

DEFINITIONS

A Local Arts Agency is a community-based organization, either a government agency or a private nonprofit, that supports and develops the arts for the public's benefit.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to guide public and private development and the installation of public art within the City of Northfield.

City staff is designated to develop and advocate for art and design standards for city facilities, public areas and private development that will present a coherent image of Northfield as a place of unique aesthetic, architectural, and cultural identity. The City may designate a Local Arts Agency to support such efforts.

OBJECTIVES

The City of Northfield advocates for public support of the arts and promotes art that demonstrates the following objectives:

- Enhances the aesthetic environment of public places such as buildings, roads, paths, sidewalks and landscapes through high-quality public art, including permanent and temporary art installations.
- Contributes to community identity and place by, for instance:
 - Building awareness of and celebrating the community's diverse history, identity, cultures and geography; and
 - Inviting community response to proposed installations of public art; and
 - Involving a broad range of groups, neighborhoods and organizations in the planning or creation of public artworks.
- Adds to community vitality by, for instance:
 - Promoting Northfield as a nationally and internationally recognized arts city and tourist destination;
 - Building the capacity of and cooperation between the private and public sectors, artists and community members; and
 - Encouraging civic dialogue about the role of art in civic life and Northfield development.
- Involves artists in the creation and development of art by encouraging a variety of creative opportunities for artists with a range of experiences.

12.01 ART IN PUBLIC PLACES POLICY

ARTS AND CULTURE

Enabling Legislation: R2017-073

Date Adopted: 09/18/17

Revised: 10/21/25

- Provides opportunities for public, private, or public/private support of the creation, acquisition and installation of art works by, for instance:
 - Integrating artwork into City building projects by involving artists in the planning process; and
 - Identifying grant, municipal and other funding sources.

PUBLIC ART REVIEW COMMITTEE (PARC): PURPOSE, MEMBERSHIP, PROCESSES

To meet the objectives in this policy, the City of Northfield, or Local Arts Agency acting on behalf of the City, may establish a Public Art Review Committee, which will have the following responsibilities:

- Advise City staff regarding commissioning, installation, maintenance and decommissioning of publicly funded art to ensure positive impact on civic quality of life and aesthetic environment.
- Reserves the right, on behalf of the City, to approve art and may reject any art that it deems offensive to any race, age, creed, religion, gender or disability.
- Approve the design, installation, maintenance and decommissioning of privately or publicly funded two- or three-dimensional art, sculpture or garden-art decoration or installations on City-owned property.
- Where the parties agree to a cooperative effort, advise private and non-profit projects that will be installing art in locations that will be accessible to and frequented by the public (e.g., the Depot).

MEMBERSHIP IN PARC

- A committee of up to nine members shall be appointed by City staff or Local Arts Agency and approved by the City Administrator.
- Panel members may include, but are not limited to, artists, arts faculty members, architects and department staff related to the project, arts administrators, and two or more at-large community representatives, including representatives of diverse groups.
- The City or Local Arts Agency will convene a PARC on an ad-hoc basis when the need arises.

REVIEW CRITERIA

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PARC review of publicly-funded commissions, purchases, or installations, shall consider, but not be bound by, any one of the following review criteria in choosing works to recommend to the City.

- Artistic excellence
 - Does the project represent workmanship of the highest quality; and
 - Does the project satisfy the parameters of the request for proposals, if applicable; and
 - Does the project represent a cohesive, unified theme or idea; and
 - Is the project original, compelling and creative work?
- Public involvement
 - Does the project's development and review include participation by residents, users, community organizations and institutions, businesses, cultural communities, advocacy groups, and students and youth, as appropriate; and
 - Does the project facilitate public involvement via community meetings, community survey, and requests for proposals?
- Enhancement of community identity and place
 - Does the site, surrounding area or project provide an opportunity to reflect on the community and its characteristics, including history, identity, geography and cultures; and
 - Is the project appropriate for public display; and
 - Is the project acceptable to current community standards; and
 - Are there opportunities within the project to integrate artwork into the design or function of structures?
- Community vitality
 - Will the site and project be visible to visitors and residents; and
 - Will the project appeal to a broad range of people; and
 - Is the project making an effort to build capacity and cooperation between the private and public sectors, artists, arts organizations and community members; and
- Does the project encourage civic dialogue about art and civic issues? Safety and maintenance of public art
 - What is the plan for maintenance and repair?
 - Is the piece safe for public interaction?



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STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Recommendations about public art decisions will be made without regard to an individual's or the perception of an individual's race, color, creed, religion, sex, domestic relationship status, parent status, familial status, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, age or disability, or the use of a trained dog guide by a blind, deaf or otherwise physically disabled person.

Each call for artists will be posted on the City website.