

Policy Register

Manningham Public Art and Collections Policy 2025-30

Policy Classification	- Connected Communities
Policy N°	- POL/560
Policy Status	- Draft
Responsible Service Unit	- Economic and Cultural Activation
Authorised by	- Council
Date Adopted	- 23 September 2025
Next Review Date	- August 2030

This policy is part of a suite of policies adopted by Council or the Executive Management Team (EMT).

New or replacement policies can be created and developed within Service Units but can only be added to Council's Policy Register by Governance Services following the approval of the policy by Council or the EMT.

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PURPOSE

The Manningham Public Art and Collections Policy 2025-30 (the Policy) confirms Council's commitment to the arts through the commission, acquisition, management and conservation of contemporary and historical artworks.

This policy consolidates and replaces the Manningham Public Art Policy 2021-24 (POL/560) and the Manningham Art Collection Management Policy 2021-24 (POL/561).

POLICY STATEMENT

Manningham Council affirms the importance of art as a significant cultural practice which has a positive impact on community health and wellbeing, upholds community pride and contributes to the local economy.

Works commissioned, acquired and collected reflect and celebrate the artistic, cultural, historical and social diversity of Manningham and its community. Our collections are important cultural assets that are managed, conserved and cared for as public collections on behalf of the community and for the benefit of the community.

Manningham Council will commission, acquire and collect artworks that:

- Reflect and platform the diversity of cultural and social identities across Manningham; and/or
- Respond to the unique place character of both natural and built environments across the localities of Manningham; and/or
- Engage with contemporary ideas, promote social connection and encourage conversation, reflection and imagination; and
- Respect and uphold the cultural rights of First Nations peoples and ensure appropriate engagement with the traditional landowners, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung; and/or
- Contribute to contemporary arts practice locally, nationally and internationally.

Key principles that inform the Policy include:

- **Local Connections:** prioritising the commission and acquisition of works from artists who have strong community links to Manningham and/or Greater Melbourne and Victoria.

- **Best Practice:** ensuring approaches to the commission, acquisition, presentation and conservation of artworks in line with industry standards, including upholding the rights of artists.
- **Scale, Scope and Place:** ensuring that the commission and acquisition of artworks is appropriate to the scale, scope and place character of the intended location.
- **Program Governance:** ensuring that commission and acquisition processes are supported by governance appropriate to the scale and impact of the opportunity.
- **Care and Conservation:** ensuring that collection care, conservation, management and activation is appropriately resourced.

SCOPE OF POLICY

Public Art and Collections refer to all forms of permanent and temporary artwork that may have public visibility, use or access. The Policy outlines an approach to those artworks that are commissioned or acquired by Manningham Council and can include:

- Artworks that are installed or accessible on public land or buildings that are owned or managed by us.
- Artworks that are displayed in a cultural, community or civic building that is owned or operated by us.
- Artworks that are publicly visible or accessible and installed on private land or buildings through agreement with a private landowner.
- Artworks that are permanent (lifespan of over 3 years) or temporary (lifespan of less than 3 years).
- Platforms for the presentation of public art that can be programmed such as light boxes, outdoor galleries, screens, audio installations and lighting arrays.
- Artworks that are held in a public collection that are managed by us.

Public art can include works that are integrated into buildings, landscapes and public spaces (such as seating, lighting, architectural features), or are standalone (such as sculptures, murals, projections).

Public art does not include functional or designed objects or installations where a professional practicing artist has not been involved in their design.

Curatorial Framework

Our Public Art and Collections programs are underpinned by a Curatorial Framework that informs what Manningham Council commissions and collects and how this relates to place character, community identity and in response to contemporary ideas and themes.

The Curatorial Framework also outlines a strategic approach to addressing collection gaps, ensuring that our collections are representative of a range of artforms and the broader community.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Public Art and Collections program is facilitated by the Arts, Culture and Local History team, seeking advice from Manningham's Arts Advisory Committee on community priorities for this activity.

Oversight of Public Art and Collections activity and management is under the broad direction of the Director Connected Communities and delegated to the Manager Economic and Cultural Activation and Coordinator Arts, Culture and Local History as appropriate to the scale, profile and impact of the activity.

The design and delivery of all Public Art and Collections activity is led by our Arts, Culture and Local History team.

Selection Panels

Where required, a panel of relevant independent industry experts and/or community members (including at least one member of a Manningham Council Advisory Committee) will be convened to provide subject matter expertise to Council on the commission, acquisition and deaccession of artworks. This will be allowed for as a project cost during business case development and throughout the project.

Relevant Council officers will also be convened alongside each panel dependent upon the location, scale, profile and impact of the activity. This includes the Manager of the relevant area as it relates to the proposed location of the artwork.

Delegation & Governance

Public Art and Collecting activity ranges in scale, profile and impact.

- **Profile** refers to the public visibility of a commission or acquisition. It describes the potential for levels of public interest.
- **Scale** refers to the size of an artwork in the public realm in combination with the cost of commissioning or acquiring the work.

Table 2 summarises the key roles in decision-making appropriate to scale and profile.

Table 2: Project Delegation & Governance

Scale/ Profile	Typical Activities	Officers	Panel
Small Scale Up to \$15,000 Low Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Building – Internal Wall Temporary Public Art (less than 2 Years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Art Officer recommends Coordinator approves Manager endorses 	Not Required
Medium Scale Up to \$25,000 Low Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection Acquisition <p><i>Note: works that are commissioned for acquisition require a panel.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator convenes/ recommends Manager approves recommendation Director endorses 	Panel Optional
Medium Scale Up to \$50,000 Low Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Building – Internal or External Wall Temporary Public Art (over 2 years) Minor Outdoor Work Public Art Integration (Local) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator convenes Manager approves recommendation Director endorses 	Public Art Panel recommends
Large Scale Up to \$150,000 Medium Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large Scale Outdoor Work Public Art Integration (Community) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator convenes/ recommends Manager approves recommendation Director endorses 	Public Art Panel recommends
Major Scale Over \$150,000 High Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major Scale Outdoor Work Public Art Integrations (Civic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator and Manager convenes/ recommends Director pre-approves recommendation Council feedback Director gives final approval under delegation. 	Public Art Panel recommends

Resourcing

Our Public Art and Collections programs are resourced by:

- An annual capital works allocation towards the acquisition of artworks for the Manningham Art Gallery Collection.
- An annual capital works allocation towards small scale Public Art initiatives.
- An annual pooled capital works contribution towards medium, large and major scale Public Art initiatives that represents 1% of the total budget for Public Realm Assets as identified through the 10 Year Capital Works Plan.
- Annual operating budgets for the conservation, maintenance and activation of Council's public art and contemporary art collections.
- Donations to collections acquired through the Cultural Gifts Program.

Public Realm Assets for the purposes of this policy is defined as total annual capital works expenditure on Buildings, Community Facilities, Sportsground Redevelopment, Public Toilets, Open Space, Parks, Bicycle Networks and Activity Centre Infrastructure.

The per cent for art allocation is set annually in line with the Capital Works budget and is 1% of the combined budget for Public Realm Asset projects. The per cent for art allocation is aggregated into a pooled fund to be accessed for medium, large and major public art commissions.

Public art projects are proposed and approved through development of a business case to ensure that public art commissions are appropriate to the location, scale and intended function of the site and where the best value outcome can be achieved.

DEFINITIONS

Acquisition a process by which an existing or commissioned artwork is purchased for a collection or donated to a collection.

Commission a process in which an artist is hired to create an artwork on a temporary or permanent basis and is paid for this service

Collections refer to cultural assets that are held, commissioned or acquired. They may have cultural or historical value and have an independently assessed financial value. Collections are curated according to a set of defining principles or priorities (a curatorial framework).

Deaccession a formal process for the removal of an artwork from a collection through either selling or disposing of it.

Gallery Collection is a collection of contemporary artwork that is commissioned or acquired for presentation in a gallery, community or civic context that is produced by professional practicing artists.

Historical Collection is a collection of artworks and objects with historical or community significance that are held on behalf of the community but may not have significant cultural value.

Public Art is artwork that is presented in the public realm on a permanent or temporary basis, including documentation of temporary artworks produced by professional practicing artists.

Public Realm describes places that are freely accessible for public use and/or visibility including parks, activity centres, public buildings, recreational facilities, bicycle paths and community facilities.

Conservation and Care refers to the approaches, conditions and practices that ensure collections retain or appreciate in value. These practices align with [National Standards](#) for Australian Museums and Galleries.

Cultural Gifts describes works acquired to any of the collections through the [Cultural Gifts Program](#) which offers tax incentives to encourage people to donate cultural items to Australian public collecting institutions.

Per Cent for Art Scheme is a funding model that allocates a percentage of a capital works budget, typically 1%, towards the commissioning of public art.

Pooled Fund is a mechanism to allocate a percentage of a total class of capital works project budgets as 'per cent for art'.

Profile refers to the public visibility of a commission or acquisition. It describes the potential for levels of public interest.

Scale refers to the size of an artwork in the public realm in combination with the cost of commissioning or acquiring the work.

RELATED POLICIES

- Manningham Council Plan 2025-29
- Manningham Procurement Policy (POL/517)
- Manningham Community Engagement Policy (POL/539)
- Manningham Creative Communities Framework (Draft)
- Manningham Economic Development Strategy 2023-28
- Manningham Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-25
- Manningham Liveable City Strategy 2040
- Manningham Placemaking Framework
- Vibrant Villages - Activity Centre Action Plan 2023
- Open Space Strategy
- Liveable City Strategy 2040

GUIDELINES

- Manningham Council Public Art and Collections Guidelines
- Arts Manningham Curatorial Framework
- Manningham Arts Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

RELATED LEGISLATION

The Manningham Art Collection and Manningham Art Gallery is formally endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Officer under subdivision 30-A of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

- [Cultural Gifts Program](#)

Other legislation that is relevant to public art and collecting activating include:

- National Copyright Act 1968
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- The Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Local Government Act

SUPPORTING RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Manningham Council has an established collection of public artworks, visual artworks and historical artworks that have been collected for more than 30 years.

The Policy and associated guidelines and frameworks are informed by best practice and industry standards that are outlined by the following Codes of Practice, industry guideline and relevant legislation.

- [National Cultural Policy](#) – REVIVE
- [Creative State 2025](#)
- National Association of Visual Arts - [Code of Practice](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#) for Copyright Collecting Societies
- International Council of Museums (ICOM) [Code of Ethics for Museums](#)
- [National Standards](#) for Australian Museums and Galleries
- Creative Australia, [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property](#) in the Arts
- [UNESCO Convention](#) on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to the Policy. Where an update does not materially alter this policy, such a change may be made by the Policy owner. Examples of minor administrative changes include changes to names of Manningham Council departments or a minor amendment to legislation that does not have material impact. Where any change or update may materially change the intent of this policy, it must be approved by the Director Connected Communities.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Policy Title:	Manningham Public Art and Collections Policy 2025 - 30
Responsible Officer:	Vanessa Bove
Resp. Officer Position:	Manager Economic and Cultural Activation
Next Review Date:	August 2030
To be included on website?	Yes

Last Updated	Meeting type? - Council or EMT	Meeting Date	Item N°