




Art Collection Policy

Category: Arts and Culture
Adoption: Council Date: 26 November 2019
Review Period: Three years
Responsible Manager: General Manager Community Wellbeing
Signed by CEO: 
Date: 2.12.2019

Acknowledgement

Central Goldfields Shire Council acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung. We offer our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

1. Purpose

Central Goldfields Shire Council maintains and develops a permanent collection of visual arts and crafts for the enrichment of our residents, staff and visitors to our region. The art collection is a resource for display, teaching, learning, research, enjoyment and celebration.

This policy sets the objectives by which Council will:

- purchase new art works;
- manage and maintain the collection;
- accept bequests of works;
- display the collection; and
- manage deaccessioned artwork.

2. Scope

This policy applies to artwork owned or under consideration for ownership by Central Goldfields Shire Council.

All artwork housed within the collection must meet the selection criteria, acquisition, display and deaccessioned processes as set out in this policy and associated procedure.

3. Definitions

Accession: the formal inclusion of a work of art into the Art Collection including its transfer of legal ownership, its documentation and provenance and the attribution of a unique accession collection identification number and entry on to the Collection database;

Art works and craft works: a work that is accessioned into the Central Goldfields Shire Council's Art Collection or that is on loan to Central Goldfields Shire Council.

Conservation treatment: any activity, including cleaning, repair of hanging systems and/or restoration that serves to maintain the optimum condition of a work of art and that ensures its long-term preservation and care;

Curator: Curator of the Central Goldfields Art Collection and Art Gallery;

Deaccession: the formal removal of a work of art from the Art Collection that includes an identified procedure for its disposal;

Disposal: the physical removal and in some cases, the destruction, of an art work, which has been recorded as de-accessioned from Central Goldfields Shire's Art Collection's collection;

Loan: any work of art or object borrowed or loaned by Central Goldfields Shire Council for a specific period of time, as specified through an Agreement between the relevant parties;

4. Policy

4.1 Principles:

Central Goldfields has and will continue to develop and maintain a well-regarded Art Collection in which each new and existing piece in the collection:

- Is the work of an Australian artist, or is by an artist who has lived and worked in Australia, and has an affiliation with Central Victoria;
- Is of an excellent standard;
- Is original work by the artist which depicts their own experience and expression of the world;
- Corresponds with and complements the existing collection, depicting either a similar genesis to

existing works or an artistic progression or counterpoint from existing works;

- Offers opportunities for learning, teaching, joy, debate and community interest;
- Ensures the preservation and documentation of art, from and relating to Central Victoria, for the well-being of future generations

4.2 Collection Objectives

Central Goldfields Shire Council will be guided by the following objectives when collecting and maintaining works of art for the Art Collection:

4.2.1 Australian Art, both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous:

Central Goldfields Shire Council seeks to acquire and maintain works by Australian artists, as well as by artists of other nationalities who have lived and worked in Central Victoria;

4.2.2 Indigenous Art

Central Goldfields Shire Council seeks to acquire works by artists from the Dja Dja Warrung and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have lived and worked in Central Victoria;

4.2.3 Cultural and creative innovation and diversity

Central Goldfields Shire Council seeks to acquire art that reflects particular periods of cultural innovation or political, social and historical importance to Central Victoria. While this includes the Gold Rush period, it is acknowledged that many of the Shire buildings already depict the Gold Rush history, and art work should complement and express the Shire's wider social and political history and future.

Central Goldfields Shire Council seeks to acquire art that reflects the importance of textiles to the industrial and artistic heritage of the region.

Central Goldfields Shire Council seeks to acquire art work that reflects contemporary life and imagined futures in the Shire underpinned by the cultural diversity that comprises our communities and the broader population of Central Victoria.

4.3 Acquisition

Central Goldfields Shire Council will acquire works of art and objects for the Art Collection by purchase, donation, gift, transfer and bequest, in accordance with the Collection Objectives.

Central Goldfields Shire Council reserves the right to not accept works of art offered as gifts, donations or bequests.

Art works to be considered for acquisition will be physically sighted / experienced and assessed by the Curator prior to acquisition and will correspond with the principles and objectives described in this policy.

4.4 Legal and Ethical Obligations

Central Goldfields Shire Council will only acquire works of art for the Art Collection provided that provenance and clear legal title can be confirmed.

Gifts, donations, bequests and transfers will only be accepted where the donor has provenance and full legal title to the work and the gift is made on the basis of a total unencumbered transfer of ownership from the donor to the Shire Council.

4.5 Accessioning

Central Goldfields Shire Council will assign a unique accession number to all works of art it acquires and record the works in the Collection Management System database.

4.6 Display, Conservation, Storage

The Art Collection will be displayed in a manner that maintains the integrity and value to the Art Collection.

The location of Art pieces will be at the approval of the Curator.

The Art Collection will be conserved in accordance with accepted contemporary national practice and standards applicable to the safe and appropriate storage, management and handling of artworks.

Conservation treatments will only be performed by an experienced and qualified Conservator.

Unless on display, all works of art will be stored in an environmentally controlled and secure Art Store.

4.7 Security

Central Goldfields Shire Council will at all times provide as secure an environment as possible for the storage, transportation and display of the Art Collection.

4.8 Access

The Art Collection will be made available to our community wherever possible through:

- Exhibitions in the Art Gallery;
- Display of selected artworks in Council buildings (including council offices, The Hub, regional halls);

- Display in public places (sculptures and external artworks)
- Loans to partner organisations with related/complementary art collections for special or travelling exhibitions;
- The Art Gallery webpage and other print and digital media where appropriate.

4.9 Public Place Art Work

Central Goldfields Shire Council's Art Collection comprises a growing number of pieces that are displayed in public places (sculptures and external artworks). These are included as an integral part of the Central Goldfields Art Collection.

The use of art in public places has the capacity to enhance the environment and engender a great sense of community pride, excitement and participation in public spaces.

Any site where the Art Collection is displayed must be in public ownership and must be:

- A significant or strategically important public place with high visibility and/or accessibility;
- Highly visible to the community;
- In a position where the art work can be properly maintained;

4.10 Loans

Central Goldfields Shire Council may permit temporary incoming and outgoing loans of artworks into and from the Art Collection, where:

- The Art Collection has a distinctive contribution to make,
- The benefits for Central Goldfields Shire Council are compelling; and
- Council staff and the Shire's students can also be involved.

4.11 Cultural Gifts Programme

Central Goldfields Art Gallery is a participating institution in the Commonwealth Government's Cultural Gifts Program. Council supports this programme by funding valuations of all artwork offered; which is mandatory under the programme's guidelines.

Anonymity of donors is assured when requested. However, the identity of such donors shall be recorded within the records of the Gallery, which are not generally available to public view.

Recognition of donors will be made in the Central Goldfields Shire Council's annual report for the year in which an article is donated. It will also be shown on the description of the article where attached for display purposes, whenever possible.

4.12 De-accessioning

De-accessioning is recognised as a necessary tool to enable the maintenance, enhancement and focus of an art collection; therefore deaccession proposals will be prepared on an as needs basis.

A work of art deemed to be outside the scope of the Art Collection and this policy, will be de-accessioned formally in accordance with the Art Collection Procedures.

4.13 Disposal

Central Goldfields Shire Council will dispose of artworks formally approved for de-accessioning in accordance with the Art Collection Procedures. Where a de-accessioned work of art has been gifted or bequeathed, donor/s will be advised of this decision in writing by the relevant General Manager.

Works of art to be disposed of may not be sold, gifted to, or exchanged with, any person connected to Central Goldfields Shire Council and/or their families, unless that person is the donor of the artwork being disposed or unless the art work is sold through an external public process (such as public auction).

4.14 Loss/Theft

Central Goldfields Shire Council will record lost/stolen artworks on the Collection Management System database and ensure insurance coverage.

4.15 Government, Private Sector, Community Organisation, and Club support

Support of the collection from government, private and community sectors (including sporting clubs) will be encouraged via sponsorship of either the acquisition of specific works or of periodic displays held in the Gallery.

Support for the collection will be acknowledged in a manner appropriate to the circumstances and which is agreed in advance between Central Goldfields Shire Council and the relevant sponsor

4.16 Responsibility

The Art Collection will be managed by the Gallery Coordinator or Curator who will acquire, conserve, research, communicate and exhibit art with guidance from the Executive Management Team.

5. Strategic alignment and corporate framework

The Central Goldfields Art Gallery Collections Policy is informed by the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 (2018 refresh).

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Person/s responsible	Accountability
Central Arts Collective Inc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise Council in regard to proposed acquisitions and de-acquisitions for the Gallery
Art Gallery Coordinator and Art Gallery Curator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the process of acquiring art works for the Gallery
Manager Tourism Events Culture and General Manager Community Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversight and monitoring of policy and procedure implementation
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy approval Stewardship of community assets Providing resources for policy implementation

7. Human Rights Statement

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006). Central Goldfields Shire Council is committed to consultation and cooperation between management and employees. The Council will formally involve elected employee Health and Safety Representatives in any workplace change that may affect the health and safety of any of its employees.

8. Related Policies and Procedures

- Art Gallery Collections Procedure
- Arts and Culture Policy and Procedure
- Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021
- CGSC 5-Year Events Strategy

9. Relevant Legislation and Guidelines

Nil

DOCUMENT HISTORY (TO BE REMOVED BEFORE SIGNING)

	Date	Author
Initial Draft	20 June 2018	
Final Draft	31 January 2019	Kay Parkin/Helen Kaptein
Approved	12 November 2019	
Review Draft	17 November 2019	
Review Final	17 November 2019	
Approved	26 November 2019	