

Emory University Public Art Committee

The Public Art Committee enhances and enriches Emory University by coordinating the selection, acquisition, and promotion of public works of art on campus.

Introduction and Overview

Art matters to the Emory community. The public art that adorns our campus may be used to make evident and teach to the values of Emory as an international destination university. Yet, while there have been many plans formulated over the years for upkeep and acquisition of public art, none have been sustained, in part for want of clear direction and commitment from leadership.

While we do have some wonderful examples of destination public art at Emory, a viable plan for their upkeep under the watchful eye of professionals is critical to public arts' continued service to the community. In addition, for a relatively modest sum, not only can we maintain what we do have, but also grow our public art even in a time of economic constraint. Art by emerging, distinguished regional artists may be acquired for a small fraction of the cost of work. In addition, the work of established artists may be offered to Emory if potential donors can appreciate the commitment that Emory has to public art.

The Emory Public Art Committee has the expertise whereby we can maintain our current collection, as well as gradually and creatively acquire renowned works of public art to complement the beauty of our campus and challenge the Emory community to continue to go down the path where courageous inquiry leads. We ask for the appropriate economic commitment and moral support to make this possible.

MISSION

Revised 02-04-13 w/ new Campus Development information

Public Art at Emory

An encounter with art in a public place stimulates the senses, engages the intellect, and awakens the imagination. Public art enriches the community and contributes to creating and maintaining a place that surprises, pleases or even provokes a place that invites return and reflection, a place with enduring value.

The experience of works of fine art is an essential part of the educational experience. The intellectual life can be shaped by the visual and the sculptural, in an ongoing dialogue about the role of art and the artist in society. Emory University's public artwork reflects our institutional culture, and embodies and expresses our academic values for students, faculty and staff, and for the visiting public and the larger community.

The cultural contribution of public art is woven into the fabric of life at Emory in a way that reflects our sense of community, celebrates our diversity, exemplifies our purpose, and embraces our common humanity.

The Public Art Committee

The selection, installation and management of public art work require the knowledge and commitment of many individuals and multiple groups across the university. The Public Art Committee provides a mechanism for coordinating the process of identifying, acquiring and installing public artwork at Emory, and a focus for exercising the ongoing curatorial responsibility for guiding, developing and interpreting Emory's growing public art collection. The purview of the Public Art Committee is to propose and review the possible acquisition and installation of works of art, typically in exterior spaces, with the Committee available for consultation involving interior spaces.

Charge - The Public Art Committee is a subcommittee of the Emory University Campus Development Committee. The charge to the Public Art Committee is to:

- Consider all gifts, donations and funded art projects under the purview of the committee;
- Review temporary exhibits for exterior locations that will be in place for more than two weeks;
- Exercise a curatorial role in consultation with the appropriate expertise from committee members in guiding, developing and interpreting Emory's public art collection;
- Play an educational role for the wider Emory community; and
- Serve as an advocate for public art on campus including ensuring adequate funding.

Membership - Committee size should be limited to not more than fifteen (15) members. One committee member should function as the liaison to the Campus Development Committee. The Committee Chair should maintain contact with the Campus Development Committee through the liaison. The Committee membership (with current members indicated below) will include (but not be limited to):

- Chair of Committee (David Schuster)
- Assistant Chair (Randy Fullerton, also a member of Campus Development Committee)
- Director of Carlos Museum (Bonnie Speed, Catherine Howett Smith)
- Committee Conservator (Rene Stein)
- University Administration (Rosemary Magee)
- University Architect (Jen Fabrick, liaison to Campus Development Committee)
- University Landscape Architect (James Johnson)
- Faculty from Art History (Todd Cronan)
- Faculty and Staff from Visual Arts (Diane Kempler, Kerry Moore, Mary Catherine Johnson)
- One student member
- Oxford College representative (currently vacant)
- Other Departments/Offices
 - University Libraries & MARBL (Charles Forrest)
 - Center for Creativity & Arts as liaison to arts departments (Randy Fullerton)

Meetings - The Public Art Committee will typically meet twice a semester during the academic year to consider any new offers of public art, review the status of existing projects, propose acquisitions for consideration and conduct other business as necessary.

Review and approval process - The Public Art Committee will establish and administer a review and approval process for all proposed gifts, donations and opportunities for the addition of art under their purview on the campus of Emory University. The review process will be based on the application of the following general criteria:

- Aesthetic quality, Artist recognition, Pedagogical value, Emory culture, and tradition (among other criteria)
- Site availability and appropriateness

Selection of the artwork for donation, gift, purchase or other means of acquisition shall be part of a discussion between the donor, a representative from Development, and the Public Art Committee. Artwork will be accepted and installed only upon successful completion of the review and approval process.

Recognition and maintenance - Donor recognition plaques shall be designed, drawn and approved by the Public Art Committee, with assistance by Campus Services and consistent with Campus Plan Design Guidelines. Coordination of maintenance and conservation shall be the responsibility of the Public Art Committee as coordinated by the Conservator of the Carlos Museum and assistance by Campus Services with University understanding and support of the unique care and cost requirements of public art.

Public art review and approval process

- 1. Initial contact** - Identification of potential artworks may be through Development, Emory College, the Carlos Museum, the Health Sciences Center, the Student Government Association, and the various professional schools. The initial point of contact shall be the Chair of the Public Art Committee who shall be responsible for written recommendations and placement on other committee agendas.
- 2. Public Art Committee** - The Public Art Committee will typically meet twice a semester during the academic year to consider the artworks that are offered to the Emory Campus. The Committee shall maintain a log of artworks for consideration with review dates and acceptance dates. The log shall also list any particulars regarding the artwork. The Public Art Committee is also tasked with identifying installation sites and potential artworks to be considered by the university for acquisition, whether through a donor, gift or other means.
- 3. Campus Development Committee** - Once the Public Art Committee agrees that an artwork should be considered for acceptance and installation, the Committee will write a recommendation to the Campus Development Committee. If approved by the Campus Development Committee, the Public Art Committee will bring the recommendation to the President's Cabinet for consideration. If it is not approved, the Public Art Committee will return the recommendation with new concerns and issues to the Campus Development Committee for additional consideration and review. When the Campus Development Committee agrees that the review is complete and approved, the Public Art Committee can make a recommendation for acceptance to the Board of Trustees: Real Estate, Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee (REBG) on Public Art.
- 4. Other campus committees** - If approved by the President's Cabinet, the recommendation will then go to the Committee on the Environment, and the Campus Accessibility Committee for site review and comment. Other campus committees, organizations and schools shall also have the opportunity for review and comment, as determined by the Public Art Committee.
- 5. Campus Development Committee** - Once the Public Art Committee agrees that an artwork should be considered for acceptance and installation, the Committee will write a recommendation to the Campus Development Committee (CDC). If not approved by the CDC, the Public Art Committee will revisit the artwork recommendation and discuss for possible alternatives, challenges, and differing opportunities, and then return to the CDC with a recommendation. Once reviewed and approved by the CDC, the Public Art Committee will bring the recommendation to the President's Cabinet for consideration and then on to the Board of Trustees: Real Estate, Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee (REBG) on Public Art.
- 6. Board of Trustees Real Estate, Buildings and Grounds Committee** – The Chair of the Public Art Committee with the assistance of the Campus Architect will bring the recommendation for installation of artwork for more than one semester (or its equivalent) to the Real Estate, Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee. Upon acceptance, the REBG Committee will make a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees Real Estate Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee for review and approval. The Public Art Committee action will take one of the following forms:
 - **Approval** – The recommendation is approved, and the art may be purchased, or accepted and installed;
 - **Conditional approval** – The recommendation is approved with modifications of restrictions

such as a time limit for display, limitations on utilities and services, limitations for safety purposes, lighting criteria, maintenance requirements, or other restrictions or limitations;

- **Deferral** – The recommendation is tabled with a request for further information;
- **No approval** – The recommendation is not approved.

- 7. Recommendation for removal of artwork** – On the occasion that it is desired by the University or its Trustees that an artwork should be removed from display, the recommendation will be first brought forward to the Public Art Committee. If the Public Art Committee agrees with the recommendation for removal, the Chair will bring the recommendation forward to the President’s Cabinet, the Campus Development committee, and the REBG subcommittee. The REBG subcommittee shall make a recommendation to the full REBG Committee for approval for removal.
- 8. Removal and final disposition of artwork** – Upon approval, artwork shall be removed within 90 days at the University’s expense. The artwork may then be stored, returned to the donor, sold or given to another party per the instructions of the REBG Subcommittee on Public Art. As necessary, the disposal decision will be made in collaboration with the Campus Development Committee. The Chair of the Public Art Committee will be responsible for conveying the guidance of the Real Estate Building and Grounds committee to the appropriate group or groups working with the individual donor, organization, or program, and for coordination with Campus Services as necessary and appropriate.