



City of Joliet Public Art Policy

Revised Draft Dated January 8, 2025

Executive Summary:

The City of Joliet Arts Commission was initiated on July 16, 2019 and is dedicated to the presentation of public art in all its forms. The Arts Commission provides a formal art presence for the residents of the City of Joliet. General functions include curation and project management of public murals and sculpture, supporting local artists, and bringing local artists together with City of Joliet art projects.

The City of Joliet Public Art Policy provides a framework to improve the City's "quality of life" by seeking and fostering partnerships with nonprofits, organizations, institutions, foundations, and businesses that support the arts in our community by creating strong bonds between and among the organizations and institutions. This will include working cooperatively with other city boards, commissions, and committees, and other public and private agencies.

The focus will be on enhancing the economic base in the city by advocating for and promoting opportunities to combine arts with economic development. The commission will advocate for economic incentives to attract and sustain artists, arts, arts organizations, art programming and more. As a recommending body, the commission will explore and recommend to the Mayor, City Council, City Staff and other groups, suggestions for creating opportunities and offer advice on relevant city projects that could incorporate artistic endeavors or artistic considerations.

Mission Statement

"The Joliet Arts Commission builds awareness and strengthens the arts for the economic and cultural enrichment of the Greater Joliet Area by promoting the Arts, supporting local Arts endeavors, Connecting the Arts and the community and Curating Joliet's identity through the arts" - **JAC Mission Statement 2-19-2020**

Joliet Arts Commission Objectives:

- Seek and foster partnerships with non-profits, organizations, institutions, foundations, and businesses that support the arts.
- Support and foster strong bonds between and among arts organizations and local institutions in the community to encourage arts programming to be planned through strategic collaborations and coordination. This shall include working cooperatively with other city boards, commissions and committees, and other public and private agencies, institutions, and organizations.
- Enhance the economic base in the city by advocating for and promoting opportunities to combine arts with economic development efforts and by advocating for economic incentives for attracting and sustaining artists, arts, arts organizations, art programming, etc.

a. Explore and recommend to the Mayor, City Council, City staff, and other groups, ways to further the development of, interest in, and attract investments regarding the arts and Joliet's diverse cultural heritage.

b. Explore and recommend to the Mayor, City Council, city staff and other groups suggestions for creative place making opportunities and offer advice on relevant city projects that could incorporate artistic endeavors or artistic considerations.

c. Serve as the city's official concerning body for recommendations on public policy and economic development issues related to the arts and cultural heritage.

- Review relevant proposals and assist in the process by which artists, arts organizations, neighborhood organizations, businesses, developers, merchant associations, charitable foundations, or any other member of the general public proposes and creates projects in the arts which are located in public places.

- Where appropriate, assist art-based organizations, agencies and institutions in the research, identification, and application of grants for programming and initiatives.

- Where appropriate, assist art-based organizations, agencies, and institutions in tier pursuit of private sector donations for the purpose of enhancing the arts within the community of Joliet.

This Policy Statement includes all aspects of public art for the future of Joliet, from implementation to budget to maintenance. The goal is to create a more unified City image, and to encourage community members to have a more active presence in the art of Joliet.

The Joliet Arts Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Joliet City Council.

Anti-discrimination: Hate speech and obscenity prohibited.

The City of Joliet and the Joliet Arts Commission are committed to ensuring that its programs are free of discrimination, and that individuals of all backgrounds and demographics are afforded equal opportunity to participate. Accordingly, no individual shall be denied the opportunity to participate, nor shall any artwork be denied, based on an individual or applicant's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order of protection status, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or unfavorable discharge from military service. Discrimination based on any of these protected classes is expressly prohibited by these policies and procedures.

I. Public Art Policy Purpose and Mission Statement

A. City of Joliet Public Art Goals

1. Catalogue existing art – inventory existing artwork with information pertaining to ongoing maintenance needs and future deaccessioning. Databases created for artwork inventories will be published on the City's website for public consumption.

2. Recommend that the City fund Artwork maintenance, conservation, and repair as part of its annual budget.
3. Create a funding statement listing possible sources of external funding, individual sponsorship, and business sponsorship.
4. Provide opportunities for artists to exhibit in Joliet and to include local as well as global artists.
5. Foster inclusivity.
6. Create a policy statement on the deaccessioning of artwork.
- 7.

B. Definitions

1. Acquisition: The inclusion of an artwork in a permanent art collection acquired through a commission, purchase, gift, or other means.
2. Artist: Individual artist, team of individual artists or artist team leader of individuals from other disciplines whose body of work and professional activities demonstrate serious ongoing commitment to the fine arts.
3. Artist Fees: The portion of the project budget reserved for payment to the artist for creative services for design, fabrication and project management. Fees do not include other labor, materials, travel and per diem allowances for out-of-town artists.
4. Artist Selection Panel (ASP): An ad hoc panel whose charge is to review artists and art proposals and make recommendations to the Public Art and Design Board for their selection.
5. Artwork or Work of Art: A tangible creation by an artist.
6. City: The City of Joliet.
7. City Collection: The City Collection comprises all artworks owned by the City that have been accessioned by the Joliet Arts Commission on behalf of the City.
8. Commission: The formal process used to accept an artwork into the City Collection and record an item as a Collection object.
9. Deaccession: The process of removing an object permanently from a collection, through sale, exchange or any other transaction by which title is transferred from the collection to another institution or individual. Under certain conditions, it may also include disposal by intentional destruction.
10. Donor: The individual, corporation or other entity offering a donation to the City.
11. Loaned Artwork: Artwork given for use over a period of time and returned to the owner at the end of the use period.
12. Memorial Artwork: Structures, sculptures or other objects erected to commemorate a person or an event.
13. Public Art: Public art is art in public spaces that is created for the public through a public process. It can be permanent or temporary and can be located on public or private property.

C. **Public Art Authority and Administration**

II. **Public Art Site Designation Policy**

- A. Public Art Master Plan Procedures and Projected Deadlines
- B. Public Art Site Designation Procedures
- C. Special Exception Project

III. **Public Art Acquisition Policy**

A. Public Art Acquisition **Criteria**

- 1. Quality of work
- 2. Aesthetic Merit
- 3. Context within the City Collection
- 4. Availability of Appropriate Site (coordination with the appropriate public or private entities concerning the site, costs of installation and maintenance of artwork)
- 5. Condition of Donation
- 6. Condition of Artwork
- 7. Durability of Artwork
- 8. Installation Requirements
- 9. Maintenance Requirements

B. **Public Art Acquisition Procedures**

1. Donations or Loans of Artwork

- 1. Proposed donations of loans of artwork to the City of Joliet shall be reviewed by the Arts Commission.
- 2. The Arts Commission will consult appropriate departments and other formal citizen advisory boards as necessary for installation assistance and permit requirements and then make a recommendation to the City Council for final action.
- 3. For proposed artwork displayed in the future City Square the Commission will work with other city departments, commissions, advisors, etc.
- 4. For loans of artwork to the City of Joliet, the owner or owner's representative will be required to enter into an Art Display Agreement, setting forth the length of the loan and other terms such as signage, location, maintenance requirements, liability, insurance, value of artwork, installation, and removal responsibility, and other conditions pertinent to the agreement. (Outlined by City of Joliet Legal Counsel)
- 5. After review and approval from the Art Commission and City Council, all donated works become part of the City of Joliet art collections, unless otherwise stated and, as such, may be relocated or deaccessioned. (Deaccession Policy)

2. Commissioned Artwork

1. The City hires an artist to create original artwork for a specific project. Commissions may be funded wholly by the City, grants, or funded in partnership with private partners.
3. Gifts
 1. The City accepts legal title to a work of art when the owner of the art offers it without a request for compensation and an authorized City official formally accepts the gift on behalf of the City. A Deed of Gift form must accompany each gifted work of art. The City Council, with the Arts Commission's recommendation, can accept or refuse a gift.

C. Temporary Artwork and Special Exhibits

1. Proposed use of existing locations for temporary artwork shall be reviewed by the Arts Commission.
2. The Arts Commission will consult with appropriate departments for installation assistance and permit requirements then make a recommendation to the City Council for final action. Criteria for acquisitions listed above will determine the commission's recommendation.
3. For proposed artwork in the City Square, the Commission will work with other city advisory boards and commissions to present projects to the City Council for final action.
4. For temporary exhibition of artwork in the City of Joliet, the owner or owner's representative will be required to enter into an Art Display Agreement, setting for the length of the loan and other terms such as signage, location, maintenance requirements, liability, insurance, value of artwork, installation, and removal responsibility, and other conditions pertinent to the agreement.
5. After review and approval from the Art Commission and City Council, all donated works become part of the City of Joliet art collections, unless otherwise stated and, as such, may be relocated or deaccessioned. (Deaccession Policy)

D. Commissioned Artwork

1. City of Joliet Commissioned public artwork projects shall be administered and reviewed by the Arts Commission
2. The Arts Commission will consult appropriate departments for installation assistance and permit requirements then make a recommendation to the City Council for final action. Criteria for acquisitions listed above will determine the commission's recommendation.
3. For proposed artwork in the City Square, the commission will work with other city advisory boards and commissions to present projects to the City Council for final action.

4. For commissioned of artwork in the City of Joliet, the owner or owner's representative will be required to enter into an Art Display Agreement, setting for the length of the loan and other terms such as signage, location, maintenance requirements, liability, insurance, value of artwork, installation, and removal responsibility, and other conditions pertinent to the agreement.
5. After review and approval from the Art Commission and City Council, all donated works become part of the City of Joliet art collections, unless otherwise stated and, as such, may be relocated or deaccessioned. (Deaccession Policy)

E. Memorial Artwork

1. Proposed donations or commissions of memorial artwork shall be administered and reviewed by the Arts Commission.
2. Proposed commissioned memorials must honor significant historical events or deceased individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the community or region, or community or regional heritage and culture. A waiting period of at least one year should elapse prior to the proposal of memorial artwork to be eligible for consideration.
3. For proposed artwork in the City Square, the commission will work with other city advisory boards and commissions to present projects to the City Council for final action.
4. For exhibition of donated or commissioned artwork in the City of Joliet, the owner or owner's representative will be required to enter into an Art Display Agreement, setting for the length of the loan and other terms such as signage, location, maintenance requirements, liability, insurance, value of artwork, installation, and removal responsibility, and other conditions pertinent to the agreement.
5. After review and approval from the Art Commission and City Council, all donated works become part of the City of Joliet art collections, unless otherwise stated and, as such, may be relocated or deaccessioned. (Deaccession Policy)

F. Special Exception Projects

1. Special exception projects shall be administered and reviewed by the Art Commission, City Staff and City Council as deemed necessary.
2. In conjunction with the City of Joliet development review process, the Commission may advocate for the inclusion of public art as a component of the site plan approval for a specific development.

G. Juried Review Policy

The Arts Commission may convene a jury to review individual temporary or permanent public art acquisitions. The Arts Commission will convene a jury when

the public artwork is a commissioned proposal, completed artwork or temporary exhibit.

1. Candidate jurors will be artists, architects, landscape architects, engineers, designers, representatives of the community, or art professionals.
2. A jury will be comprised of no less than three and no more than five jurors. The Arts Commission shall maintain a list of candidates to facilitate selection.
3. An appointed jury shall not include any City of Joliet Staff, City Council Member, or their respective partners or families.
4. Any juror with a conflict of interest must recuse themselves from the jury process.

H. Juried Review Procedures

1. The Arts Commission will draft a prospectus detailing the designated art project concept, procedures, proposal requirements, projected timeline, and proposal or application deadline.
2. Proposals for commissioned or submitted artwork shall include:
 - a. Artist Statement of Concept.
 - b. Submission of three-dimensional work or complete drawing of two-dimensional work.
 - c. Drawings or photographs that demonstrate the relationship of the artwork to the site.
 - d. Material samples of artwork and any relevant construction materials.
 - e. Description of routine maintenance and estimate of maintenance costs.
 - f. Artist's resume with a list of references.
 - g. Portfolio of past artwork.
 - h. Project specific criteria as requested.
3. The Arts Commission Subcommittee will meet to review proposals and designate finalists. In certain circumstances, City Council approval may be required.
4. For commissioned artwork see 3. *Public Art Acquisition Policy* for procedure.
5. For temporary juried shows, exhibits or events see 3. *C Public Art Acquisition Policy*.
6. The City Administration and City Council will have final review and approval of all proposed art to be placed on City owned property or in City facilities.

I. Installation and Maintenance Policy

The City shall be responsible for City initiated projects created through this policy. All permanent public art projects must have a plan that projects both staff time and

funding needed to properly maintain the work. Funds for the maintenance of the City Initiated Projects will be allocated as a portion of the public art program's operating budget. Maintenance of public art in special exception projects will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Maintenance of public art donated to the city will be negotiated with the donor.

J. Ownership and Copyright Policy

Ownership and Copyright of works included in the Public Art Asset Inventory will be determined by each artwork's contractual agreement with the City on a case-by-case basis.

IV. Public Art Funding Policy

The Arts Commission will be active in applying for public and private funds to support public art projects as appropriate.

V. Deaccession Policy

Deaccessioning is the removal of Public Art from a Public Space, or the public art asset inventory, and should be cautiously applied only after careful and impartial evaluation including input from the Arts Commission. The following criteria and procedures describe de-accessioning process.

a. Deaccessioning Criteria

1. The present location no longer guarantees the condition of security of the artwork.
2. The artwork presents a public safety risk.
3. The artwork is damaged, and repair is not feasible.
4. Significant changes in the use, character, or actual design of the site. require a re-evaluation of the artwork's relationship to the site.
5. The artwork requires excessive maintenance or has failures of design or workmanship.

b. Deaccessioning Procedures

1. Artwork may only be removed from the City's collection through deaccession after careful and impartial evaluation of the artwork within the context of the City's collection by the Commission. The deaccession evaluation must include:
 - i. A good faith effort to inform the artist or the artist's estate that the artwork is being considered for deaccession.
 - ii. A review of all pertinent accession documentation, including a review of legal documents by the City Attorney.
 - iii. A written recommendation on the proposed deaccession by an independent art professional such as a curator, conservator, historian, or architect.
 - iv. A review of any pertinent written correspondence, media coverage, and other evidence of public opinion.

2. If the Committee deems deaccession to be appropriate, it will submit a formal recommendation, including a written statement of findings, to City Council. If Council decides that deaccession is appropriate, the artwork will be disposed as follows:
 - i. The artist or estate of the artist will be given first option for acquiring the work through purchase, exchange, or other terms as determined by the Arts Commission.
 - ii. The artwork may be sold in accordance with all relevant laws governing surplus public property.
 - iii. The artwork may be loaned to a gallery, museum, or similar institution.
 - iv. The artwork may be donated to a gallery, museum, or similar institution.
 - v. The artwork may not be sold, loaned, or otherwise transferred to any City staff or member of the Arts Commission.
 - vi. The City is responsible for all costs associated with the removal or relocation of the artwork unless another agrees to assume these costs. A record of the deaccessioned artwork will be kept with the documentation of the City's collection.

VI. Public Art Education and Outreach

Education and outreach are critical to the success of the City of Joliet's Public Art Program. By engaging artists, arts advocates, citizens, and visitors in opportunities where they can experience artwork created for public space, the Arts Commission provides resources that broaden the appreciation and understanding of public art. The Arts Commission will work to inform and engage the community regarding the Public Arts Program.

VII. Public Art Promotion

The Arts Commission will work with appropriate organizations and entities to promote the provision of public art throughout Joliet.

VIII. Amendments

The City of Joliet Arts Commission reserves the right to amend this policy and its procedures in the future by resolution at an open City Council meeting and at least every five years, beginning with the year of adoption of this set of policies, the Arts Commission will review this document for modification and will submit amendments to the City Council for review and approval.

Amendments to this policy will be approved by a majority of the Arts Commission to the City of Joliet.