



City of Aledo Public Art Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Public Art Policy is to establish a consistent framework for the selection, acquisition, funding, installation, display, and maintenance of public art in the City of Aledo. Public art enhances the visual environment, celebrates community identity, supports economic vitality, and contributes to a vibrant and welcoming community.

This policy is intended to support strategic partnerships between the City of Aledo, the Aledo Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), private property owners, businesses, developers, artists, and community organizations to encourage high-quality public art throughout the community.

II. Scope

This policy applies to public art projects located within the City of Aledo that involve City property, City or AEDC funding, public incentives, formal public-private partnerships, or other official City participation. Applicable projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Permanent public art installations
- Murals and artistic enhancements incorporated into private development
- Art acquired through donations or partnerships
- Public art incorporated into City facilities, parks, streetscapes, or infrastructure projects
- Temporary displays at City facilities or community spaces when appropriate

This policy is not intended to regulate privately owned artwork that does not involve City funding, incentives, formal partnerships, or approvals beyond standard permitting requirements.

III. Objectives

This policy is intended to:

- Enhance the visual character and identity of Aledo
- Support economic development, downtown revitalization, and placemaking efforts
- Encourage high-quality artistic expression throughout the community
- Create unique and memorable public spaces and destinations

- Encourage partnerships with local businesses, property owners, and developers
- Support local and regional artists when feasible
- Incorporate public art into future City projects and redevelopment opportunities
- Promote community pride and cultural enrichment

IV. Definitions

1. **Public Art:** Original works of art created by artists and intended for public display in locations that are accessible or clearly visible to the public. Public art may include murals, sculptures, monuments, integrated architectural art, artistic lighting, gateway features, installations, and other creative expressions.
2. **Artist:** An individual or team that creates visual, sculptural, or performing art. This may include professional artists, emerging artists, or student artists selected based on artistic merit and project appropriateness.
3. **Permanent Art:** Art intended to remain in place indefinitely, typically for a period exceeding five years.
4. **Temporary Art:** Art installed or displayed for a limited duration.
5. **Public-Private Partnership:** A collaboration between the City, AEDC, private property owners, businesses, developers, nonprofit organizations, or other entities to fund, install, maintain, or promote public art projects.

V. Administration and Oversight

The City Manager or designee will oversee administration of the Public Art Program.

City staff will review all applications and proposals for completeness, feasibility, compliance with City standards, and alignment with the goals of the Public Art Program. Staff will make recommendations to the AEDC and City Council as applicable.

The AEDC may review proposed projects involving economic development incentives, matching funds, downtown beautification efforts, or other projects that support community revitalization and placemaking initiatives.

Final approval authority for public art projects and associated funding shall rest with the City Council unless otherwise delegated by City policy or agreement.

VI. Approval Process

A. Permanent Public Art Installations

Applicants seeking approval for permanent public art installations shall submit:

- A completed application or proposal
- Artwork concept and description
- Proposed location and site plan
- Artist qualifications and portfolio
- Proposed project budget and funding sources
- Installation details and timeline
- Maintenance plan

City staff will review proposals and provide recommendations to the AEDC and/or City Council. Projects involving City participation, City property, public incentives, or public funding may require review by the AEDC prior to City Council consideration.

Approved artists, property owners, or sponsoring organizations may be required to enter into a written agreement with the City outlining project scope, installation requirements, maintenance obligations, insurance requirements, ownership, and related responsibilities.

B. City-Initiated Projects and Calls to Artists

For City-initiated public art projects, the City or AEDC may issue a Call to Artists, Request for Qualifications (RFQ), or Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit interest from qualified artists.

The City may pursue direct partnerships for certain projects when determined to be in the best interest of the community.

Submissions will be reviewed by City staff, with recommendations forwarded to the AEDC and/or City Council as appropriate. Final artist selection and project approval shall be made by the City Council.

C. Temporary Displays

Temporary displays may be permitted at City facilities or community spaces when appropriate and compatible with the intended use of the facility.

Temporary displays may require:

- A description of the proposed display
- Installation and removal timeline
- Insurance documentation if applicable
- A temporary display agreement

Final approval for temporary displays may be granted by the City Manager or designee.

VII. Community Engagement

Public engagement may be incorporated into major public art projects when appropriate. Community engagement efforts may include:

- Public meetings or open houses
- Online feedback opportunities
- Community surveys
- Engagement at community events

Public input may be considered in evaluating themes, locations, and overall project compatibility while final decisions remain with the City Council.

VIII. Selection Criteria

Public art proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Artistic quality and originality
- Compatibility with surrounding architecture, character, and environment
- Visibility and contribution to the public realm
- Community relevance and placemaking value
- Durability and maintenance requirements
- Public safety and accessibility
- Feasibility of installation and long-term upkeep
- Consistency with applicable City regulations and development standards
- Economic development or downtown revitalization benefit when applicable

IX. Installation and Maintenance

All public art installations must comply with applicable building, engineering, safety, and operational standards.

Maintenance responsibilities shall be clearly identified as part of the project approval process.

Artists, property owners, or sponsoring organizations may be required to provide a maintenance plan outlining:

- Recommended maintenance procedures
- Materials and finishes
- Expected lifespan
- Repair and restoration requirements

Property owners shall be responsible for maintaining privately owned public art installations unless otherwise specified in an agreement with the City.

The City reserves the right to require repair, restoration, relocation, or removal of artwork that becomes unsafe, significantly deteriorated, abandoned, or inconsistent with City standards.

X. Funding and Partnerships

Funding for public art projects may include:

- AEDC funding or incentive programs
- City funding
- Grants
- Donations
- Sponsorships
- Private investment
- Public-private partnerships

The City and AEDC may establish matching fund opportunities or incentive programs to encourage public art installations that enhance economic development, downtown revitalization, gateways, corridors, or public gathering spaces.

When feasible, public art opportunities may be considered during the planning and design of major capital improvement projects, streetscape improvements, parks, public facilities, gateways, and infrastructure projects.

Recognition signage for donors, sponsors, or project partners may be permitted in accordance with City standards.

XI. Public Art on Private Property

The City encourages partnerships with private property owners, businesses, and developers to incorporate high-quality public art into projects that are visible and accessible to the public.

Examples may include:

- Downtown murals
- Sculptures or artistic installations
- Artistic gateway or entry features
- Integrated architectural art elements
- Public gathering space enhancements

Key guidelines for public-private art partnerships include:

Eligibility

Artwork must be created by a qualified artist and intended for long-term public display.

Visibility

Artwork should be located in highly visible areas that contribute positively to the public realm.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Artwork concept and renderings
- Artist qualifications
- Site plan and installation details
- Proposed maintenance plan
- Funding information if requesting City or AEDC participation

Review and Approval

City staff will review proposals and provide recommendations to the AEDC and City Council as applicable. Projects requesting public funding, incentives, or City participation may require AEDC review and City Council approval.

Maintenance Responsibilities

Property owners shall be responsible for maintaining artwork in good condition unless otherwise specified through agreement.

Ownership

Unless otherwise agreed, artwork located on private property shall remain under private ownership.

XII. Removal or Deaccession

Public art may be removed, relocated, or deaccessioned due to:

- Safety concerns
- Significant deterioration
- Redevelopment or infrastructure improvements
- Repeated vandalism
- Failure to maintain the artwork
- Other conditions determined to be in the best interest of the City

City staff will review removal recommendations and provide recommendations to the AEDC and City Council as applicable.

Final approval for removal or deaccession of publicly funded artwork shall rest with the City Council.

XIII. Policy Revisions

The City Manager or designee shall oversee implementation of this policy.

Any revisions to this policy must be approved by the Aledo City Council.

This policy may be periodically reviewed to ensure it remains consistent with community goals, economic development priorities, and future growth opportunities within the City of Aledo.