



## Murals

The City of Vancouver's policy is to not allow murals on City-owned facilities. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the City Manager. There is no City permitting process for murals on privately owned buildings. However, if text is included in the mural design, it may become subject to the City's signage ordinance, in which case the artist, donor or project manager will need approval by the City's Planning Department.

The City strongly encourages the artist or organization to have written approval of the mural design from the building owner before work begins.

## Placement of Works of Art

Artwork in the Public Art Collection may be placed in the public right of way (streets, sidewalks, etc.), on the grounds of public buildings, in public parks or on private property through an easement.

Site-specific artwork may be considered for relocation for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The condition or security of the artwork can no longer be reasonably assured at its current site
2. The site has changed so that the artwork is no longer compatible as placed
3. The artwork has become a danger to public safety at its current site
4. A more suitable site has become available for the artwork

Before the artwork is moved, the City will attempt to contact and coordinate with the original artist and/or donor. Every effort will be made to move the artwork to a new location that is consistent with the original intent of the art, e.g. if the artwork was designed to be viewed along the waterfront, the City will seek a new location for it also along a waterfront. Additionally, effort will be made to ensure the artwork has the same level of public visibility or better.

## Deaccessioning Policy and Procedures

Deaccessioning is the process of removing artwork from the Public Art Collection. This policy recognizes that over time there may be reasons to deaccession artworks. Deaccessioning is considered only after careful and impartial evaluation of artworks within the context of the collection.

At the beginning of the process, the City's Cultural Services staff makes reasonable efforts to notify any living artist or artist's estate whose work is being considered for deaccession.

Recommendations related to deaccessioning are made to the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission by the Public Art Committee, according to the following guidelines:

- In considering an artwork for deaccessioning, the Commission must always be aware of its role as trustee of the collection for the benefit of the public
- Generally, artworks are acquired for perpetuity and not with the thought of disposal. At issue is the Commission's responsibility to the community, its donors, and the public
- Objects in the collection should be retained permanently if they continue to be useful to the purposes and activities of the Commission and the City's Public Art Collection, if they continue to contribute to the integrity of the collection, and if they can be properly stored, preserved, used and exhibited

Artwork may be deaccessioned when conditions require or when such action would improve or refine the City's Public Art Collection. Reasons for deaccessioning may include, but are not limited to, situations where:

- The use of the site has changed, the artwork is no longer appropriate, and/or the artwork cannot be reasonably protected or maintained
- The artwork is not, or is rarely, on display due to lack of a suitable site
- The artwork's annual maintenance cost is deemed excessive
- The artwork has been damaged beyond reasonable repair
- The artwork requires extensive conservation or restoration that is cost-prohibitive
- The artwork requires removal because of new developments in the direction of the Public Art Collection
- The site of a site-specific artwork is no longer owned by the City of Vancouver
- The artwork endangers public safety and there is no alternative placement or site that mitigates the risk
- The site of a site-specific artwork is so severely altered that the work is no longer physically possible or conceptually relevant
- The artwork was commissioned or accepted with the provision or understanding that it was to have a limited life cycle or installation period

Deaccession of any artwork from the City's Public Art Collection is based on a written recommendation of the City's Cultural Services staff and review by the Public Art Committee.

The recommendation must specify reasons for the deaccession. The Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission may approve deaccession only upon a two-thirds majority vote. City and state regulations may apply when deaccessioning City property.

The manner of disposition should be in the best interest of the City of Vancouver and its residents. Disposition should occur as follows:

- Unless the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission specifically determines an alternative means of disposition, all dispositions are by sale with the primary objective of obtaining the best possible price. Sales of artworks are allowed through public auction. A trade with an artist, gallery or other institution for one or more other artworks of comparable value is also allowed



Artist Sharon Agnor with the glass and steel head for the Wendy the Welder sculpture



- Artwork that was commissioned or accepted into the City's Public Art Collection as site-specific works may be destroyed in lieu of being sold or reinstalled at an alternative site. This process is known as decommissioning rather than deaccessioning. Generally, site-specific works are created for a specific location and are not appropriate for relocation
- In rare instances, City Cultural Services staff may recommend re-installation of artwork if its integrity and original intent or purpose can be preserved. When possible, this is done with the cooperation and supervision of the artist or the artist's estate. Deaccessioned artworks may be placed in another institution where they serve a similar purpose to that for which they were originally acquired
- Regarding the sale or trade of artworks, the City of Vancouver offers the right of first refusal to the artist, if still alive, the artist's estate, if deceased, and/or the original donor if the artwork was a gift to the City. In the case of an artwork by a living artist, an exchange may be made if appropriate
- Absent mandatory donor restrictions or requirements, City of Vancouver staff, elected officials, commission members and their immediate family members (spouses and minor children and other family members who live at home) and other members of their immediate households and controlled entities may not purchase or receive deaccessioned artworks

Net proceeds from the sale of deaccessioned artworks are designated "for acquisition only" and must be used only for the growth or care of the Public Art Collection, consistent with acquisition procedures. The donor of a deaccessioned artwork that enters the collection as a gift is fully credited in documentary files, in publications and on identifying labels for artwork purchased with proceeds of the sale. The purchased artwork, so credited, is labeled and identified as a "gift of [name of donor] by exchange."

Conditions and circumstances of any deaccession are entered into the collection's permanent record. If possible, a file on the object is retained, including object and donor history, photographs, conservation/restoration records, appraisals, and other relevant records.



Vancouver Fire Department mural by Guy Drennan