

# Art Acquisitions Policy

**Version:** 1.0

**Date Endorsed:** 19 June 2018

**Administrative Update:** NA

**By Approval Body:** Council

**Responsible Department:** Arts & Cultural Development

## 1. Purpose

The Art Acquisitions Policy confirms Council's commitment to enlivening and enriching the municipality through the collection of art and commissioning of public art from leading professional artists.

## 2. Definitions

<b>Council</b>	means Casey City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 1989
<b>Councillors</b>	means the individuals holding the office of a member of Casey City Council.
<b>Council officer</b>	means the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.
<b>Work of art / art work</b>	means a form or expression of the visual arts. It may include, but is not limited to, painting, sculpture, ceramics, photographs, printmaking, drawing, use of information technology, multimedia and mixed media.
<b>Acquisition</b>	taking legal possession and ownership of a work of art through purchase, bequest of gift.

*Council policy documents change from time to time and it is recommended that you consult the electronic reference copy at [www.casey.vic.gov.au/policiesstrategies](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/policiesstrategies) to ensure that you have the current version. Alternatively you may contact Customer Service on 9705 5200.*

<b>Art Collection</b>	held in trust for the benefit of the City of Casey and its residents. Consideration is given to any acquisition to the collection, or the disposal of any items in the museum's collection. The City of Casey recognises its responsibility, when acquiring a work to its collections, to ensure that care, documentation and use of collections will meet museum standards. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as resources, staffing and storage.
<b>Bequest</b>	a work of art or financial donation left to the Gallery as part of a deceased estate.
<b>Cultural Gifts Program</b>	the Australian Government's program of tax incentives for culturally significant gifts to Australia's public collections. Eligibility is restricted to institutions registered as DGR's.
<b>Statement of significance</b>	cites the sections of the collection framework to which each gift or acquisition relates, explain how and why each item makes a significant contribution to the collection.
<b>De-accessioning</b>	the permanent removal of a work of art from Bunjil Place art collection and the decommissioning of a Public Art asset.
<b>Public Art</b>	refers to many different types of art created for the public domain. It can include temporary or permanent site works, murals, sculptures, video installations, sound installations, street art, performances and collaborations with fellow participants, community groups, architects, landscape architects or urban designers.
<b>Renewal</b>	refers to the replacement of a public artwork into an area where previous works have been decommissioned.
<b>Council owned land</b>	means land that is currently owned by Council
<b>Proposed Council owned</b>	means land which is intended for transfer to Council ownership, in particular land that is part of a new estate or development which will be handed over to Council when development is complete.
<b>Council managed land</b>	means land which is owned by another party, with an agreement/ lease in place for Council to manage the land on behalf of the land owner.
<b>Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)</b>	funds, authorities or institutions endorsed by the Australian Tax Office. Collections recognised as DGR's are eligible for registrations with Australian Government's Cultural Gift Program.
<b>Disposal</b>	the physical removal of a work of art or public art from the collection, following de-accessioning.

<b>Loan</b>	the temporary physical transfer of a work of art from the collection to a third party, or the temporary receipt of works from a third party for temporary display.
<b>Moral rights</b>	are rights of creators of copyrighted works which includes the right of attribution, the right to have a work published anonymously or pseudonymously, and the right to the integrity of the work such as the display of the work in the way the artist intends.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to the acquisition, commission or donation of art to the Bunjil Place Gallery Art Collection and to the Public Art Collection.

Public Art is conceived, designed and developed by artist/s and does not include objects such as monuments, heritage fixtures, nor imagery related to a brand, including signage and plaques. This policy does not relate to Public Art on private land or to memorabilia donated to or acquired by Council.

### 4. Context

As one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, the City of Casey's story is one of growth, transformation and innovation. To complement state-of-the-art infrastructure, an abundance of parks and leisure facilities, we are delivering arts and cultural experiences across the municipality, creating vibrant, connected and healthy communities.

This policy aligns with strategic objectives of the Arts and Cultural Development Strategy, which will assist Council to achieve its overarching objective of "Creating Australia's most liveable city". The strategic objectives that the Arts and Cultural Development Strategy aligns to are:

- A leader in applying technology and innovation.
- An inclusive, safe, and connected community.
- A Council whose services and facilities driven by community needs.
- The destination for arts, culture, sport and leisure that attracts visitors and brings communities together.
- A thriving economy with local jobs, investment and new industries.

The City of Casey recognises international museum and gallery standards as formalised by peak industry body Museum and Galleries Australia.

The Art Acquisitions Policy is consistent with State level policies such as Melbourne 2030 and our local key policy document, the Council Plan as well as strategic policies across Council including:

- **Arts and Cultural Development Strategy - with the goal of being a nation leading arts and cultural city.**
- **Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan** - utilising art to increase the mental wellbeing of Casey residents.
- **Casey Image Strategy** - using art to significantly boost the image of key public spaces in Casey.
- **Casey's Landscape Policy** - using public art to promote the positive image of Casey.
- **Council's Open Space Strategy** - contributing significantly to a sense of civic pride in a place through public art.

## 5. Policy

### 5.1. Policy purpose

The City of Casey acquires art in all forms for a range of purposes, notably:

#### **The Purpose of Bunjil Place Gallery Art Collection**

The Bunjil Place Art Collection will comprise of major works by Australian and at times international artists held in trust for the community with the purpose of:

- Capturing and defining the uniqueness of the municipality;
- Celebrating works made in and about the region;
- Demonstrating the City of Casey's responsibility to preserve work that has historic significance and contributes to our heritage;
- Reflecting the social, cultural and economic life of the city and its environs;
- Informing, enlightening and enhancing the life of the community;
- Raising the profile of Casey to be a nation leading arts and cultural city

#### **The Purpose of the Public Art Collection**

Council works in partnership with artists, developers, organisations and the community to encourage, facilitate, deliver and manage the Public Art collection. Council's public art program is conceived to:

- Enhance people's experience of the city;
- Reflect Casey and its citizens and contributes to the quality of community life;
- Play a significant role in promoting cultural heritage, local identity and a sense of place;
- Raise the profile of Casey to be a nation leading arts and cultural city.

Public Art encompasses a wide variety of forms. Temporary works are installations or actions which activate a location for a specific duration. Permanent works are defined as enduring, site-specific cultural assets, commissioned with an expected lifespan of at least 10 years. Permanent works

are owned and managed by Council. In both instances Council respects and adheres to the artists' moral rights.

Broadly the Public Art Program will commission work around the following themes:

- **Innovation and excellence** through a diverse range of creative commissions that attract accomplished artists and where possible supports emerging artists.
- **Reflective and engaging** commissions that expresses the city's culture and community.
- **Activation and integration** of public art into the urban design of the city providing a unique sense of place, enhancing the natural environment, ensuring it is meaningful in its context, fostering a sense of identity and pride, inspirational.

## 5.2. Acquisition / Commissioning

### Acquisitions for the Bunjil Place Art Collection

A Collection Development sub-committee will be established to make recommendations to Council on all aspects of the collection development and management including acquisitions.

The committee will comprise:

- A Member of Bunjil Place Advisory Group (visual arts nominee),
- The Bunjil Place Gallery Director
- The Bunjil Place Gallery Curator
- An Independent industry expert (prominent art academic or curator)

The Committee will develop a Collection Development Framework. This Framework will outline the focus of the Bunjil Place Gallery Art Collection and lists artists of priority.

When reviewing acquisition proposals, the Collection Development Committee will consider:

- The significance of the work and how it relates to the purpose of the Collection via a Statement of Significance;
- The artist/s professional history in arts practice or in the case of emerging artists, the realistic potential for establishing a long-term career in the arts
- Available resources, including cost of the work in relation to current market value and costs of conservation, maintenance and storage
- The provenance of the work and the possibility of theft, sale under duress, or unethical obtainment.

Works of art will be acquired to the Bunjil Place Gallery Art Collection through purchase, bequest, gift or commission. The Gallery will not accept pieces that

are encumbered by restrictions, such as a gift with a condition that it be on permanent display which is not possible to fulfil.

Acquisitions to the Bunjil Place Art Collection and the Public Art program from time to time will fall outside of the City of Casey's Procurement Policy.

### **Commissioning Permanent Public Art**

Public Art in the City of Casey is funded through the Percent for Art allocation based on 1% of total capital works budget for Council run infrastructure projects, both new and renewal works, over \$3 million that can be expended within the project envelope or at other agreed upon location with Casey.

Where works at a development site are staged, an overarching strategic approach at the commencement of the project will be undertaken to consider the timing and location of artwork across the entire development site.

A Public Art Project Working Group comprising of various cross-disciplinary expertise from across Council will be established for each individual commission. The role of the Public Art Project Working Group is to inform and develop the project brief, provide feedback on commissions in relation to their area of expertise and assess the submissions.

All Public Art commissioned by external organisations, including developers, businesses and organisations, that intend to locate artwork on Council owned land, proposed Council owned, or Council managed land, must adhere to Council's requirements throughout the commissioning process.

Public Art will be commissioned in line with the terms and conditions set out in the Public Art Operations Manual.

### **Commissioning Temporary Public Art and Renewal**

The role of temporary public art and the targeted renewal of public art into established areas of Council are critical to achieving the context of this policy. Council will enable the renewal of decommissioned works within developed areas of the city and the commissioning of temporary public art installations with a focus on facilitating professional development opportunities for emerging artists.

### **Managing the collections**

The City of Casey commits to managing the Bunjil Place Gallery Art Collection and Public Art works to industry standard, preserve the artworks and ensure safety, through the provision of maintenance funds that will be reviewed annually to reflect the identified needs of the collection's effective management.

On a regular basis the City of Casey will review artworks that have reached the end of their expected lifespan.

### **Removal of Items (Deaccessioning)**

To de-accession an artwork is to officially remove the art from the registered and accessioned holdings of the Collection / Asset register, and the subsequent disposal of the work. A record of all items de-accessioned and their method of disposal will be kept. A work of art will be nominated in a written report that

clearly outlines why the item is no longer appropriate to be retained by Council. The de-accessioning report will reference:

- whether the conservation and / or storage requirements are beyond the reasonable means of the City of Casey;
- whether the item is irreparably damaged or destroyed or is missing, or stolen without hope of return
- how the item no longer meets the current acquisition criteria for the Bunjil Place Art Collection;
- whether the item is a lesser quality duplicate of an object held by the Gallery or in the Public Art collection
- whether a substantiated request has been received by the City of Casey for the return of the item to its owner / donor
- whether the item continues to have artistic merit as determined by the industry expert

A de-accessioned item must be disposed of by the following methods listed in priority order:

1. Return to the donor or family
2. Sold by public auction (funds will be used solely for the purchase of future acquisitions for the collection)
3. Transferred to another appropriate institution by gift
4. Destroyed or recycled

Works of art obtained through the Cultural Gifts Program must follow the conditions set by the Program and the Australian Tax Office. This includes a condition that any item obtained through the Cultural Gifts Program cannot be returned to the donor as they have already obtained a tax benefit from their donation.

Councillors, Council staff, Gallery volunteers / committee members and their families are prohibited from purchasing or otherwise obtaining an artwork de-accessioned from the Gallery.

The City of Casey does not intend to dispose of any works of art held in the Bunjil Place Gallery Art Collection during the period covered by this policy.

## **6. Administrative Updates**

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

## **7. Review**

The next review of this document is scheduled for completion by 30 August 2022.

**8. Breaches**

N/A

**9. Relevant Council Documents**

N/A