



# Guidance Statement Regarding Proposals for Artwork on Public Property

## Purpose

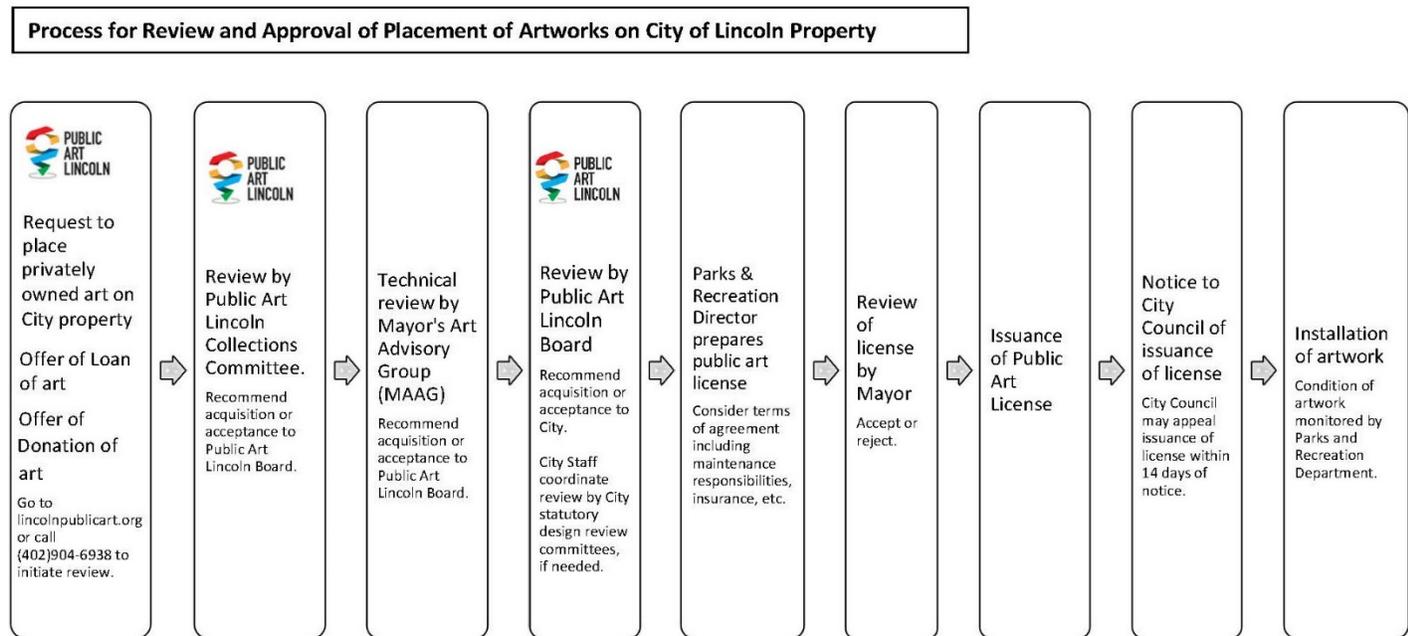
The purpose of this document is to provide guidance in the consideration and planning of proposals for art on City of Lincoln property, including street right-of-way areas, trails, and parks. These guidelines are intended to apply to works of art including, but not limited to, sculpture, which may be in the round, bas-relief, high relief, mobile, kinetic, electronic, etc., in any material or combination of materials; paintings, both portable and permanently affixed (such as murals); and other visual media including, but not limited to, projection artworks

Painting of a design on a street pursuant to Lincoln Municipal Code 14.42 is not included in this guidance statement.

This statement is informed by [City of Lincoln Municipal Code 14.56.010-130](#), City of Lincoln Executive Order 090996, and the [2019 City of Lincoln Public Art Master Plan](#).

## Process for Review and Approval

The flow chart below outlines the process to request, approve, and install artwork on City of Lincoln property. Please note that artwork intended to be installed for six months or less *may* not be reviewed by Public Art Lincoln prior to licensing.



## Content, Context, and Artistic Merit

As part of the *Process for Review and Approval*, a proposal form detailing a request to install artwork on public property will be forwarded to the Director of Public Art Lincoln. The Director will coordinate review of the proposal by the Public Art Lincoln Board of Directors and the Mayor's Art Advisory Group (MAAG). The proposal must be complete and include the current and proposed location of the artwork, dimensions, a good quality sketch or rendering of the proposed artwork, biographical information about the artist, projected cost of installation, a funding plan, the anticipated lifespan of the artwork, and additional information as requested. Prior to review of the proposal by Public Art Lincoln, an artist or donor's statement addressing how the work relates to the community and enhances its proposed location should be drafted. The Public Art Lincoln Board of Directors will provide an acceptance recommendation to MAAG and to the Mayor based upon multiple factors including the context of the artwork in its proposed location, how it aligns with community values, its artistic merit, qualifications of the artist, and other technical and material considerations.

## **Technical Considerations**

Works of art placed outdoors require regular maintenance to keep them looking good due to exposure to weather and sunlight. Restoration of an artwork after a graffiti or vandalism incident can also be challenging. Proposals must include detailed information on the durability, lifespan, and warranties of the materials used in the creation of the work of art. The variabilities of Lincoln's climate must be taken into consideration during material selection. A description of the type and frequency of maintenance required to maintain the integrity of the artwork must be provided.

### Note on Painted Murals

The surface to which the mural will be applied should be adequately cleaned and prepared. A good quality primer should be applied to the surface prior to applying mural paint. Paint should be of good quality and suitable for durable application in an outdoor setting. Consideration should be given to application of a coating over the mural to make removal of graffiti easier, or to permanent yet reversible alternatives to paint. Site preparation and management should minimize the potential for primer or paint getting onto other surfaces or features, or into the storm water system.

## **Public Art License; Useful Life of the Artwork**

Pursuant to Lincoln Municipal Code Chapter 14.56, a public art license agreement is to be prepared and issued prior to installation of an artwork on public property, which includes review by the Urban Design Committee, and where applicable, the Historic Preservation Commission or the Capital Environs Commission. The license will include information about ownership of the artwork, insurance of the artwork, and maintenance of the artwork. A proposed useful life period of an artwork should be established and included in the public art license agreement as well as a deaccessioning plan.

## **Funding and Endowment**

Endowment funds should be identified in any proposal to assure that monies are in place for restoration of an artwork if vandalism or graffiti occurs. Endowment funds should also cover the cost of conservation work on the artwork during its useful life period, and for decommissioning of the artwork at the end of its useful life, if appropriate.

## **Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA)**

The contract or agreement with the artist for design and installation of artwork should include reference to the Visual Artists Rights Act, and the intended useful life period of the artwork. The contract or agreement should also allow for decommissioning of an artwork at the end of its useful life, or if it is damaged beyond reasonable repair. The City and Public Art Lincoln should be granted rights to display images of the artwork for non-commercial uses.

## **Approval and Licensing**

Proposals reviewed and approved by the Public Art Lincoln Board of Directors will be forwarded to the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department Director, who will prepare a license application. This license is subject to approval by the Mayor and a subsequent, optional, review by the City Council. After approval the artist/donor/lender will enter into an agreement with the City of Lincoln specifying the terms of the donation/transfer of ownership or loan. This agreement will include decommissioning criteria, among other terms.

## **Installation**

Installation of the artwork, and appropriate dedication ceremonies, will be coordinated by the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department and Public Art Lincoln in cooperation with the artist, donors, and funders, when reasonable.