City of Chicago
Public Art Program

Policy Statement for Public Art Proposals to the City of Chicago

The City of Chicago has an international reputation for its Public Art Collection, which continues to grow as a result of both private and public development. In addition, the City continually receives unsolicited proposals for the exhibition, donation, or purchase of public art.

It is the responsibility of the Department of Cultural Affairs, to review and respond to proposals for public art in accordance with Municipal Code Section 2-92-140.

The Department of Cultural Affairs reviews and considers each proposal on the following criteria:

- Quality and appropriateness of artwork in form and realization;
- Durability of artwork and maintenance requirements and resources for permanent display;
- Appropriate site availability in public locations;
- Community support and interest;
- Support of coordination of fabrication, installation, promotion, and maintenance of artwork;
- Substantial monies raised/contributed for fabrication/installation/conservation

The Department of Cultural Affairs does not accept proposals that include acknowledgement of donor(s) as part of the artwork or overall design. All donations of public art to the City of Chicago may include a separate plaque of donor identification. Such plaques may not contain corporate identities, scripts or logos. Commemorative text inscribed into a surface is permitted.

All public art is to be identified with the terminology: “City of Chicago Public Art Collection.”

All donation proposals presented to the Department of Cultural Affairs will remain under consideration for three years after the initial presentation date. After such time, if the donation has not been effectuated, the donor is required to re-submit the proposed donation for review and acceptance. All inquiries and proposals should be addressed to:

Director, Public Art Program
Department of Cultural Affairs
78 East Washington Street
Chicago, IL 60602

(June 19, 2008)