation of public art.
- 6.3.2** The City will issue guidelines for calculating the public art contribution based on building types and annual Consumer Price Index adjustments.
- 6.3.3** The public art contribution rate will be reviewed periodically by Council.
- 6.3.4** For public art project contributions that are less than \$40,000, a cash contribution is to be made to the City's Public Art Reserve, for city-wide public art programs.
- 6.3.5** For public art contributions over \$40,000, the developer may choose one of the following three options:
- a) A monetary contribution to the City's Public Art Program Reserve; or
 - b) The developer may provide public artwork of a value equal to the public art contribution for the project, provided the artwork complies with this Public Art Program Policy and the Public Art Program Administrative Procedures Manual; or
 - c) The developer may negotiate a split of its contribution between both i) a monetary contribution to the Public Art Program Reserve; and ii) provision of artwork, provided the combined value of the monetary contribution and the artwork is equal to or greater than the project's public art contribution.
- 6.3.6** Where the developer chooses to provide artwork, either on their development site or on a City controlled property:
- a) A minimum of 85% of the public art contribution will be allocated to the creation of the artwork;



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- b) Where the City manages the public art selection process, 15% of the developer's public art contribution will be dedicated to the City's Public Art Program Operating Provision to support and sustain the management, administration and promotion of the Public Art Program;
- c) Where the developer engages an independent Public Art Consultant to manage the public art selection process, 5% of the developer's public art contribution will be dedicated to the City's Public Art Program operating budget and Operating Provision to support and sustain the management, administration and promotion of the Public Art Program and a maximum of 10% of the public art budget may be directed towards the consultant fees;
- d) Where located on City controlled land, the artwork will become the property of the City;
- e) Where located on private land, the artwork must remain accessible at no cost to the public and be maintained in good repair for the life of the development, and not be removed or relocated except with the prior written consent of the City; and
- f) In the event the artwork is damaged beyond repair, or becomes ineffective for reasons other than the owner's failure to maintain it, or in the event the work becomes an unreasonable burden to maintain, application to allow its removal or relocation may be made to the City.

6.3.8 The following are ineligible expense items for the private sector public art contributions:

- a) Maintenance costs for artwork(s);
- b) Artwork not provided in accordance with the City's Public Art Program; and
- c) Costs not directly related to selecting, designing, fabricating or installing the artwork(s).

7. COMMUNITY PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

7.1 General

7.1.1 The Richmond Community Public Art Program supports art projects between community groups and artists of all disciplines. Artists and communities working collaboratively can explore issues, ideas and concerns, voice community identity, express historical and cultural spirit and create dialogue through art.



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- 7.1.2** The end product need not be a permanent work of art but should leave a legacy for the general public. The project could include:
- a. A public event such as an exhibition, performance, play, concert, reading or dance; or
 - b. Documentary artworks such as books and videos; or
 - c. Electronic media.

7.2 Project Identification

- 7.2.1** Projects proposed must be publicly accessible and located or performed on public property such as City-owned or controlled parks, boulevards, and buildings. Sites owned or controlled by the Federal or Provincial governments will also be considered.
- 7.2.2** Projects should demonstrate the support of the local community and document significant community involvement of a sizable number of people.
- 7.2.3** Projects should demonstrate the capacity to be undertaken and completed within an approved time frame.

7.3 Funding

- 7.3.1** Community public art projects will be funded in part or in whole from the Public Art Program Reserve.
- 7.3.2** Community partners should investigate or provide matching funds where possible, or contribute an equivalent amount through time/participation, labour, materials or contributions in-kind.
- 7.3.3** The final artwork, if any, will become the property of the City, unless the City agrees otherwise

8. PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8.1 Mandate

- 8.1.2** The "Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee" is a Council-appointed volunteer advisory committee that provides input on public art policy, planning, education and promotion.

8.2 Role

- 8.2.1** The Committee provides informed comment to City Council through staff on the implementation of the Public Art Program through civic, private development and community public art initiatives.



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8.2.2 The Committee acts as a resource on public art to City Council, staff, residents and developers of land and projects within the City of Richmond.

8.2.3 The Committee's terms of reference are outlined in the *Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference*.