

PUBLIC ART POLICY

§ 40.60 PURPOSE.

(A) The city is dedicated to enhancing public spaces through public art that reflects the city's unique culture, history, and community spirit. By supporting art in shared spaces, we aim to enrich daily life for residents, foster local pride, attract visitors, and encourage businesses to invest in our city. This effort will follow a clear, inclusive process that aligns with both the Cultural Resources Element of the city comprehensive plan, as well as the existing city Design Guidelines. Additionally, this policy will serve to ensure that public art serves and reflects the diversity of our community, and its people, perspectives, and lived experiences. The public art program is administered through the Camden Public Art Committee (CPAC).

(B) The purpose of this policy is to make recommendations related to:

- (1) Creating works of public art with the cooperation of the community.
- (2) Involving local, regional and national artists of diverse backgrounds.
- (3) Considering economic development and cultural tourism when advocating for public art.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.61 GOALS OF PUBLIC ART.

Public art is an investment in cultural capital that goes far beyond tourism, improved aesthetics, better business traffic, increase in building occupancy or eradication of blight. Public artworks contribute to a city's unique identity, its cultural cohesiveness and sense of place. Public art can:

- (A) Create a perception of Camden, South Carolina as a vibrant hub for the arts.
- (B) Reflect, express, and enlighten the core community values including cultural diversities, community heritage and history.
- (C) Include thoughtful and inclusive community participation.
- (D) Strive to include design professionals and artists in the planning, design and development of the community to ensure the highest standard of design.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.62 WHAT IS PUBLIC ART.

Public art may include murals, sculpture, memorials, integrated architectural or landscape work, community art, public fixtures, furniture or other functional elements that are designed and/or built by an artist. Public art may be attached to a building or be a free-standing installation. In addition, it cannot be interpreted to be signage by the Director of Planning and Development or their designee. Public art that contains any business names, brand names, product names, logos, symbols, trademarks, trade names or other messages may be considered signs and must meet requirements of the ordinance code regarding signage. Public art does not include art fully contained in a building. Public art does not include art as described above that is not visibly accessible to the public.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.63 PUBLIC ART PROJECT TYPES.

For the purposes of this subchapter, works of public art may include but are not limited to:

- (A) Sculpture in the round, bas relief, mobiles, fountains, kinetic and electronic work in any approved material or combination of materials;
- (B) Paintings in all media, including oils and acrylics, that are portable or permanently affixed, such as murals;
- (C) Graphic arts, such as printmaking, drawing, banners, and wraps;
- (D) Mosaics, including works executed in tile, glass, stone or other materials; crafts using clay, fiber and textiles, wood, metal, plastics, stained glass and other materials, both functional and ornamental;
- (E) Photography, including digital and traditional photographic print media. Mixed media, which may include any combination of two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms of media, including collage;
- (F) Earth works, environmental installations, and environmental art;
- (G) Ornamental or functional decorative elements designed by practicing artists or other persons submitting as artists;
- (H) Light-based or luminal art that is experiential, site-specific, or installation-based work;
- (I) Sound art or media with primarily aural-based expressive elements, including electronic, audio media, found or

experimental sound sources;

(J) Video and animation, projected or displayed;

(K) Portable art that may be displayed at locations other than a substantially permanent location;

(L) Temporary art refers to works intentionally created to exist for a limited duration. These artworks may be designed to change, deteriorate, or be removed after a specific time frame, often in response to environmental conditions, community interaction, or the artist's conceptual intent.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.64 COMMUNITY INPUT.

Community input on public art projects either private or publicly funded is recommended. There are numerous opportunities for community involvement, public input and discussions of location, safety, and maintenance. Community input and information-sharing may take place in such ways:

(A) Reviews of existing plans, histories or public art plans for the site or area at meetings of City Council, Board, Commissions or Committees and other organizations;

(B) Surveys or interviews of nearby residents or site users;

(C) Events such as public meetings, forums, or design charrettes/workshops;

(D) Cultural events and gatherings.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.65 PUBLIC ART REQUIREMENTS.

Public art shall not be installed without the final authorization of the City Council. The public art shall be constructed of high-quality, durable and weather-resistant materials. The public art shall be maintained in a neat and attractive manner and shall be kept free of dirt, rust and graffiti. In the event the public art deteriorates to a point where it loses its artistic and/or aesthetic appeal (as determined by the Camden Public Art Committee), the owner/developer or designee shall repair the public art to original quality, replace the public art with an equivalent piece of public art, or remove the piece of art. Any replacement piece of art must adhere to the approval process outlined in this policy.

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§ 40.66 ART IN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT.

Public art is encouraged in any private development. All new residential development projects of 100 or more units, all commercial and all public development projects, with a construction valuation (as reflected in the building permit documents) of \$500,000 or more shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter, and must adhere to the approval process as defined in this art policy. This figure excludes land acquisition costs.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.67 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.

(A) The Camden Public Art Committee will oversee the criteria for selection and make recommendations to City Council for approval. The Camden Public Art Committee and Council may consider the following questions when conducting reviews of proposed artwork:

(1) Aesthetic quality and artistic merit.

(a) Does the artwork align with the proposed goals?

(b) Is the artwork original, and not an infringement of any third party's proprietary rights or intellectual property?

(c) Is the artwork relevant to the city, its values, culture and people?

(d) Is the artwork relevant to the goals, objectives, and strategies identified in the Cultural Resources Element of the current city comprehensive plan?

(e) Is the artwork appropriate for the community it serves?

(2) Placement/siting.

(a) Is it appropriately scaled?

(b) What are the utility requirements of the artwork (i.e., lighting, etc.)?

(c) Does it meet all code requirements for design, safety and construction?

(d) Does it comply with the city Design Guidelines?

(3) Fabrication, handling and installation.

(a) Have written estimates been obtained from qualified technical support?

(b) Can the work easily be removed if necessary?

(c) What is the artistic medium and what are the other components, i.e., paint (type and color), electrical, mechanical, lighting, etc.

(4) Maintenance. What are the existing or projected maintenance requirements of the work?

(B) Artwork fails to meet professional standards for acceptable public art practice if faults of design or workmanship pose a public health or life safety hazard, or the artwork is fraudulent, inauthentic, or appears to be of inferior quality relative to the quality of other public art works.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.68 PUBLIC ART SIZE CATEGORIES.

(A) Small public art piece.

(1) A small public art piece is a public art piece where the sum of the height, width and depth of the object is no more than eight feet.

(2) A small public art piece also includes a mural where the area of the mural face is no more than 200 square feet.

(B) Large public art piece.

(1) A large public art piece is a public art piece where the sum of the height, width and depth is more than eight feet.

(2) A large public art piece also includes a mural where the area of the mural face is at least 201 square feet.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.69 PUBLIC ART REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL (RFP).

One of the following selection methods may be used to select artists or artist teams for eligible public art projects:

(A) Open invitational. The city may request proposals for public art from any qualified artists, with possible limitations based on geographical or other eligibility criteria. The project is advertised, and project guidelines are published. No fees will be charged to artists submitting materials and applications. A single artist may be selected, or a limited number of finalists may be paid an honorarium to prepare a specific site proposal and/or attend an interview with the selection panel.

(B) Limited/focused invitational. The city may invite selected artists to enter a competition or to submit proposals for a particular project or site. Artists are considered for a commission by invitation only. A finalist may be asked to submit a proposal in the form of a drawing or maquette and/or attend an interview with the selection panel. A finalist may be paid an honorarium. This method generally applies when a certain type of artwork or certain qualifications and experience are required, such as sculpture competitions, site-specific works and works requiring design team expertise.

(C) Public initiated. This process is generated by an individual or group with a public art project or idea, which they bring to the Committee for review. The project is reviewed based on location, time frame, potential cost, and benefit to the community. A recommendation will be made to either allow or not allow, and whether to financially support.

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§ 40.70 RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS.

(A) Applicants shall submit an application, along with any plans, sketches, project timeline, and cost estimate, along with any public funding sources, if applicable. If location is privately owned, the property owner must also submit a signed maintenance agreement, provided by the city.

(B) A notification letter will be sent to applicants concerning the approval or denial of the application within 90 days of receipt of a completed application.

(C) Staff from the Planning Department shall submit applications for visual public art pieces to the Camden Public Art Committee on behalf of the artist/owner/developer, who shall review the proposal, solicit public input if necessary, and decide to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application. Visual art installations that are temporary in nature, where they are visible from the public right-of-way will require submission to the Camden Public Art Committee via the Planning Department; a special event permit may also be required. Visual arts shall mean paintings, murals, statues, or similar artwork.

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§ 40.71 CONDITIONS.

(A) The applicant must agree to complete the work within one calendar year from the date of approval and all work is completed according to state and local building codes and ordinances and approved, when necessary, by the proper authorities.

(B) The applicant and property owner must agree to accept the responsibility of maintenance during the lifetime of the artwork. Maintenance shall include cleaning, re-painting/touch-up painting to keep the art looking current and not faded, and abating graffiti or other forms of vandalism within seven days from the time the property owner has been notified.

(C) Once a project is completed, an anti-graffiti coating should be applied to protect its surface. After three years, grandfathered projects, which the owner desires to retain, will be evaluated for compliance with this policy and subject to the rules and requirements stated within.

(D) Nothing within this section suspends obligations or requirements under existing city code.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.72 HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

(A) The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation are the recommended guidelines for public art projects impacting historic buildings and historic districts, and align with the city's Design Guidelines for historic buildings. While the standards don't explicitly list regulations for "art installations," they provide a framework for evaluating such work based on the principles of preserving the building's historic character and integrity. Therefore, any art installation should not compromise the historic materials, features, or character of the building, requiring careful consideration of placement, attachment methods, and overall design.

(B) Consider locating murals and public art on non-historic buildings, non-contributing buildings in the National Register Historic District, or on less prominent locations of the building to minimize impact to historic integrity of building materials and character.

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§ 40.73 VIOLATIONS.

(A) Nuisance. Any public art created and installed without city approval pursuant to this policy, or any public art that is not maintained in accordance with the approved maintenance plan, is and shall be deemed a public nuisance, subject to abatement, and the specific penalties and remedies enumerated herein, including collection by lien or special assessment.

(B) Administrative citation. Any person who creates, allows to be created, causes or otherwise installs any public art without first obtaining city approval pursuant to this chapter is guilty of a violation and is subject to the issuance of an administrative citation as follows:

(1) Prior to the issuance of a citation hereunder, the city shall issue written notice to any person that violates this chapter.

(2) The city shall give that person 30 days from the issuance of the notice to remove the art created and installed without city approval. If the illegal art is removed in compliance with the city notice issued, no citation shall be issued. If the art is not removed within 30 days, an administrative citation shall be issued with a fine in the amount of \$500.

(3) In addition to the penalty above provided, any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this section, shall be deemed a public nuisance and may be, by the city, abated as provided by law, and each day that the condition continues shall be regarded as a new and separate offense.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.74 CAMDEN PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE (CPAC).

(A) The Camden Public Art Committee is composed of seven members, approved by City Council to serve terms of two years, with no more than three consecutive terms. City Council may appoint the Chair of the Committee. The City Manager or designee will assign a city staff liaison to the Committee, who will serve as a non-voting member of the committee. Members of the CPAC must recuse themselves from any votes of discussion related to projects with which they have a relationship. The CPAC approves works of art before they are acquired, transferred, sold or deaccessioned.

(B) The Committee shall include the following:

(1) The Director or assigned representative from the Arts Center of Kershaw County;

(2) Members of the art community within the city, including those that produce art, sell art, broker art and/or work within the art community;

(3) Citizens and business owners of the city and nearby unincorporated areas, representing the diversity of the community and have an interest in public art;

(4) Individuals that share and have a desire to help locate donors sharing an interest in public art.

(Res. 2025-018, passed 8-5-25)

§ 40.75 APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR PUBLIC ART.

Each fiscal year as part of the budget planning process, the city may designate funds to be maintained in the Local Source Fund account for public art. Funds may be allocated from the Hospitality Tax Fund.

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