

# City of Olympia Arts Program

## Policy Proposal for Temporary Art Exhibitions at City Hall

- BACKGROUND:** Policy PR7.11 of the City’s 2015 Comprehensive Plan states *Establish an "art in city buildings" program that would host rotating art exhibits.*
- PURPOSE:** Rotating art exhibitions at City Hall will invigorate the building’s public spaces through exhibits of two-dimensional and/or pedestal-sized three-dimensional artworks that reflect the broad diversity of Olympia’s communities, and showcase the work of regional artists, non-profit organizations and community groups.
- “CURATOR”:** Someone who manages an art collection or exhibit. The curator for an exhibition will choose the artworks that will be in it, and decide how they will be arranged during display.
- “ARTWORKS”** Works of art include, but are not limited to: sculpture, painting, drawing, print, photograph, film or videotape, and crafts in any material or combination of materials such as clay, fiber, textiles, wood, glass metal or plastic.
- AUTHORITY:** Policy of the Olympia Arts Commission, Olympia Parks, Arts & Recreation, and the Olympia City Council.

### 1.0 Policy:

- 1.1 The Olympia Arts Commission is responsible for facilitating review and selection of loaned exhibitions to be displayed at City Hall. The Olympia Arts Commission, using an inclusive jury process, will evaluate the suitability of proposed exhibitions and make recommendations to the City Manager.

### 2.0 Selection Process:

- 2.1 A 5-member jury composed of 2 Arts Commission members and 2 staff members housed at City Hall, and one citizen at large shall be convened to review curator’s exhibition proposals for the following year. The Arts Program Manager shall serve as facilitator to this panel.
- 2.2 Proposals may encompass the work of one artist or many artists, as tied together by a theme. A theme could be physical (such as watercolor), around a concept (such as mountains), or any other unifying quality that can be easily described and witnessed among the proposed artworks.

- 2.3 In general, exhibitions will rotate every 6 months. The Arts Commission may change the schedule or propose a theme, as conditions dictate.
- 2.4 Proposals must include images of all the artworks that are to be presented. Accepted exhibitions may not include artwork(s), replacement or otherwise, that have not been reviewed by the jury.
- 2.5 Artwork that includes advertising or logos or is political, religious or sexual in nature will not be accepted.
- 2.6 Each proposal must include one time-based component, such as a forum, discussion, music, dance or literary performance that is also tied to the theme of the exhibition. These time-based components will take place during the timeline of the exhibition, at City Hall.
- 2.7 The jury makes a recommendation to the full Arts Commission on two exhibitions for the year, and a contingent exhibition. The Commission's recommendation will be communicated to the City Manager for formal acceptance or rejection of the proposed slate of exhibitions. If either of the proposed exhibitions has the potential for substantial community response, the City Manager, at his or her discretion, may forward the proposed exhibitions to the Olympia City Council for review and approval.
- 2.8 For their efforts in coordinating the exhibition, each selected curator will receive an honoraria of \$700 from the Municipal Art Fund.

2.9 ***Criteria***

The jury reviews each proposed exhibition for appropriateness of theme, cohesiveness/adherence to the proposed theme, aesthetic quality of the artwork, unique vision of the body of work, ability to be installed, and appropriateness of program presentation as outlined below.

2.9 (a) ***Appropriateness of Theme***

Does the exhibition reflect the diversity of Olympia's communities and emphasize the people, places and character of Olympia?

2.9 (b) ***Cohesiveness/Adherence to Proposed Theme***

- Is there a relationship among the proposed artworks in the exhibition? Is there a relationship of the artworks to the theme?
- Does the proposed program component support or contribute to the intent of the visual exhibition?

2.9 (c) ***Aesthetic Quality of the Artwork***

- Does the proposed exhibition have strong aesthetic merit?
- Are the individual artworks consistently strong?

2.9 (d) ***Unique Vision of the Body of Work***

- Does the exhibition illustrate or address the topic in an engaging manner?
- Are the proposed artworks elevated by the combination or grouping?
- Is this exhibition different from the one(s) preceding it? Is it diverse in its vision or approach?

2.9 (e) ***Ability to be Installed***

- Can the 2-D artwork be installed on the available track system?
- Are the 2-D artworks framed and glazed? Are the pieces sufficiently durable for the setting?
- Can proposed 3-D artwork be accommodated by existing pedestals?
- Does the artwork pose a safety risk to the public?

2.9 (f) ***Appropriateness of Program Presentation***

- Does the program that accompanies the exhibition enrich the topic?

2.10 ***Community Process***

- If the artwork proposal has been generated by a community group, how has the surrounding community been involved and consulted?

2.1 Potential curators are informed of the importance of the above criteria in the jury's consideration. Groups and individuals are encouraged to read this policy carefully, and the Call for Curator.

**3.0 Exhibitions Details, Communication and Logistics**

3.1 Each selected curator will enter into an agreement with the City that will include dates for installation and deinstallation of the artwork, an opening event, and the time-based component of the exhibition.

3.2 The City will communicate only with the curator. The curator will be responsible for all communications with the individual artists regarding installation, deinstallation, opening event and time-based component.

3.3 The curator is responsible for arrangement of the artwork and will be assisted in the hanging of the artwork by the City's Arts Program Manager.

All arrangements for building entry will be made through the City's Arts Program Manager.

- 3.4 Exhibitions must be installed on the City-provided hardware. Artwork may not be installed where there is no hanging system already in place.
- 3.5 Each artwork will be accompanied by an identification card stating the title of the artwork, artist's name, medium, and the name of the exhibition. The information will be provided by the curator, and the cards will be designed and printed by the City.
- 3.6 Artwork may not be sold during exhibition. Sales prices may not be displayed, but the Curator may be noted on exhibition cover (1) card as the point of contact for inquiries.
- 3.7 The City reserves the right to cancel or discontinue an exhibition at any time, with or without cause and with or without notice to the artist or public.

#### 4.0 **Insurance and Delivery**

- 4.1 Curator must carry insurance to the City's specifications when installing and deinstalling an exhibition at City Hall.
- 4.2 Curator will arrange for delivery of artwork for installation and deinstallation.
- 4.3 Deinstallation will occur within one week of the noticed close of exhibition date.