



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

WAVERLEY ART COLLECTION

Acquisition and Deaccessioning
Guidelines 2018

INTRODUCTION

Waverley Council recognises the role of art in maintaining the cultural heritage of the area, and in generating new cultural possibilities. As the custodians of a public collection, Waverley Council embraces the management of its art collection.

The Waverley Council Art Collection is managed by the Visual Arts Team.

The Waverley Council Art Collection may be herein referred to as 'The Collection'.

This document is connected to the Waverley Community Strategic Plan 2018-2029 as follows:

- 1.1. Facilitate opportunities that recognise Waverley's unique place in the Australian contemporary cultural landscape
- 1.2. Preserve and interpret the unique cultural heritage of Waverley
- 2.1. Create a resilient, caring and cohesive community
- 5.1. Facilitate and deliver well-designed, accessible and sustainable buildings and public places that improve the liveability of our neighbourhoods
- 6.2. Build and maintain streetscapes that have a welcoming sense of place
- 7.1. Undertake long-term maintenance and renewal of Council assets that meet community expectations and statutory obligations
- 10.1. Engage the local community in shaping the future of Waverley

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The objectives of the Waverley Council Art Collection Policy are to:

- set a framework for the ongoing development of 'The Collection'
- establish an ongoing management system for the conservation, registration, documentation and maintenance of 'The Collection'
- establish a clear set of guidelines for the acquisition of new artworks and for the deaccessioning of artworks from 'The Collection'
- clarify the protocols for gifting, donations, and loans of artworks, to and from Waverley Council
- serve as a reference to broader artistic trends

THE COLLECTION

Aims

The Waverley Council Art Collection aims to:

- acquire outstanding examples of artists work
- acquire artworks that best reflect the cultural development of Waverley Council
- be of sufficient breadth and depth to sustain a diversity of views and interpretations
- increase the understanding and enjoyment of local history and contemporary art as they pertain to the culture of Waverley
- be recognised for such excellence, community and organisational relevance, and industry standing, as to further 'The Collection' development

Scope

The scope of 'The Collection' is defined in three main categories; The Visual Art Collection, The Urban Art Collection, and the Public Art Collection. For the purpose of these guidelines heritage collection items should be referred to the Waverley Local Studies Collection Policy.

COLLECTION CATEGORIES

• The Visual Art Collection

Including sculpture, painting, photography, installation, video, media works, contemporary art, experimental practices, digital, animation, mixed media, drawing, and printmaking that are created for indoor exhibition and display environments

• The Urban Art Collection

Includes murals, mosaics, street art, stencilling, media works, architectural interventions, digital works, and urban design. The Urban Art collection is directly related to the streets and outdoor environment of the Waverley area

• Public Art Collection

Includes artworks developed specifically for the public domain and built environment. These are works can be sculpture, media works, lighting installations, and land art

ACQUISITION AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

For the purposes of this document and the development of 'The Collection' the term 'acquisition' includes works that are purchased, gifted, donated, or bequeathed to the Waverley Council. Waverley Council Visual Arts team will present a report against the essential criteria for acquisitions to the Waverley Public Art Committee on any proposed acquisition for 'The Collection'. Members of the Waverley Council Public Art Committee will provide expert guidance, feedback, and recommendations to staff based on the report. The Waverley Public Art Committee will make recommendations to Council in an official report for approval prior to the acquisition of artworks for 'The Collection'. Purchasing of artworks for 'The Collection' will be arranged by The Visual Arts Team alongside Council's Procurement Team.

Acquisition Criteria

To be considered for acquisition, or purchased for The Collection any item must meet the essential acquisition criteria.

Essential Acquisition Criteria

- artistic merit of the object
- relevance and importance to the area of Waverley
- enhance the scope of the collection
- have a verified provenance
- be an unconditional donation or purchase that has valid and clearly verifiable legal title

- have the necessary resources allocated to resolve all foreseeable issues related to conservation, presentation and storage, as part of the acquisition
- purchased works, donations, and loans must be accompanied by a valuation certificate for the purposes of insurance, alongside a maintenance manual and conservation plan
- a more appropriate agency does not exist to house the artwork

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS

Waverley Council will ensure 'The Collection' is recorded and maintained through the provision of a management database system. All aspects of the three collection categories will be recorded in the database for the purposes of insurance, conservation, and community access. The database will be managed by a member of the Visual Arts Team. Maintenance and conservation schedules will be developed retrospectively for Waverley Council's existing artworks across all three collections during the development of the collection management database.

LOANS AND DONATIONS

Donations of artworks

Waverley Council will only accept donations of artworks to any subsection of 'The Collection' that have been created by professional artists, or professionals working as part of a multi-disciplinary

team. All Public and Urban Art collection donations accepted by the Council will be on the basis of an agreed timeframe. This timeframe can, and may, be reviewed at any time during the originally agreed life cycle should any concerns arise regarding the condition of the artwork, questions around provenance of the artwork, or concerns for public safety arise. All permanent donations must be accompanied by legal documents including a certified valuation certificate, provenance list for the artwork, and a legal document transferring full rights of ownership to Waverley Council. Waverley Council will have exclusive copyright license of the works, however full copyright will remain with the artist/author of the artwork/object.

External Loans

Waverley Council will loan works to external organisations for exhibition purposes under the provisions of a legal loan agreement. The borrowing institution is expected to provide all requested insurances, condition reports, and condition controls required for the exhibition of the work on loan. Evidence of the aforementioned must be provided with a signed and returned copy of an official loan agreement provided by Waverley Council. The terms and condition on the loan of a specific artwork are non-negotiable. To arrange the loan of an artwork from the Waverley Council Art Collection please contact a member of the Visual Arts Team.

Internal Loans

Waverley Council's Visual Arts Team manage the internal loan of works for exhibition in Waverley Council offices and community venues.

Relocation of Public artworks

Circumstances sometimes arise where redevelopment of a site, upgrades, or construction render an artwork inappropriate and require its relocation. If it is decided a work needs to be relocated the Council must consult the artist and notify them of the intention to relocate the work. Council staff must ensure they work with the artist throughout the relocation process, unless the artist has articulated otherwise. Council staff must prepare a report on the insurance, risk assessment, valuation, engineering, and legal aspects of relocating the artwork prior to the artwork being relocated.

DEACCESSIONING GUIDELINES

Waverley can deaccession works of art from its overall collection as a part of collection development and improvement. Recommendations for deaccessioning major or public domain artworks are made to Waverley Council by the Waverley Public Art Committee. Waverley Council must approve the deaccessioning of any work of art from the collection that could be considered to be contentious in the community due to size, sentimentality or other social relations regardless of the deaccessioning criteria.

Specific deaccessioning criteria

Waverley Public Art Committee can make recommendations for artworks to be considered for approval for deaccessioning with consideration to the following criteria:

- a work of art whose significance or aesthetic merit falls substantially below the general level of the collection
- a work of art which lowers the overall level of quality or representation of its specific area in the collection
- a work of art which has deteriorated to the extent that it is no longer recognisable as a work of art and is beyond restoration to an acceptable standard
- a work of art that requires a level of ongoing maintenance and repair that is beyond the financial and social value of the work
- a work of art in the collection which is no longer perceived as falling within Waverley Council's existing acquisitions policy
- a work of art that is a duplication, or is duplicated in the collection
- a work of art that contains materials that are considered hazardous or has the potential to cause physical harm
- a more appropriate agency exists to house the artwork

Methods for disposal of deaccessioned artworks

Artworks that have been scheduled for deaccession should, in the first instance, be offered to be returned to the artist. Deaccessioning of gifts or bequests of works of art should be undertaken in consultation with either the donor, or the surviving family of the donor or the appropriate trustee or executor, unless despite every reasonable effort they cannot be located.

In the event that the donor or artist do not wish to have the artwork returned to them Waverley Council may dispose of the artwork by the following methods,

1. The artwork may be offered to a more appropriate collecting institution
2. The artwork may be resold through the secondary art market
3. The artwork may be dismantled and/or destroyed in the event of no other option being suitable

Artworks that do not have a legally registered valuation certificate complete with detailed provenance listing will not be placed on to the secondary market by Waverley Council.

Councillors, Council Staff, Members of Waverley Council Public Art Committee and their families are ineligible from procuring an item deaccessioning from the collection by any means.

Prior to deaccessioning all artworks must be documented with the year, date, and reason for disposal, and method kept in the collections management database.