

# PUBLIC ART

## INFORMATION SHEET 1



### WHAT IS PUBLIC ART?

Public art is created by a professional practising artist intended to be located in and/or clearly seen from the public realm. Contemporary works of public art take a variety of forms including long lasting sculptures and monuments as well as works that have a temporary or ephemeral presence.

#### ENDURING PUBLIC ART

Most works of contemporary public art have a limited lifespan due to a range of factors including the diversity of innovative and experimental materials artists use, harsh environmental conditions, and also the continual development of urban spaces transforming sites where public art is located. For this reason most new enduring works of public art are commissioned on the understanding that they will have a useful life of 15 to 25 years.



#### Example

*Magic Tree*, by Coral Lowry, 2006. Mild steel, galvanised and treated with a sandblast resist technique, Windsor Park, South Perth. City of South Perth Art Collection.

Resourced through City funds with a contribution from South Perth Community Hospital.

Resulting from one of the City's earliest public art initiatives, *Magic Tree* was commissioned from Coral Lowry in association with a City project to upgrade historic Windsor Park. The 5m tall free standing sculpture was designed to act as a landmark along a new "Zoo Walk" through Windsor Park, and to playfully engage viewers of all ages. The sculpture features forms that echo both plants and animals, with leaves that might also be eyes, and branches that may be trunks or tails.

## INTEGRATED PUBLIC ART

Works of integrated public art are integral to the function and fabric of a building or urban environment, incorporated in such a way that the artwork is not a stand-alone element. Examples include artworks that also perform practical functions such as seating, screening, shelter and artworks that are physically incorporated into structural elements of a project such as brickwork and concrete formwork.



### Example

*Imprint*, by Milne and Stonehouse, 2016. Printed and laminated glass, Manning Community Centre, Manning. City of South Perth Public Art Collection.

Allocation for public art for Manning Community Centre development in alignment with Policy P101 – Public Art.

This integrated work was commissioned from New South Wales based artists Susan Milne and Greg Stonehouse for the City's new library and community facility at Manning Hub. The glass canopy provides shelter over the central open area of the hub, whilst interpreting the site and offering a unique aesthetic experience to all who visit. Using imagery drawn from topographical maps, the work references watery reflection and immersion, with light and colour effects both above and below the viewer.

## DEVELOPER PUBLIC ART

To facilitate development of public art as a means of celebrating the identity and history of the community, enhancing the environment and contributing to a sense of place, developers of projects with a value of \$4 million or greater are required to contribute towards public art within the City.



### Example

*Dappled Light*, Anne Neil, 2017. Perforated and powder coated and finished aluminium, Pinnacle apartment building, 30 Charles Street, South Perth. Privately owned public art.

Artwork commissioned by the private developer in line with of the City's planning condition under Policy P316 – Developer Contributions to Public Art and Public Art Spaces.

For this development project, artist Anne Neil created both integrated and sculptural works. These include a perforated screen that stretches the height of the building enhancing the public facade, a back lit artwork for the foyer which is visible from the street, and three sculptural pieces on Charles Street that double as public seating. The artworks were inspired by the leafy streets of South Perth and the green canopy of Perth Zoo's gardens across the road.

## TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

Works of temporary public art are intended to occupy a place and/or have a presence in the public realm for a finite period of time, usually between one week and three months.



### Example

*Tree of Light*, Lewis Horne, 2018. Recycled HDPE plastic, steel and LED lights, Windsor Park, South Perth. Temporary artwork on display from 1 February - 25 May 2018.

Artwork commissioned by the City from its annual operating budget for the A-Reserve program.

This temporary sculpture was created by artist Lewis Horne to complement and contrast with its surroundings at Windsor Park using recycled milk bottles to create an elegant form that draws attention to the relationship between the natural environment and man-made world. The City's A-Reserve program offers unique opportunities to artists interested in creating work for the public realm, and delivers artistic and cultural experiences in parks and reserves across all City suburbs.

## EPHEMERAL PUBLIC ART

Works of ephemeral public art are distinctive due to their fleeting and immaterial presence on site, perhaps only for a single day or a matter of hours – for example, a light projection or a performance. Other ephemeral works may have a more substantial material presence on site but may incorporate their own changing state as part of the artwork – for example, a sand drawing on the beach or an ice sculpture.



### Example

*Mapping the Terrain*, Claire Davenhall and Sheryl Chant, 2019. Bamboo stakes and local clay, Andrew Thomson Reserve, Waterford. Ephemeral artwork on site from 1 - 15 December 2019.

Artwork commissioned by the City from its annual operating budget for the A-Reserve temporary and ephemeral public art program.

Artists Claire Davenhall and Sheryl Chant worked with the Salter Point Sea Scouts to create this ephemeral artwork over four days for the City's A-Reserve program. Learning about the history of the site that inspired the artwork, working with the artists to create the artwork from simple materials, and watching as it changed during its time on site gave the scouts and local community a unique artistic cultural experience in their neighbourhood.

## MURALS AND STREET ART

Though they can last a number of years on site, most murals are considered to be temporary artworks by the City because they are often commissioned by agreement on privately owned walls and are not City assets.

A mural is a work of art that is applied, usually painted, directly onto a wall. Street art or urban art, is a type of artwork, often a painted mural that has been applied directly onto a surface such as walls, vehicles, signs and other property in the public realm and is in some way connected with street/urban subculture.

Graffiti is a term usually reserved for illegal and criminal acts of vandalism as distinct from those works that are recognised as legitimate street art.



### Example – enduring mural

*Rediscover, Remember, Connect*, Simon Degroot, 2017. Exterior mural, Collins Street Centre, South Perth. City of South Perth Public Art Collection.

Artwork commissioned by the City as part of a project to rejuvenate and enhance the Collins Street Centre.

Queensland-based artist Simon Degroot engaged with the local community to develop designs and create a large scale mural to enliven the façade of the busy Collins Street Centre. The design was developed using shapes created during a hands-on workshop at the Centre, and the community voted on the final colour palette for the design which responds to the local surroundings.

### Example – temporary mural

*Mends Street Murals*, Joanna Brown, 2019. Exterior mural, BP Mends Street and 16-20 Mends Street, South Perth.

Artwork commissioned by the City from a budget allocation for enhancements and activations in Mends Street for phase one of the Connect South project.

These murals were commissioned and delivered through a successful collaboration between the City and a community working group with the support of local property owners. Artist Joanna Brown painted colourful and captivating murals that respond to the City's many public green spaces and private gardens, and they have improved the appearance and created interest along Mends Street.

## ABORIGINAL PUBLIC ART

All public art by Aboriginal artists and artworks seeking to tell Aboriginal stories or include Aboriginal imagery are reviewed and endorsed by the City's Aboriginal Reference Group to ensure that they are culturally appropriate and give our Aboriginal community a strong voice and presence in our City.



### Example

*Karl Kep Ngoornd-iny* (Fire and Water Dreaming), by Yondee Shane Hansen with Art+ (Art Coordination), 2019. Light projection and digital audio, Mindeerup, South Perth. City of South Perth public art collection.

Allocation for public art for Connect South development in alignment with Policy P101 – Public Art.

The City commissioned this artwork from Whadjuk Noongar artist Yondee Shane Hansen and Art+, who have used light projection and digital audio to tell an ancient story about the Noongar seasons and the cycle of life on Country for traditional owners.

## COMMUNITY INITIATED ARTWORK

The City encourages creative projects that are initiated and delivered by the community. Because community initiated works of public art are features of the public realm to be experienced by all, they must be approved by the City of South Perth, even where they are to be located on private property and privately funded and organised. These projects can happen and evolve in a number of different ways, and the City is happy to work with community, as appropriate, to facilitate good outcomes.



### Example

*Hazel, Mosaics @ the Cowshed, 2018.* Mosaic on fibreglass, Hazel McDougall House, Como.

Resourcing – artworks initiated, funded and created by community, with permissions and in-kind support provided by the City of South Perth.

*Hazel* was created by the Mosaics @ the Cowshed group as a playful celebration of the history of the site where this community group meet, and was installed by agreement and with the assistance of the City.

### Example

*Joy Stop, Lynda Pye and Como Children, 2019.* Exterior mural on bus-stop, near 198 Labouchere Road, Como.

*Joy Stop* was an initiative of Como Children early childhood care and education centre who wished to showcase and celebrate the creativity of children in the public realm. Artist Lynda Pye was commissioned by the centre to work with the children and execute the mural, with the permissions and in-kind support from the City.