

Previous Council Direction

In 2004, recognizing that Calgary was among the last cities in North America to develop a policy for public art, Council requested the development of a Corporate Public Art Policy (CPS2003-95), describing public art as “a vital ingredient in Calgary’s on-going development as a great city”.

On 2004 January 12 Council approved the Public Art Policy (CPS2003-95), which adopted a “percent for public art” strategy calculated at 1% of the total capital project costs for City of Calgary capital budgets over \$1 million.

In 2009, the Policy underwent an extensive review that included input from Council, senior administration and a wide cross-section of the community resulting in additional direction and clarification to Administration to ensure the appropriate development, management and maintenance of all public art for The City of Calgary.

On 2013 December 16, Council approved NM2013-34, directing administration to undertake a review of the Public Art Policy, including:

- developing options for a sliding scale of percentage funding based on the amount of capital budget for projects, including consideration of placing a maximum dollar amount for any capital project;
- developing options for greater public participation including but not limited to changing the composition of project selection juries, the method of selection of the project jury, as well as increasing opportunities for input by the general public into the selection process for the public art;
- developing a strategy to help build local capacity of artists to compete for public art projects locally, nationally and internationally;
- amending the policy for greater flexibility in the use of a portion of public art funding for the restoration and/or enhancement of on-site heritage assets;
- amending the policy for greater flexibility in incorporating public art as functional components of the infrastructure; and
- developing a strategy for pooling of funds in locations with a high public benefit or for long-term creation of large iconic or monumental pieces of public art at key locations within the city.

Additional Council direction on this Notice of Motion included:

- reiterate that all City business units must comply with the policy in the development of capital projects;
- The City of Calgary lobby the provincial government that any new capital funding programs for municipalities allow for greater flexibility, as per the Policy, to pool funds for greater public benefit; and
- Administration consults with members of Council and brings a report to Council no later than 2014 May.

As a result of the investigation and analysis into the six areas, five amendments were made to the Corporate Public Art Policy, as follows:

1. Changing the public art allocation to a sliding scale with a cap instead of a consistent 1% across all capital projects.
2. Simplifying the eligibility requirements for capital projects to include public art.
3. Amending the description of public art to clarify that it can be functional.

4. Adding that the Policy allows for the use of a portion of the public art allocation for specific projects to be used to restore on-site heritage assets as determined on a case by- case basis.
5. Adding that private sector donations toward public art will be accepted.

In addition, Administration undertook a number of changes and additions to the public art process that were identified as opportunities for improvement that surfaced during the review and did not require Policy amendments. These were captured in a Public Art Policy Management Framework that serves as an operational guide for all City staff.