



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
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REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Glodeane Brown, Public Art Coordinator

DATE: Catherine McLeod, Manager of Culture and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
April 14, 2025

REPORT NO.: CSE-2025-015

SUBJECT: Public Art Policy Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. CSE-2025-015, dated April 14, 2025, regarding the Public Art Policy Update, be received.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The current Public Art Policy is nine (9) years old and requires updating.
- Staff has researched best practices in municipal public art policies.
- Staff will bring a recommended updated policy draft to a future Council meeting for consideration and approval.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The current Public Art Policy (see appendix 1) was approved by Council through Report COMMSERV-2016-0002. Subsequently, the [Public Art Master Plan](#) (PAMP) was approved through report ADMIN-2018-0021. The Public Art Policy provides a framework for Council, staff, arts stakeholders, and the general community on how the Town of Halton Hills assesses, develops, acquires, and manages public art in public spaces. Decisions on the types of public art and locations are based on the Public Art Master Plan (PAMP).

Since the approval of the PAMP in 2018, the Public Art Program has developed and delivered a range of public art projects across Halton Hills. As the Public Art Program has grown, it requires additional policy documents to support it, including an updated Public Art Policy (PAP).

Town staff undertook an extensive review of municipal Public Art Policies and best practices in the field of public art. Planned updates to the Public Art Policy include:

- Updated definitions and language to align with current public art practice;
- Updated Public Art Advisory Board guidelines, including transitioning the board from being an official committee of Council with the addition of an ex-officio member of Council (similar to the Hillview Board);
- A Donation Policy, not included in the previous policy and recommended in the PAMP;
- A Collections Management Policy, not included in the previous policy and recommended in the PAMP; and
- Updated and diversified public art funding model to be relocated from the policy to the Budget Committee process.

Additional details on the Donation Policy, Collections Management Policy and Funding Models are included below.

Donation Policy – Outlines all aspects of donations to support public art, including both finished artworks and donations for the commission of new work. The donation policy includes eligibility, the evaluation process, maintenance plans, and associated donation costs.

Collections Management Policy – Outlines all aspects of managing a public art collection, including acquisition, documentation, asset management, maintenance and conservation, storage, and deaccessioning (the process of permanently removing an artwork from the Town's Public Art collection).

Funding Model – Outlines the uses, sources and management of funding to support a sustainable Public Art Program, including acquisition and maintenance. To bring the public art funding model into alignment with budget processes and the functioning of all other Town Reserves, the funding model should be removed from the policy and referred to Budget Committee

Staff have reviewed a variety of public art funding mechanisms and consulted with Finance. The planned funding model expands funding sources and adjusts the public art reserve to align with the functioning of all other Town Reserves.

Proposed Funding Model Update

Public Art Reserves are the most common funding model for municipal public art. To modernize the reserve, staff are planning to implement diversified funding sources and

updated management practices. The funding model will be referred to Budget Committee. Funds held in the Public Art Reserve would include municipal funding approved through the budget process and other non-public contributions including donations, sponsorships, grants, and raised funds.

Funds held within the Public Art reserve would fall into three categories and be identified as follows:

- Town funding
- Funding from other sources
- Funds for maintenance of public art - 10% of each public art project to be earmarked in this reserve for future maintenance and conservation needs

In addition to the mechanisms listed above, public art would also be supported through:

- **Grants** for specific public art projects
- **Developer** direct financing of public artwork
- **Private Donations** of public artwork, or funds designated for public art projects
- **Community-Initiated** public artwork, including through grants that the municipality is not eligible for.

The proposed updates to the Public Art Policy will result in a modern and responsive policy that will provide clear guidelines for the acquisition and maintenance of public art for all stakeholders. The transfer of the funding mechanism from the policy to the budget process aligns with Town financial management practices.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report identifies a safe and welcoming community as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

In preparing this report, staff from Corporate Services were consulted.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Moya Jane Leighton, Treasurer

Samantha Howard, Director of Recreation & Cultural Services

Damian Szybalski, Commissioner of Community Services and Acting Chief
Administrative