

Title: Art In Public Places
Policy No: 17
Responsibility: Director Community Services

| Version | Decision Number | Decision Date | History |
|---------|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| 1 | 17\1228 | 25/02/97 | Adopted |
| 2 | 19\4604 | 12/06/07 | Reviewed |
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Council has adopted the following policy and procedure on Community Art and Other Works and Structures in Public Places.

Darwin City Council seeks to encourage community involvement in the development of artworks and other activities in public places and is therefore proposing to develop an effective procedures for public and internal use to facilitate this process.

The adoption of the Arts and Cultural Development Policy in July 1994 demonstrated Council's commitment to developing an integrated planning approach in such matters and Council seeks to encourage collaborative projects between Council, artists, designers and the community, where public places are improved through community involvement and an enhanced sense of ownership, or where they offer a greater experience or appreciation of cultural and environmental diversity.

Artworks for the purposes of this paper, include performing works, building structures and the creation of art pieces by community groups and/or individuals.

The Rapid Creek tree planting, Malak Art Path, Mangrove Boardwalk and Tamarind Art Park are current examples of where the development of some internal policy on community participation in projects in public places may have been improved.

The policy process aims to assist the process of community participation rather than impede it, but will of necessity involve certain elements which Council must consider in terms of safety, public liability and aesthetics which groups and individual will need to be aware of.

Such elements include:

Darwin City Council reserves the right to approve the design of any projects submitted for installation in public places under its control.

Such approval will involve consideration of design elements, features of the site, the public benefit of the works and any risk factors.

For existing works, Council reserves the right to remove any such works should they become, over the passage of time, a maintenance liability, unsafe or unsightly.

In order for projects to be approved by Council, the designs submitted must consider durability, vandalism, safety and have low long term maintenance implications.

Projects are not in any way, to obstruct the natural growth of existing trees or contribute in any way to lessening the likely life span of trees. Projects should not overly compact soil areas or tree root zones, nor interfere with automatic reticulation systems where these are installed.

Artworkers or project developers will warrant that while working in any public place that adequate arrangements for insurance against personal injury and property damage are in place.

Ownership of materials acquired or produced for the benefit of the public and installed in public places, shall be vested in Darwin City Council unless otherwise agreed to in writing between the creator and Darwin City Council or where it is agreed that the installation is of a temporary nature. Where structures or materials owned by the creator are to be removed, they will be removed at no cost to Council.

To assist groups and individuals to effectively contribute to the development of public places in Darwin, Council will provide access to officer resources and technical advice where required.

THE PROCESS

SUBMIT PROPOSAL IN WRITING

Any group or individual wishing to develop a public project should initially outline their concept in writing and direct it to the Town Clerk.

Council will administratively, ensure that relevant Council officers in both the Technical and Community Services Department's are advised of the submission.

Proposals for projects/artworks should include;

- detailed drawings of the proposed construction and installation elements
- the expected design life span
- maintenance requirements for structural elements
- identification of any public risk factors
- a description of how the local community is to be involved in or benefit from the project
- identification of the relationship of the project with the community in terms of heritage and/or cultural factors, the existing environment and/or characteristics of the site.

APPROVAL PROCESS

Council's approval process requires that the submission initially be researched by Council officers in consultation across Departments and with individuals and/or groups with an interest in the project and may include Council's Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee where the project is specifically oriented to the arts.

A report will then be prepared for Council consideration through either the Community Services Committee of Council, which usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month, or the Technical Services Committee, which usually meets on the third Monday of each month.

The recommendations of either one of these Committees would then need to be ratified at the General Council meeting held on the fourth Tuesday of the month, after which the project proposer would be informed of the decision.