

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Inclusion of Works of Art on Certain County Public Buildings

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**Purpose**

To define and establish a policy for the inclusion of original works of art for the interior, exterior, and/or grounds of qualifying County-owned public buildings.

**Background**

Public buildings often contain works of art such as murals, sculptures, artistic gates, reflecting pools, or fountains to enhance the aesthetic quality of the building or to reflect the local community. The Board of Supervisors has established a County policy for providing artwork on public buildings, including how the artist will be selected and reimbursed.

The County Administration Center is an example of a County public building where artwork in the form of reflecting pools, sculpture and murals was successfully incorporated in the original design.

It is noted that the federal government, through the adoption of a similar policy, includes works of art on public buildings. Without such a policy, artwork is only sporadically and not always effectively provided for in the new buildings. The Board of Supervisors believes that the most economical and effective method of including any artwork on public buildings is to include it in the original design whenever possible; by so doing, supporting services and structures or utilities, if needed, can be included in the original construction.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

An artwork allowance, based on the estimated construction cost of a building project may, under the procedure described herein, be expended for works of art integral to a project. This allowance shall be one-half percent (0.5%) of the estimated project costs not to exceed \$500,000.

The County shall encourage donations of public art as part of new building projects from the public or community. Any monetary or artwork donations shall not be considered in determining the allowance.

New public buildings qualifying under this policy shall have an estimated construction cost of \$10,000,000 or more and be widely used by the general public, such as County libraries, office buildings or complexes, hospitals and clinics.

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The original artwork qualifying under this policy may include, but not be limited to, sculpture, murals, reflecting pools or fountains, handmade light fixtures, decorative windows or skylights, decorative screens, wooden or metal entry doors, or other art items that may lend themselves effectively to the particular project.

**Procedure**

A three-member committee shall be established. It shall consist of the architect responsible for project design, one member appointed by the project-sponsoring department, and one member appointed by the Director of the Department of General Services.

The committee shall:

1. Determine the type and location of artwork best suited to the overall design of the public building.
2. Invite selected artists to submit proposals to construct and/or supervise the construction of the type of artwork that has been determined to be appropriate.
3. Select from one to three of the interviewed artists, or more if more than three art elements are identified, to develop fully elaborated proposals, including sketches or models of the proposed work.
4. Submit final recommendations to the Director of General Services regarding the proposed artist(s) and design(s).

The director of the Department of General Services, or his/her designee, will consult with the member of the Board of Supervisors representing the Supervisorial district in which the building will be constructed, or his/her designee, on all art for the building. The final decision regarding the artwork and allowance shall be made by the Chief Administrative Officer or designee.

The Committee may recommend to the Director of General Services that an honorarium be paid to each artist submitting final proposals. Such payment shall be approved by the Director of General Services. The total cost of any such honorarium payments and the cost of the approved artwork shall not exceed the maximum allowance for any project as specified in this policy.

Any preparation for the artwork, such as supporting structures or utilities, shall be incorporated into the cost of the general construction contract.

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**Responsible Departments**

1. Department of General Services

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-2023.

**References**

Board Action

- 1-9-73 (37)
- 1-31-78 (16)
- 12-5-95 (36)
- 01/28/03 (16)
- 12/9/08 (33)
- 12/08/09 (16)
- 11/15/16 (15)