

## Furnishings Art Collection Policy

### Furnishing Council Buildings with Art Works

#### Aim of the Policy

This Policy provides a framework for:

- how Council will acquire works of art to display within Council buildings;
- how these works will be maintained and monitored; and
- how deaccessioning (removal or disposal) of art works will occur.

The focus of this Policy is only on art works to furnish the interior of Council buildings, including for example Committee meeting rooms, the Mayoral Office, the Chief Executive's Office, areas open to the public and staff offices. The Policy covers all Council owned buildings.

The works of art that Council owns are either for display within Council buildings, or for display in various other public spaces in the City. Council's policy relating to public art works outside of Council buildings will be outlined in the Public Art Policy (due for adoption in August 2001).

This Policy aims to match art works to appropriate spaces within Council buildings. The first priority will be displaying art works in key public spaces such as the buildings around the Civic Square, before considering other Council facilities with high public visibility. A broad interpretation of 'art work' is taken within this Policy.

#### Background

Wellington City Council has acquired works of art for many years. The number of works currently held is approximately 282. In the 1960s Council decided to purchase its own contemporary New Zealand art collection to decorate offices and buildings.

Almost all of the works in the current collection are on display within Council buildings around the Civic Square. The few items not on display are either being conserved (restored or repaired), or stored at the City Council Archives in Baker Street. The current collection is of varying quality and monetary value.

The Wellington City Art Gallery managed the Council's furnishings art collection until 1997, at which time the City Council Archives took over the management of the collection.

**How does this policy relate to Council's strategic direction?**

The Furnishings Art Collection Policy relates to the following strategic outcomes sought by Council.

### **Outcome 1: Memorable City**

Wellington is a memorable, beautiful city, celebrating its distinctive landmarks, defining features and heritage.

### **Outcome 2: Cultural Diversity**

Wellington welcomes, values and celebrates a diversity of cultures.

### **Outcome 3: Culture and Arts**

#### **3.1 Arts and Cultural Capital**

Wellington is New Zealand's arts and cultural capital where the arts infrastructure is strong and supportive of the performance, exhibition and development of the arts.

#### **3.3 Art in Public Spaces**

Art enriches the built and natural environment of Wellington's central city and suburbs.

#### **3.4 Maori Art**

The arts of mana whenua and nga iwi o nga hau e are valued, promoted and enhanced.

#### **3.5 Quality of Life**

The city provides lifelong opportunities for access to the arts thereby enhancing the quality of life of residents.

#### **3.6 Diversity of Arts**

The city values and celebrates the arts of a wide diversity of cultures.

## **Policy Objectives**

The objectives of this Policy are to display art works within Council buildings in order to:

- Showcase and promote Wellington through displaying works that particularly reflect Wellington City and the wider region.
- Support emerging\* artists through giving priority to purchasing works from them.
- Enrich Council public spaces and offices and make them more attractive and user friendly.

\*'Emerging' refers to artists who have yet to become established and/or well known and who may have limited avenues to show their work.

## **How these Objectives Will be Met**

### **Decision Making**

An Art Collection Group will be established to make decisions on what art works are acquired and how, whether to accept particular donations and how removing

items from the collection will occur. This group will be made up of no more than five people, comprised of:

- One City Councillor
- One Council staff person
- One Council Manager
- One representative from the City Art Gallery
- One external arts advisor

Those on the group are to be selected for their knowledge and expertise in the areas of art in New Zealand, art appraisal and the development of art collections. Appointments will be for three years, with Council appointing the Councillor, Council management appointing the Council staff person and Manager, the City Gallery appointing their representative and the group as a whole appointing the external representative.

The group will have the delegated authority from Council to make all relevant decisions, and will report annually to Council on what has been decided and achieved.

### **Acquisition of Art Works**

New art works will be purchased each year through setting aside an amount for this in the Annual Plan. The amount provided in the 2001/2002 Draft Annual Plan is \$20,000.

Donations from individuals and groups in the community, including bequests, may be accepted at the discretion of the Art Collection Group. The group will take into account the extent to which the donation meets the objectives of this Policy and any other factors that may influence acceptance of a donation.

### **Criteria for Acquisition**

A wide range of art works may be acquired, with no limits on art form or size, provided that they:

- Meet the established objectives
- Can be accommodated within the spaces available

### **Deaccessioning**

The purpose of the furnishings art collection is not necessarily to create a valuable asset or to raise money through sales over time. Rather the purpose of the collection is to fulfil the objectives in this Policy. Decisions on deaccessioning are to be made by the Art Collection Group, taking into account the following.

- That the emphasis of the collection is on display rather than storage or preservation
- Whether a work has become 'too valuable' and would be better held in another collection
- Opportunities to improve the self-funding potential of the collection through strategic deaccessioning

Options for deaccessioning include:

- Selling the work back to the artist
- Selling through dealers
- Donation to school or other community facility
- Open sale
- Redirect to museum or other appropriate organisation
- Auction

Deaccessioning decisions will be made on a case by case basis, based on criteria that include:

- Resale value
- Condition of the work
- Audience for the work
- How the work fits with the rest of the collection

Any monies received from the sale of art works will be used to acquire new art works.

### **Display of Art Works**

All art works displayed will be accompanied by a labelling system or description which will contain the name of the artist, the title of the work, the context of the work, its meaning/significance, and any other relevant details.

In general, more significant works will be displayed in key public spaces. Adequate circulation of stock will be maintained, especially turnover of works in key public spaces. The focus of display will be on matching works to appropriate spaces, in terms of dimension, visibility and profile.

Security arrangements will be based on the value and significance of the work and in relation to where it is displayed.

### **Maintenance and Monitoring**

The City Council Archives will maintain the furnishings art collection to a reasonable standard. Note that with a growing collection the management and maintenance costs will increase slightly over time.

An inventory of art works held in the furnishings collection will be maintained, with a five yearly valuation of the collection (or earlier if necessary), principally for insurance purposes. At the same time that valuation of the collection occurs, it will be evaluated, as the basis for deaccessioning decisions and to develop criteria for future purchases. This Policy can also be reviewed if necessary alongside the valuation and evaluation of the collection.