

## **Municipality of Colchester**

### **Art Purchase Policy**

#### **Purpose:**

The Municipality of the County of Colchester has created the Arts Purchase Policy to establish and continue a collection of visual art which reflects the historic and artistic development of Colchester County and its artists.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Coordinate an annual Art Show featuring local artists to select a work of art to add to the County's collection.
2. Expand the collection by annually acquiring a local work of art (This mandate could be expanded to further include works by Nova Scotia artists as time progresses. This would show the context of the art being produced in Colchester County in relation to the Province).
3. Maintain the collection as a permanent public display as recognition of the importance of the cultural community within the County and the Province.
4. Maintain a biography binder listing the background of each artist in the collection, their photograph and a photograph of their purchased art.

#### **Structure:**

##### Selection Committee:

A Committee made up of six persons to serve a term of office for a maximum of two consecutive years. The Committee would consist of the following:

- a) A person from an established public community arts organization such as the Cobequid Arts Council or the Truro Arts Society. One of these groups could be asked to supply a committee member from their executive on an alternating basis.
- b) Two members of the County Council.
- c) A professional or recognized artist.
- d) The artist whose work was purchased the previous year (as part of the purchase arrangement).
- e) Recreation Services representative.

### Hosting Organization:

A local arts organization approached annually to work with Recreation Services in co-hosting the annual Art Show.

### Art Show:

The purpose is to give more awareness to the art and artists of Colchester County. This show would display, depending on the number of artists, a maximum of three submissions per artist for the general public and Selection Committee to view. The show and official opening would be coordinated by Recreation Services and a hosting organization familiar with the process. A reception, hosted by Recreation Services to announce the selected work of art, would be held for the artists, Selection Committee, County Councils and guest.

### **Criteria for Selection:**

When building a collection of art work in a professional manner, it is necessary to protect the integrity of the collection. This is not intended to exclude certain artists but rather to assure the public that the collection, which belongs to the community, is one of value with works chosen for their artistic merit. This will encourage participation by artists living in or from Colchester County whose reputations are of national and international acclaim. It will also give those working toward more personal artistic goals a sense of accomplishment when their work is purchased.

1. Quality art - good composition, technical competence, presentation (in terms of preservation) and relevance of the art to the style and development of the artist.
2. The historic development and lifestyle of Colchester County must be considered. It is important to stress that this is secondary; although a required criteria.
3. Medium - The collection should be balanced with a variety of media. It is not suggested that the Committee be required to rotate one year to the next. It is suggested that the Committee acquaint themselves with the collection prior to selection and leave it to their discretion.
4. Members of the Selection Committee would not be eligible to make submissions.
5. Members of Municipal Council may submit art work but will not be eligible for selection.
6. Staff of the Municipality of Colchester may submit art work and are eligible for selection providing they do not sit on the selection committee.

It is important not to make too many rules for a jury to follow. This inhibits creativity and the result could be a stifled and boring collection. If the Selection Committee has acceptable credentials they will produce acceptable results.

**Donations:**

Donations would be subject to the same criteria as regular submissions. This could easily be done by the Selection Committee when they meet each year.

**Commissions:**

The Selection Committee may consider the recommendation of commissioning a piece of work by an artist. This option could be used to fill a void in the collection, either of a specific area, a specific point of history or type of art, ie. oil, sketch, watercolour, etc.

If the Selection Committee considers this option they recommend an artist and the topic to County Council for approval, prior to committing to the commission.

**Purchase Arrangement:**

The Municipality makes available a maximum of \$2,500 to purchase the submission selected. If the collection retains a high calibre of art work, artists may choose to donate that portion of the cost of the submission which exceeds the fee paid by the County.

As part of the purchase agreement the artist would agree to serve on the Selection Committee for the following year.

**Responsibilities:**Recreation Services:

1. Contact local arts organization to act as the Hosting Organization for the annual Art Show.
2. Coordinate with the Hosting Organization the dates and location of the Art Show.
3. Confirm the members of the Selection Committee.
4. Determine the medium (media), size and subject on an annual basis which would best reflect an overall representation of the historic and artistic development of Colchester County and ensure the continuity of a collection of quality art.
5. Obtain address of local artists from local cultural organizations. Distribute letters to artists inviting them to submit a maximum of three pieces of art.
6. Place advertisement soliciting submissions in the local papers.
7. Coordinate with the Hosting Organization the final arrangements for the Art Show and reception, as well as the receiving and returning of submissions.

8. Submit the Selection Committee's recommendation to purchase to County Council for approval.
9. Invite submitting artists, County Councillors and the Selection Committee to attend the reception, at which time the submission selected will be announced.
10. Arrange for media coverage of the Art Show and Reception.
11. Order brass plate with title of art work, the artist's name and the year purchased, to be installed on the submission.
12. Document the submission selected.
13. Write an annual report on the process used to organize the current year's Art Show, including a financial statement and overall evaluation.

Selection Committee:

1. Review submissions, accompanying biography and other support material the artist might wish to submit.
2. Provide suitable recommendation for purchase, based on this material.
3. If a suitable recommendation is not possible, the Committee may look at the possibility of recommending the commissioning of a piece of work by an artist.

Hosting Organization:

1. Coordinate with Recreation Services the dates and location of the Art Show.
2. Using the above information arrange for the location, receiving, displaying and returning of art submissions and accompanying material.
3. Coordinate the reception for submitting artists, County Councillors and the Selection Committee.
4. Provide Recreation Services with any recommendations for upcoming shows.

Clerk's Annotation for Official Policy Book	
Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent to Consider (7 days minimum): <u>December 4, 2015</u>	
Date of Passage of Current Policy: <u>January 28, 2016</u>	
I certify that this Policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.	
<u>Crawford Macpherson</u>	<u>February 8, 2016</u>
Municipal Clerk	Date