

Blacktown City Council

PUBLIC ART APPROVAL PROCEDURES 2014

What is public art?

Public art is the creative work of visual artists, craftspeople, designers, makers, and performance artists which is located, or takes place in, or is visible from, public places. These works of art may be located in public places only for a short period of time, such as a weekend festival, or may be planned from the outset to be in Council's public places for many years. Public art includes an artist's conceptual contribution to the design of public spaces and facilities.

What public art requires approval?

ALL proposals for public art affecting public areas in Blacktown City require the written approval of Council. These include:

- Public art subject to a development application or developer agreement
- Public art used for anti-graffiti strategies
- All other public art proposals located in or affecting public places in Blacktown City.

What is the procedure for approval?

Proposals which are part of, or subject to, a development application or developer agreement are submitted to Council's Development Services Unit.

Proposals which are anti-graffiti strategies are submitted to Council's Co-ordinator Graffiti Removal.

All other proposals are submitted to Council's Co-ordinator Cultural Planning and Community Engagement.

What are the criteria for approving public art?

Council's policy P000513 requires that all public art proposals comply with certain criteria.

All proposals for public art must include concepts. The proposal must also demonstrate how the project meets the following criteria:

1. Have high artistic merit, originality and relevance to Blacktown City
2. Be relevant and appropriate to the proposed site
3. Comply with Council planning instruments including the Blacktown City Cultural Plan, and City Vision
4. Ensure safe access to the site
5. Have an adequate maintenance strategy and budget
6. Result in a positive impact on Blacktown City's reputation
7. Contain content which is not offensive or discriminatory.

Council commissions must be:

1. Appropriately insured and included in Council's assets management plan.
2. An appropriate response to the brief.

How does Blacktown City Council assess the proposals?

An assessment panel of Council staff will assess proposals against the criteria. The panel is made up of Arts and Cultural Development, City Projects, Sport and Recreation, Strategic and Precinct Planning, Development Policy and Regulation, Development Services and Administration, and Civic Maintenance sections. Other sections of Council may also provide input. The panel is chaired by Blacktown City's Cultural Planning and Community Engagement Coordinator.

The Cultural Planning and Community Engagement Coordinator will convene the Public Art Assessment Panel as required.

How are proposals approved?

Projects under \$50,000

1. Are assessed and approved by the assessment panel and approved by the section Director
2. Are notified to the Ward Councillors.

Projects over \$50,000

Council approves proposals after they have been:

1. Assessed and approved by the assessment panel
2. Reported to Council recommending the preferred option from the short-listed concepts.