

SECTION 11. CONSERVATION TREATMENT AND MAINTENANCE

11.1 Definitions

- 11.1.1 **Maintenance:** Regular routine inspection and care of artwork, such as cleaning and applying protective surface coatings. A conservator usually carries out maintenance, though a skilled City employee can be trained by a conservator to carry out routine maintenance.
- 11.1.2 **Treatment or Conservation Treatment:** Repair is done when needed to return artwork to its original condition and integrity, which may be the result of flaws, neglect, aging, damage or vandalism. A professional conservator usually carries out treatments, often in collaboration with artists or other experts.
- 11.1.3 **Condition Assessments:** Inspections of artwork include information on the present location, the current condition and the treatment or maintenance needed. Inspections may be carried out by City staff, but thorough assessments should occasionally be conducted by the Public Arts Administrator or a professional conservator.
- 11.1.4 **Artwork Definition and Scope:** A detailed definition of the scope of each artwork shall be created by the artist(s) and the Public Arts Administrator and shall be reflected in all agreements. The definition may include all parts of the artwork designed by the artist, and may include bases, lighting and landscape elements.

11.2 Objectives

- 11.2.1 To inspect the condition of City-owned public artwork on a regular basis;
- 11.2.2 To clean and provide other appropriate routine maintenance to public artwork;
- 11.2.3 To insure timely conservation of public artwork;
- 11.2.4 To integrate longevity and maintenance considerations into artist's planning, and City approval processes for artwork;
- 11.2.5 Maintain artworks so that they continue to be safe and contribute to the vitality of communities.
- 11.2.6 To establish a treatment and maintenance program for public art with regular procedures, agreements and documentation;
- 11.2.7 To educate public employees about public art and its important role in public infrastructure and planning;
- 11.2.8 To use public funds wisely by avoiding costly conservation expenses resulting from neglect; and
- 11.2.9 To leverage private and volunteer support for maintenance of public art, whenever possible.

11.3 General Policies for Conservation Treatment and Maintenance

- 11.3.1 **Purpose:** Art works shall be efficiently maintained and preserved in the best possible condition as understood by the Art in Public Places program and consistent with the artist's original intention.

11.4 Responsibility, Authority and Partners

The Minneapolis Arts Commission shall have the final authority in decisions regarding conservation of public art. The Public Art Administrator shall oversee the condition assessment, treatment, maintenance, disposition and relocation of artwork, working in collaboration with the following partners:

- 11.4.1 **Experts:** Arts professionals, professional arts conservators, city staff, and other individuals familiar with art materials, fabrication methods, and the artistic intent shall inspect and evaluate artwork.
- 11.4.2 **Artists:** Artists shall develop artwork with maintenance requirements that can be realistically maintained by the City. Artist's specifications may be taken into account in maintaining artwork along with applicable conservation standards. Artists (if possible) shall be notified of all repairs and may be involved in conducting treatments and maintenance.
- 11.4.3 **Site Owners, Site Managers and Other Partners:** The Art in Public Places program may work with the following site representatives and partners, as appropriate, to implement these policies: Department of Public Works, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), Municipal Building Commission (MBC), Minneapolis Library Board, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Hennepin County, other governmental agencies, and private businesses or landlords. Contractual agreements for treatment and maintenance shall be developed for artwork on the property of the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, other governmental agencies or private businesses. These agreements shall seek to insure the integrity of the artwork. They shall also be consistent with the policies and procedures of each partner and shall stipulate the roles of each respective party in staffing and funding treatment and maintenance for the life span of the artwork. Property owners shall be responsible for keeping the area surrounding the artwork clean and groomed. They shall also be responsible for protecting the artwork from maintenance equipment, such as mowers and plows.

11.5 Maintenance Planning and Documentation for Existing Works

- 11.5.1 **Assessing Repair and Maintenance Needs of Existing Works developed through the Art in Public Places program:** Artwork shall be inventoried and receive cursory inspections once a year during the City's year-end physical inventory process. Artwork shall receive regular, thorough, condition examinations, which include the present locations and conditions of artwork, as well as cost estimates for treatment and maintenance. These thorough examinations shall occur every 1-5 years, depending upon the needs of individual works. They shall also occur when required by reports of damage.
- 11.5.2 **Assessing Repair and Maintenance Needs of Existing Works developed through other City Departments:** This artwork shall be inventoried and receive cursory inspections once a year, during the City's year-end physical inventory process. This artwork shall also receive thorough condition examinations, which include the present locations and conditions of artwork, as well as cost estimates for treatment and maintenance, at the discretion and expense of the respective City department or agency.
- 11.5.3 **Maintenance Plans for Existing Works:** Treatment and maintenance plans for existing artwork shall be developed by the responsible department or agency as treatments and repairs are applied. A maintenance plan shall include detailed specifications for monthly maintenance, winter maintenance, maintenance of plantings (if applicable), annual routine maintenance, other periodic maintenance and a long-term prognosis. The Public Art Administrator shall periodically request a copy from these partners of these maintenance or treatment plans.

11.6 Maintenance Planning and Documentation for New Works

11.6.1 Preventative Maintenance:

- **Sustainable Artwork:** Artists shall be commissioned to develop sustainable artwork, that is artwork which can be realistically maintained by the City, using City resources and within the guidelines described in these policies and procedures. Artists shall work with The Art in Public Places program and its partners to implement preventative maintenance strategies (such as applying graffiti coatings, selecting durable materials and providing wood chip borders near mowed areas) as part of the construction and installation of artwork, as long as those strategies do not interfere with the approved artist's proposal or integrity of the artwork.
- **Design Approval and Final Receipt and Completion:** Before design approval and prior to final receipt and completion, an art conservator, or other qualified City staff, such as engineers, concrete experts, landscape architects, maintenance crews and police, shall review the proposed design for possible flaws in structural design and fabrication.

- **Inherent Flaws:** Artists shall also be responsible for the cost and execution of repairs related to any defects in workmanship or inherent flaws in artwork, which they are commissioned to fabricate. Inherent flaws may include any quality within the material or materials incorporated into the artwork which, either alone or in combination, result in the deterioration of the artwork. Artist's plans for public artwork shall be reviewed and approved by certified structural engineers. When an artist is commissioned to fabricate an artwork, this review may be at the artist's expense. (City staff shall encourage artists to contract with vendors, obtain warranties and hold manufacturers accountable for inherent flaws in their work.)

11.6.2 Maintenance Plans for New Works: All new artwork must have a treatment and maintenance plan that projects both staff time and funding needs. As part of their contractual requirements, commissioned artists shall consult with the Art in Public Places program, an art conservator (provided by the Art in Public Places program), and all other appropriate partners on a maintenance plan for each new artwork. These maintenance plans shall include documentation of materials used to fabricate the artwork and a reasonable annual budget for maintenance. Artwork that includes landscaping as an integral part shall include a maintenance plan for the landscaping elements as well. Maintenance plans for new works shall be reviewed and approved by the Public Art Steering Committees overseeing the development of artwork, to ensure there are no major concerns with materials, safety or maintenance.

11.6.3 Landscaping as Part of the Artwork and Artist's Original Design:

- Artwork with landscaping elements shall be commissioned only for sites with an irrigation source and an ongoing source of funding for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation system. Exceptions shall only be made if plantings are sustainable within the local climate without irrigation and a budget provides watering for two years or until the plantings are established.
- Artists shall create a landscaping plan for such artwork. Property owners and experienced horticulturists or landscape architects shall approve this plan. Such landscaping shall also be included in the artwork's maintenance plan and contractual agreements with property owners.
- The City's responsibility for funding maintenance of such landscaping shall be proportional to Art in Public Place's original role in funding the creation of landscaping portion of the artwork.
- Volunteer and garden club maintenance is not an acceptable solution for the life span of an artwork.

11.6.4 Landscaping Altered by Installation of Artwork: Any landscaping disturbed or altered by the installation of artwork shall be restored afterward in a manner

consistent with the design for the artwork and the site, and at the expense of the Art in Public Places program.

11.6.5 Supplemental Landscaping: Maintenance of decorative landscaping that is supplemental to the artwork and not part of the artist's original design shall not be staffed or funded by the Art in Public Places program. This may include landscaping in the area where the artwork has been installed or landscaping that has been added later. The artist and the property owner shall approve such landscaping in advance.

11.6.6 Life Span of Artwork: Condition assessments and maintenance plans for new works shall also include an estimated life span for each artwork. This life span shall be selected from one of four categories: 1) temporary-up to 5 years, 2) midspan-up to 15 years, 3) long term-up to 50 years, 4) permanent or site integrated- part of site/structure and cannot be removed.

11.7 Implementing Conservation Treatment and Maintenance

11.7.1 Roles and Responsibilities: When treatment or maintenance is approved, the Art in Public Places program, in conjunction with its partners, shall handle repairs, in consultation with a qualified art conservator. The artist shall be notified (if possible) of all repairs and may be involved in the treatment and maintenance of the work, if practical and for a reasonable fee. If an artist disagrees with the conservator's condition assessment and does not think the suggested alterations are in keeping with the integrity of the artwork, they may request changes to the repair plan in writing to the Public Art Administrator. Other independent contractors shall be involved in treatment and maintenance as needed.

11.7.2 Annual Maintenance Plan: Condition examinations and plans for artwork shall be reported to the Public Art Advisory Panel by the Public Arts Administrator, which shall meet annually to review potential treatment and maintenance projects and make recommendations for priorities. Public Art Advisory Panel recommendations shall result in an annual treatment and maintenance plan, which shall include staffing, treatments and restoration for specific artwork, ongoing routine inspection and maintenance for all artwork, and artwork to be deaccessioned.

11.7.3 Repair by Other City Departments, Site Owners and Managers: To ensure proper repair, other City departments, City agencies, other governmental partners, site owners and site managers, shall consult with the Public Arts Administrator before beginning any cleaning procedures, treatment or emergency maintenance activities conducted on artwork under the jurisdiction of City departments. The Art in Public Places program shall periodically request an update from these partners of the public artwork in

their possession. These partners shall report to the Art in Public Places program any damage, vandalism or graffiti to artwork. Except in cases of emergency, they shall not remove or relocate artwork without the consent of the Public Arts Administrator.

11.7.4 Emergency Repairs: The Public Art Administrator may approve emergency treatment or movement necessary to prevent damage to artwork, to facilitate emergency repairs of City infrastructure or to insure public safety. This includes removal of graffiti.

11.7.5 Training and Technical Assistance: Commissioned artists shall be trained in maintenance prevention strategies. The Art in Public Places program and its partners shall be responsible for communicating these Conservation Treatment and Maintenance Policies to artists, as well as any City department, City agency, or site responsible for routine maintenance of artwork or adjacent areas. A professional conservator shall train staff conducting routine maintenance of any kind on artwork. These staff may include building custodians, snowplow operators or landscaping crews. The Art in Public Places program shall develop a maintenance manual for each artwork and coordinate and fund all training for these staff. When possible, the Art in Public Places program shall also provide technical assistance to community groups, private businesses, and individual artists regarding the treatment and maintenance needs of privately owned public artwork.

11.7.6 Signage: When appropriate, artworks shall include signage with a phone number for reporting vandalism or damage.

11.8 Criteria

Criteria for determining treatment and maintenance priority shall include:

11.8.1 Stimulate Excellence in Community Design and Public Arts:

- Is the artwork engaging and high quality in concept and construction?
- Is the quality of this artwork comparable to other artwork commissioned by the City?
- Is the artwork unique, one-of-a-kind or part of a limited edition?
- Is the artist not over represented in the City's collection?
- Does the artist have a significant or engaging body of work?

11.8.2 Enhance Community Identity and Place:

- Does the artwork raise awareness of the community or setting and its characteristics, including history, identify, geography and cultures?

- Is the artwork an icon associated with the community or setting and the above characteristics?
- Is the artwork integrated into the site design?

11.8.3 Contribute to Community Vitality:

- Does the artwork draw visitors to the community?
- Has it attracted strong public attachment or support over time?
- Does the conservation effort have the potential to build capacity and cooperation between the private and public sectors, artists, arts organizations and community members?
- Is the artwork a catalyst for civic dialogue about City issues?
- Is the artwork safe or will repairing it make it safe?

11.8.4 Involve a Broad Range of People and Communities:

- Does the artwork engage a broad range of people?
- Does the current artwork and site meet ADA regulations or can it be modified to do so?
- Does the artwork celebrate one or more of the City's cultural communities?
- Does the artwork bring people together or create a gathering place?

11.8.5 Value Artists and Artistic Processes:

- Does the artist have a unique or appropriate cultural, geographic or artistic perspective?
- Is the original artistic integrity of the artwork in tact?
- Will foregoing treatment or maintenance undermine the artist's intention or reputation?
- Did someone other than a practicing artist create the artwork?

11.8.6 Use Resources Wisely:

- Does the artwork not have any of the following problems: Requiring excessive maintenance or repair, having faults of design or workmanship, or securing the artwork is impractical or unfeasible (without substantially replacing it)?
- Will immediately treating or maintaining the artwork stabilize its condition?
- Is it more practical within the overall maintenance plan to repair the artwork at this time (i.e. cost-effective to do two similar treatments at same time)?
- Can City maintenance workers be trained to maintain the artwork within standard City maintenance procedures and cycles?

- Are conservation costs less than fifty percent of the artwork's financial value?
- Will immediately addressing short-term maintenance needs prevent increased long-term treatment costs?
- Does conservation of this artwork provide an opportunity for a specific grant, private partnership or donation?

11.9 Funding for Conservation Treatment and Maintenance

- 11.9.1 **The Art in Public Places Program Budget:** The City shall establish and dedicate a percentage of the Art in Public Places program budget for funding treatment and maintenance costs for artwork generated through the program. The fund shall address increases to the City's collection of public artwork.
- 11.9.2 **Other City Departments and Agencies:** Departments or agencies housing artwork not generated through the Art in Public Places program shall be responsible for routine maintenance and treatment needs due to vandalism or deterioration. These entities shall secure funding and budget for art maintenance and the Public Arts Administrator shall periodically request information from these entities regarding their spending on art maintenance. The City shall only acquire new artwork if an annual maintenance for such artwork is budgeted and funded for the life span of the artwork. The Public Arts Administrator shall be available to assist them in the development of these budgets. These entities shall be responsible for funding repairs to any artwork damaged by their staff or equipment (i.e., mowers and plows) while working in adjacent areas.
- 11.9.3 **Gifts:** The City shall only accept artwork as gifts and loans of public art if an annual maintenance for such artwork is donated or otherwise funded for the life span of the artwork.
- 11.9.4 **Adopt a Sculpture Program:** Adopt a Sculpture program may assist the Art in Public Places program in funding conservation and maintenance, but such partnerships can only be expected to cover ten percent of treatment and maintenance costs.