



Legislation Text

File #: Res. 2017-073, **Version:** 1

City Council Meeting Date: September 19, 2017

To: Mayor and City Council
City Administrator

From: Teresa Jensen, Director of Library & IT Services

Consider Resolution Approving “Art in Public Places Policy” as a “Council Policy” for the City of Northfield, Minnesota.

Action Requested:

The Northfield City Council approves Resolution Approving “Art in Public Places Policy” as a “Council Policy” for the City of Northfield, Minnesota.

Summary Report:

One of the purposes of the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) is to advise the City of Northfield (the City) on arts policies and arts development, as detailed in City Codes Sections 2-357 and 2-358 as attached.

In recent years, the ACC has received requests from public and private entities regarding design standards and display of art. In order to meet these requests, the ACC is developing guidelines related to the development, siting, and installation of public arts and, in the case of public funding, review standards and procedures for the selection of quality public art. The ACC therefore has drafted the following policy and procedures related to 855.2-358 (6) and (7).

Feedback from members of the City Council included the suggestion that the policy specifically ensure that community standards in regard to potentially controversial art be followed. A second suggestion asked for the inclusion of a review process for other creative installations on municipal property including garden art. Both concerns have been addressed in slight revisions to the text of the Art in Public Places policy. The Permit Agreement for Art in City Hall has been included as an attachment with similar language highlighted addressing art that may be potentially offensive to any race, age, creed, religion, gender or disability.

A web-link to the guidelines and review procedures will be published on the ACC web page, and the document will also be incorporated into the ten-year goals document that the ACC is currently in the process of developing.

Alternative Options:

Currently there is no process for the review and acceptance for public art. City Council may vote to continue to allow for any and all art to be installed on public land in the absence of a formal review process.

Financial Impacts:

The acceptance of the Art in Public Places Policy and the formation of ad hoc Public Art Review Committees is not anticipated to have any financial impact.

Tentative Timelines:

- ✓ August 8, 2017 Council review and input
- September 19, 2017 Council approval of the Art in Public Places policy