

Draft

QLDC Art in Public Places Policy

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QLDC Art in Public Places – Draft Policy

Public Art is defined as artistic works created for, or located in, part of a public space or facility and freely accessible to members of the public. Public art includes works of a permanent or temporary nature located in the public domain. A public space means all those places which the public has free access to or can view.

1. Why have an 'Art in Public Places' policy?

The purpose is:

- To demonstrate an open approach to the concept of public art.
- To provide a consistent approach to the process of installation, maintenance and placement of artworks in the District.
- To set clear Council expectations for any provider/proposer/funder of public art work in the consideration of potential future installations.

2. What are the principles that QLDC will apply to Public Art?

- Art will reflect a celebration of the uniqueness of the district's environment, history and cultural identity.
- Art will enhance the experience by our community and visitors of the built and natural environment.
- The Council's expectation will be that public art is not overtly offensive (eg culturally or racially).
- Council recognises that art can be contentious and that neither the Council nor the community are equipped to judge what form art should take. The Council will respect the recommendations of the Queenstown Lakes District Cultural Trust (see 5.)

3. What are the benefits of having Art in Public Places?

Public art:

- Reflects our identity as a community
- Makes art accessible to all
- Promotes civic pride and a sense of "place" by supporting and showcasing creativity
- Challenges perceptions, community ideas and feelings
- Enriches the cultural life of our District
- Enhances public spaces
- Celebrates and promotes an understanding of our cultural diversity and identity

4. Policy Objectives

- Art in public places will promote Queenstown Lakes District's sense of community, civic pride and distinctive identity.
- Where feasible, public art will be integrated into the design and landscape of selected open spaces.
- Public art will be installed where it will enhance the public's enjoyment of public spaces.

- Installations will increase understanding and enjoyment of public art.
- Public art will contribute to the development of cultural tourism in the district.
- To support the Queenstown Lakes District Cultural Trust.

5. Public Art Process

The Queenstown Lakes District Cultural Trust (QLDCT) - previously known as the Aspiring Arts Trust - was set up by the Council in 2000 with a mandate to foster a wide range of art and specifically to fund or partially support at least one public art work or cultural activity each year.

The charitable trust also facilitates funding applications and can commission art work. The Trust has the ability to apply for independent funding to secure art works and has previously commissioned art works for specific sites. The Trust seeks to minimise cost to ratepayers by seeking independent funding, via donations and applications to funding agencies.

The QLDCT evaluates and commissions potential public art works (including gifts and bequests) according to the following considerations:

- Standards of excellence and innovation
- Durability of the artwork
- Ownership structure and conditions for movement or disposal of the artworks
- Potential of artwork to capture the public's imagination and to help create a sense of place and identity for the Queenstown Lake's District
- Fit with the topography and character, and use of the relevant public places
- Cost implications including on-going maintenance costs

The artwork is then vested in the Council. Insurance and ownership of the artwork are the responsibility of the Queenstown Lakes District Council.

6. How does it work?

The Trust comprising seven trustees includes representation of two Councillors from Wanaka and Queenstown respectively. The remainder of the Trust is made up of representatives from the arts community. The structure does not currently allow for rotation of trustees, other than Councillors. Council recommends the Trust gives some consideration to rotation. The Trustees (other than Councillors) are appointed by Council based on a call for Expressions of Interest.

All proposed installations will be consulted with Council (report to Property Sub-Committee and escalated to Full Council at the discretion of the Chair) before any decisions are made to ensure no conflicts are likely to arise in terms of land use, to insure Council has no significant concerns and to check that Council does not foresee any risk, liability or unscheduled costs associated with any potential installation.

A schedule of potential future locations (artwork must be located on Council-owned land) has been developed and will be reviewed every two years in consultation with the Council (Property Sub-Committee) and the Wanaka Community Board.

All artwork is subject to the Resource Management Act and as such is treated as a structure requires of resource consent.

7. Council Support

- The Council initially supported the Trust by way of seed capital funding through the 10 Year Plan.
- Council (2014/15) currently grants \$50k per annum towards the purchase of art.
- The Council provides ongoing technical and administrative support through the Arts and Events Facilitator.

8. Maintenance and care of public artworks

The Queenstown Lakes District Council has a public art collection of 20 art works (Appendix A). In conjunction with the QLDCT, the Council is committed to ensuring that all public art works are identified and labelled; and that each art works status and condition is recorded and regularly reviewed.

Council through the QLDCT will ensure that the collection of public art is properly cared for and maintained; and that when needed its public art works are repaired.

Any additional cost will need to be considered and approved through the Annual Plan round.

9. Re-siting and removal of public art works

While the Council understands and values the need to retain the integrity of art works and their relationship to their sites, from time to time as the District changes and evolves, there may be reasons to review the location or retention of a public art work. The Council reserves the right to re-siting or removal of public art works.

Re-siting or removal of a public art work may be considered by the Council if one or more of the following criteria apply. Note that these criteria may prompt a review, but they are not the criteria upon which a final decision is made.

- the artwork requires temporary removal for treatment or safe guarding during redevelopment or works being carried out in its immediate vicinity
- the art work is irreparably damaged or deteriorated.
- the public art work endangers public health and safety and remedy is impractical, unfeasible or would undermine the integrity of the public art work
- Council is unable to reasonably guarantee the condition or security of the public art work in its present location
- The public art work requires a high level of maintenance and/or conservation rendering unsustainable asset management expenses
- The public art work possesses serious or dangerous faults in design or workmanship and repair or remedy is impractical, not feasible or undermines the integrity of the art work

10. Maori

The Council acknowledges Ngai Tahu as *tangata whenua* (*people*) of the Queenstown Lakes District. Through its public art policy, the Council and the Trust will respect and, where appropriate promote Maori culture in partnership with Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu. Any artist creating artwork referencing Maori must demonstrate consultation with iwi. Any artwork referencing Maori will involve consultation regarding the installation eg *karakia* (prayer).

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