


CITY COMMISSION POLICY

 CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	NUMBER: 1100-06	HISTORY	
	DATE: September 10, 1991	FILE #	DATE
	FILE NUMBER: 55111	75305	08/15/06
	DEPARTMENT: EXECUTIVE		02/06/2018

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ART AND MEMORIALS

PURPOSE: To establish criteria and procedures for “Public Art,” including acceptance of art and memorials to be City-owned, consideration of artistic enhancements of public infrastructure to include “Street Art”, consideration of temporary art exhibitions or displays on public property (e.g., ArtPrize and Festival of the Arts) and consideration of murals on exterior walls of privately-owned buildings viewable from public rights-of-way.

POLICY:

1. The City Commission encourages high quality art accessible to public view and enjoyment on City-owned and privately-owned property. This includes not only traditional public art like City-owned monuments and displays, but also art on private property that is visible to the public and “street art” that is integrated into the urban landscape within public rights-of-way, temporary art exhibitions or displays on public property (e.g., ArtPrize and Festival of the Arts), and murals on building exteriors that are visible from public rights-of-way.
2. Public Art enhances the City’s visual and cultural aesthetics. But if inappropriately placed, produced with inadequate materials, improperly maintained, or including features or elements incompatible with its setting, Public Art can also impair the public health, safety and welfare or vitiate visual and cultural aesthetics.
3. The City Commission believes that decisions about acceptance, placement, materials, maintenance, and other aspects of Public Art are best addressed by the City Manager in consultation with City staff and departments and such outside experts as the City Manager deems appropriate to make decisions consistent with criteria in this policy.

CITY COMMISSION POLICY

NUMBER: 1100-06

Page 2 of 6

4. Memorials to be erected on City-owned property shall be in remembrance of a person or persons, concept, or event that has positive meaningful significance to the Grand Rapids community as a whole.
5. The proposed placement of art, memorials and related gifts at Monument Park and Veteran's Memorial Park is subject to an additional City Commission Policy.
6. City acceptance of ownership and long-term (*i.e.*, more than a few weeks) placement of gifts of works of Public Art and memorials shall be subject to the following criteria:
 - a. The work supports a high standard of visual aesthetics on public property.
 - b. The materials used in, placement of, and financial arrangements for the work shall minimize the cost and any detrimental impact upon City operations which may result from accepting, placing, and maintaining the work.
 - c. The work shall be placed and maintained in a way that (i) preserves the primary intended use and (ii) does not detrimentally affect the character of the public space in which it is placed.
 - d. It is the City's policy to avert the intrusion of political, religious, or commercial displays into parks and other public property.
 - e. To the extent reasonably practicable, the work should be accessible to all persons.
 - f. The work and its placement shall not endanger the public health, safety, or welfare. Specifically it shall:
 - (i) be structurally sound and durable enough to withstand the elements and other conditions to which it may be subjected;
 - (ii) not adversely affect nearby utilities, facilities, or infrastructure;
 - (iii) not impair pedestrian, bicycle, or vehicular traffic safety; and
 - (iv) not adversely affect the physical conditions of the site on which the piece is located by causing erosion, corrosion, hazardous runoff, unduly increase maintenance costs, etc.

CITY COMMISSION POLICY

NUMBER: 1100-06

Page 4 of 6

- e. The City retains the right to alter, repair, remove or relocate any street art, or authorize said work by others, if deemed necessary for the health and safety of the public, general or emergency maintenance of facilities, construction activities, or any other purpose deemed necessary. Section 10.d. of this Policy shall not apply to street art. The City need not notify the original applicant or any other party when street art will be altered, repaired, removed or relocated.
9. Murals may be placed on the exterior of privately-owned buildings on private property that are viewable from public rights-of-way only in accordance with the following criteria:
- a. Placement shall not be put on buildings or in neighborhoods where it is architecturally inappropriate due to the historic character of the building or neighborhood, the character of the building itself, or the character or buildings in its vicinity.
 - b. The work shall not depict, name, or otherwise present (i) any product or service, (ii) identifying logo for any business, product or service, (iii) any slogan related to any business, product or service, (iv) any person, character or scene related to any business, product or service, (v) any architectural feature related to any business, product or service, or (vi) any other commercial message.
 - c. The work and materials shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including all applicable City codes and policies.
 - d. The proposal shall detail the materials to be used, the maintenance needed, and the plans (and, if appropriate, financial assurances) for maintaining or periodically replacing the mural as materials begin to chip, crack, fade or otherwise deteriorate.
 - e. The work and its placement shall not endanger the public health, safety, or welfare. Specifically it shall not be reflecting, contain any moving elements (including any windblown or passively moving elements), include any lights (this is not intended to prevent appropriate exterior lighting of the building) or depict any image that may be unduly distracting to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
 - f. The mural is not indecent (*i.e.*, it does not include images or language that describe or depict, in a manner patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards, sexual or excretory activities or organs, including any male or female genitalia or female breasts).

CITY COMMISSION POLICY

NUMBER: 1100-06

Page 6 of 6

recommendation. The City's sale of any Public Art work shall require the approval of the City Commission.

13. The City Manager may establish and implement procedures and other appropriate measures to implement this policy.

GRAPIDS 60855-385 419417v7