CIVIC COLLECTION POLICY

Policy Reference No. POL/267
File No. HCC06/231
Strategic Objective 3.2: Strengthen community connections through local community events and the arts
Adopted by Council 13/03/2018
Re-Adopted
Date for Review March 2023
Responsible Officer Manager Community Development and Learning
Department Community Development and Learning
1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 The Civic Collection Policy guides the acquisition of contemporary artworks and historical objects of significance to Council and its predecessors.

1.2 The Civic Collection will document and celebrate people, events, achievements and the changing culture and landscape of the municipality.

1.3 The Civic Collections Policy demonstrates Council’s support for arts and culture, acknowledging the social, health and wellbeing and economic benefits of fostering a diverse, culturally engaged and active community.

2 PURPOSE

This Policy provides a framework for the maintenance and development of the Civic Collection based on Council Strategy and informed by sector best practice.

This Policy provides guidance for Council’s work in maintaining and developing a Civic Collection of high significance, relevance and quality to which Hume City communities and others have access.

This Policy assists in delivering community expectations identified in Hume Horizons 2040 and the Council Plan 2017-21 under Theme 3: A Culturally Vibrant and Connected Community, in line with the following Strategic Objectives and Community Expectations.

- Strategic Objective 3.1: Foster socially connected and supported communities.
  - Community expectation 3.1.3: Hume’s rich and diverse cultural heritage is celebrated, creating a vibrant and inclusive community that values and welcomes people from all backgrounds and faiths.

- Strategic Objective 3.2: Strengthen community connections through local community events and the arts.
  - Community expectation 3.2.1: Social cohesion is supported and strengthened through participation and interaction in the arts, cultural activities and local community events.

3 SCOPE

Included in the scope of this Policy are all artworks and historical objects owned by Council as part of the Civic Collection including Public Artworks.

This Policy should be used in conjunction with the Art in Public Places Policy (POL/148), which refers specifically to Public Artworks.

4 OBJECTIVE

4.1 The Policy positions Council to take a sustainable management approach to its existing and future civic collection with the objectives of:

4.1.1 reflecting Hume City’s rich and diverse cultural heritage
4.1.2 celebrating Hume City’s people, events, and achievements
4.1.3 facilitating interpretation of Hume City’s changing culture and landscape.

5 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Council staff responsible for the Civic Collection will refer to the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries, V 1.5, September 2016 as industry best practice in the execution of their work.

5.2 The Policy will be implemented by the Arts and Cultural Development program staff.
The Civic Collection acquisition criteria ensure the development of cohesive collections. In order to be accessioned into the Civic Collection, an item must meet all of the following acquisition criteria:

5.3.1 be an unconditional donation, purchase or bequest which has valid and clearly verifiable legal title
5.3.2 have a distinctive and verifiable connection with the heritage or culture of the municipality, or represent a unique opportunity to enrich the cultural life of the municipality
5.3.3 enhance the current scope of the Civic Collection, for example filling an important thematic or geographical gap, or representing a unique voice, event or experience
5.3.4 if it is an additional version of an existing Civic Collection item, that provides a better quality example than the existing item
5.3.5 have the capacity to be placed on display in a Council building without hindrance to public access or safety
5.3.6 have sufficient resources allocated by Council for its storage and conservation
5.3.7 be safe and pose no threat to people or other collection items.

5.4 Council staff with responsibility for the Civic Collection may nominate a collection item for de-accession and disposal, based on the following criteria:

5.4.1 it does not meet the Civic Collection’s current Acquisition Criteria
5.4.2 it is in poor condition and is considered of insufficient merit for allocation of conservation resources
5.4.3 it cannot be displayed due to its properties and is not suitable for research
5.4.4 it is a duplicate that serves no specific function
5.4.5 it is irreparably damaged or destroyed
5.4.6 it is stolen without hope of return.

5.5 The Policy will be monitored in alignment with current and future strategic planning to support arts and cultural development and integrated into periodic reporting to Council.

5.6 Acquisition of new works into the Civic Collection will be assessed based on the acquisition criteria outlined in 5.3. The decision-making process will be governed according to the value of the acquisition as follows:

5.6.1 Up to $10,000 – approval by Director City Communities
5.6.2 $10,000 to $20,000 – approval by CEO
5.6.3 Over $20,000 – approval by Council

6 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

6.1 Artworks: All media including, but not restricted to: contemporary and historical works, works on paper, sculpture, paintings, photographs, digital media.

6.2 Civic Collection: All artworks and historical objects owned by Council and listed on a dedicated register.

6.3 Acquisition: refers to process by which artworks and historical items are formally introduced into the Civic Collection including how they are sourced (including donations), assessed, procured, and documented.

6.4 Deaccession: refers to the process by which artworks and historical items are formally removed from the Civic Collection including how they are identified and assessed as no longer of high significance, and how alternate re-location or destruction is undertaken.
7 RELATED DOCUMENTS

7.1 National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries, V 1.5, September 2016
7.2 Hume City Council, Hume Horizons 2040, May 2014
7.3 Art in Public Places Policy, 10 August 2015, POL/148
7.4 Hume City Council Civic Collection Management Plan. (2017)

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