



Policy Number:	5350-01		
Policy Name:	City of Valdez Public Art Policy		
Adoption Date:	4/21/26	Revision Date:	
Approved By:	Beautification Commission/ City Council	Expiration Date:	

1. Scope

This city-wide policy applies to all administrative program areas of public art and outlines the processes and responsibilities for all portions of the lifecycle of public art. Definitions are provided in section 5 of this policy.

2. Purpose / Background

- 2.1 To define the scope and context of public art.
- 2.2 To establish guiding principles related to the procurement, application, installation, deaccession and disposal of public art.
- 2.3 To clarify the roles and responsibilities in the provision and delivery of the city programs and initiatives related to public art.
- 2.4 To identify funding commitment for the delivery of city funded public art.
- 2.5 To ensure that city funded public art purchases and installations align with the values, aesthetics, and goals of the City of Valdez.
- 2.6 To reaffirm the city's commitment to the ongoing investment in public art as an important element of municipal service delivery.

3. Policy

It is the policy of the City of Valdez to recognize the importance of arts and culture in enhancing the quality of life, fostering creativity, celebrating and recognizing diversity, and its contribution to the economic and social development of the community.

The city is committed to the ongoing investment in public art as an important element of municipal service delivery to celebrate the values and aspirations of a community and shape its unique sense of space and place.

City Funded Public Art recommendations must:

- Reflect the values, history, and aspirations of the city and its residents.
- Promote an inclusive and diverse community identity.
- Engage and inspire residents and visitors by fostering a sense of pride and belonging within the community.
- Be accessible to all.
- Be created with consideration for its impact of, by, and on, the physical environment.
- Be respectful, sensitive to cultural relevance, symbolism or misappropriation.
- Be of high artistic quality and contribute to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of public spaces.

Funding for the purchase of new visual art may be from sponsors, donors, grants or public art funding. Maintenance, repair and replacement of municipal Art Collection pieces will be supported through Public Art funding.

Visual art may not sell, promote, advertise, or solicit commercial activity for individuals, not-for-profits, businesses or other organizations.

4. Roles and Responsibilities**4.1 City Council Responsibilities: Funding of Public Art Projects and Programs**

City Council is legally responsible for appropriation and oversight of all City of Valdez expenditures.

- Demonstrate commitment to the enhancement of public places through public art.
- As part of the annual budget process, allocate and approve a dedicated budget for creation, maintenance, repair, deaccessioning, disposal, replacement and promotion of public art projects and initiatives and support long-term planning for public art projects in the community.
- Maintain the Beautification Reserve Fund and capitalize the fund to support public art specific programs and projects in balance with other beautification related initiatives including the Beautification Matching Grant Program.
- Review recommended selections of proposed public art projects from the Beautification Commission and provide final approval of funding.
- Where possible, participate in public art unveilings and promotions.

4.2 Beautification Commission Responsibilities: Reviewing and Recommending Public Art Projects and Programs

The Beautification Commission is responsible for making recommendations on city funded projects that will aesthetically improve Valdez and will be primarily responsible for development of programs and projects in alignment with this policy.

- Take responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of the public art policy.

- Review and assess proposed locations, themes and scope of public art projects and initiatives and provide recommendations.
- Receive and collect suggestions and examples of potential projects and programs from the community for consideration within the annual planning process and criteria for public art.
- Provide recommended public art selections to City Council for final approval and funding.
- Report on city funded public art and municipal public art collection annually to City Council and to the community as needed to ensure accountability and transparency in use of public resources.
- Explore partnerships, grants, and sponsorship opportunities to supplement public funding for public art initiatives to further enrich the community's artistic and cultural landscape.
- Promote city funded public art to the community.
- Develop and implement program planning tools related to city funded public art that support community and artist participation including but not limited to call for artists, call for locations, promotion and marketing.
- Where possible, participate in public art unveilings and promotions.

4.3 City Administration Responsibilities: Caretaking and Support

City administration will facilitate the practical administrative and maintenance needs throughout the lifecycle of city funded public art.

- Coordinate public art installation requirements with related internal department representatives, as required.
- Manage the Beautification Reserve and any related operating costs in accordance with the annual adopted budget.
- Ensure the maintenance of city funded public art within the city directly or through agreements or partnerships.
- Develop tools including maintenance agreements, ownership agreements, and processes for the deaccessioning and disposal of public art.
- Maintain inventories and descriptions of the municipal public art collection.
- Ensure selection and procurement of art complies with all relevant policies and code requirements.
- Ensure use of images, replicas or other applications of public art comply with agreements and applicable law.
- Ensure all public art assets are assessed and insured appropriately.

5. Definitions

- 5.1** “Administration” means city staff members assigned responsibility for oversight of the lifecycle and maintenance of the municipal public art collection.
- 5.2** “Artist” means a practicing art-maker recognized by peers as such, and who is commissioned specifically to create an artwork or design project, or to collaborate on a design team to complete a public artwork.

- 5.3** “Beautification Commission” means the citizen’s advisory body established in Valdez Municipal Code 2.66 responsible for advising council on beautification projects, educational programming, grant programs, and other activities focused on the aesthetics of Valdez, including but not limited to design, landscaping, and public art.
- 5.4** “Beautification Matching Grant Program” means the established 50/50 matching grant program managed by the Beautification Commission that allows commercial property owners and businesses to get reimbursed for qualifying aesthetic improvements to their property.
- 5.5** “Beautification Reserve Fund” means the established city reserve fund capitalized to support Beautification Commission programs and projects.
- 5.7** “City Council” means the primary governing body of the City of Valdez as defined in Valdez Municipal Code and Charter.
- 5.8** “City Funded Public Art” means public art that is sponsored, funded, facilitated by the City of Valdez and approved by the Beautification Commission.
- 5.7** “Deaccession” means the formal process of the removal of an object from the collection of an organization.
- 5.8** “Disposal” means the physical removal of the object from the city by the process decided upon by city administration.
- 5.9** “Municipal Public Art Collection” means inventory of visual art purchased, donated or otherwise legally acquired by the city and recognized as being an asset owned by the city.
- 5.10** “Mural” means any piece of artwork painted or applied directly onto a wall, ceiling or other larger permanent surface, flat, concave or convex with or without installation medium.
- 5.11** “Privately Funded Public Art” means public art that is procured and installed on private property, outside of City Public Art Programs. Acknowledgement, promotion and inclusion of privately funded Public Art in City promotions or promotional tools, is at the discretion of City Administration and by permission of the owner.
- 5.12** “Public Places” means buildings or spaces that are easily visible to the public which are City-owned, or privately-owned buildings or spaces that, under agreement with the City are locations where the property owner may install or support Visual Art that is procured directly, or indirectly by the City.
- 5.13** “Public Art”, in the context of this policy means specifically visual arts, which are original pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works that may include, but are not limited to, two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of fine, graphic, and applied art. Examples include, but not limited to painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, video, filmmaking, design, textiles, crafts, and architecture.