



Policy Number 4.1.5

Chapter: Campus Planning

Title: Public Art Displays

Division/Department: Campus Planning

Policy Administrator: Director of Campus Planning

Adoption Date:

Revision Dates:

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes a process for reviewing, funding, and locating works of art proposed for installation in public spaces at the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC). The purposes of this policy are to:

- Establish the AHEC Public Art Committee and assign its responsibilities.
- Facilitate public display of works of art which are appropriate to scale, aesthetic, theme, and materials.
- Balance values of artistic expression and originality with the value to the greater campus community.
- Celebrate the diversity of the Auraria Campus and its visitors, including diversity of ideas and perspectives.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. Auraria Campus: All grounds, buildings and facilities located within the boundaries of the Auraria Higher Education Center.
- 2.2. Capital Construction Project: The new construction or renovation of an AHEC building, facility or area of property for which state funds are appropriated.
- 2.3. Constituent Institution: As defined in Colo. Rev. Stat. (C.R.S.) § 23-70-101(b), an institution of higher education at and within AHEC, including Community College of Denver (CCD), University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver), and Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver).
- 2.4. Public Art: Art objects that are placed in shared, publicly accessible spaces on the Auraria Campus, including interior and exterior spaces.

- 2.4.1. “Publicly accessible spaces” include, but are not limited to, classrooms, laboratories, auditoriums and performance halls, sidewalks, plazas, green spaces, corridors and building walls, hallways, breezeways, lobbies, stairways, parking garages, and sports and recreational facilities.
- 2.4.2. “Public Art” includes functional, expressive, and other installed works of art including, but not limited to, sculptures, paintings, mosaics, murals, photographs, crafts made from clay, fiber and textiles, wood, glass, metal, plastics, and other materials, calligraphy, mixed media, unique architectural stylings or embellishments, environmental landscaping, and restoration or renovation of existing works of art of historical significance. C.R.S. § 24-48.5-312. “Public Art” does not include any object displayed inside an art museum or gallery on the Auraria Campus.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. There shall be a standing AHEC Public Art Committee (PAC) established and charged by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), comprised of the following members: Campus Planning Director (Chair); Chief of Activation or designee; and one representative from each Constituent Institution having background and expertise in art.
- 3.2. The PAC acts as a central review body for works of Public Art located on or proposed for placement on the Auraria Campus. The PAC’s mission is to foster the enrichment of the Auraria Campus’ visual environment while helping to assure that only works of Public Art of an appropriately high standard become part of the campus environment.
- 3.3. The PAC shall report and make recommendations to the CEO. The CEO may change the composition of the Public Art Committee from time to time with approval of the Auraria Board of Directors.
- 3.4. The PAC will receive, review, evaluate, and make recommendations regarding proposals for Public Art to be installed. Any Public Art object to be added to, altered, or removed from AHEC’s Public Art collection must be reviewed through the PAC. After review and communication with relevant stakeholders, the PAC will provide a written report of its findings and recommendations to the CEO.
- 3.5. The PAC shall develop, implement, and periodically update a set of procedures (“Procedures”) to govern the selection process for Public Art. The Procedures will be vetted by the Auraria Executives Committee with input from appropriate stakeholders (e.g., Facilities Management, Legal Counsel). The Procedures will govern all aspects of acquisition, placement, installation, display, maintenance, and decommissioning of Public Art.

- 3.6. The Procedures will include requirements, limitations and conditions governing Public Art displays, and may address evaluation of such factors as the PAC deems appropriate, including, but not limited to:
- Type, size, shape, color and design of the Public Art object
 - Proposed location and duration of the display
 - Expected lifecycle and durability of the object
 - Potential costs to AHEC for procurement, installation, and long-term maintenance and repair
 - Ethical considerations such as the [UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property](#)
 - Safety and security considerations
- 3.7. The PAC will engage with stakeholders on campus responsible for bringing Public Art to the Auraria Campus. Stakeholders may include, for example, parties who propose to introduce new Public Art, or to alter or remove an existing work; AHEC employees; leadership, faculty, students and staff of the Constituent Institutions; members of the public; donors who wish to fund the Public Art project; and representatives of state agencies when Public Art is installed as part of a Capital Construction Project.
- 3.8. An AHEC department or a Constituent Institution may submit a request to the PAC to solicit, commission, or sponsor a work of Public Art. Submission of a request or proposal to the PAC does not obligate AHEC to accept an offered donation, whether of funding or in kind, to construct or install Public Art.
- 3.9. Public Art may be acquired by AHEC by means of gifts, bequests, purchases, exchange, or any other transactions by which legal title passes to AHEC and the state, or by loan (see section 3.10 below). Provenance of ownership and/or the right to transfer the object by a party seeking to sell, donate, or bequeath it to AHEC may be required. Issues of provenance, gift or loan agreements, ownership, copyright, insurance and security shall be reviewed by AHEC's General Counsel prior to any Public Art being accepted or approved.
- 3.10. The display of Public Art as to which AHEC does not acquire and retain unfettered ownership, or "loaned artwork", in unsecured public places presents significant liability issues related to security, damage to the artwork itself (either intentional or accidental), and/or damage or injury to persons caused by or related to the artwork. Therefore, it is AHEC's policy to generally prohibit the display of loaned artwork in unsecured public spaces (both interior and exterior) and to retain ownership of all Public Art displayed on campus. A request for an exception to display any works of Public Art intended to be loaned to AHEC must

be vetted through the PAC process and decided on a case-by-case basis. Conditions and stipulations may be attached to any exception to address specific concerns.

3.11. Pursuant to Colorado law, C.R.S. §§ 24-48.5-301 and 24-48.5-312, Capital Construction Projects that are financed in whole or in part with state funds must have a one percent (1%) allocation from the total project cost dedicated to Public Art. For such works, the Colorado Division of Creative Industries, through its Office of Economic Development, uses a jury method to select works of art. A project may be exempted from these requirements by the legislature. The PAC will work with the appropriate agencies of state government to assure compliance with the statutes.

3.12. Nothing in this policy shall supplant or conflict with policies of a Constituent Institution governing art in its respective interior spaces.

4. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION

This Policy has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors for the Auraria Higher Education Center.

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Chairperson of the Auraria Board