



Art In Public Policy

Developed by the Department of Art & Cultural Affairs and the Kingston Arts Commission

Our Mission

The City of Kingston is excited to support artists living and working in our community. Publicly displayed works of art provides our City with the chance to become the stage for dynamic cultural projects. The “Art in Public” policy will allow our City to say yes to more art projects, and streamline the communications between artists and our local government.

Art in Public: What We Hope To Achieve

- Assist applicants in learning about the City Code & existing regulations.
- Establish a permit system.
- Protect artists and their work from alteration or destruction.
- Encourage a transparent and positive relationship between local government and artists.
- Create space for more community input on public projects.

Other Municipalities

New Paltz offers a special permit for installations of “bulletin boards, informational kiosks and murals.” Permits are granted by the Planning Board, with assistance from the Building Inspector. An application is required, and can be denied based on content concerns. New Paltz has no considerations for sculptures, or other works/mediums of public art.

(New Paltz Town Code; 140-101)

Beacon developed a Public Art policy, which was adopted in 2011. The Public Art Committee was established to oversee & advise viability public art applications, which are approved by the appropriate City department. Determinations are made based solely on location.

(City of Beacon Code: 169-7)

Rosendale offers a special use permit, granted by the Planning Board. The special use permit applies to a variety of projects, and is not classified as a public art policy.

(Rosendale Town Code; 75-28)

Albany uses the Commission on the Arts, a panel of 12-15 community members, to provide guidance to the Department of Planning and Development with regard to public art installations.

(City of Albany Code: 42-303)

Government Representation for Artists

The Department of Art & Cultural Affairs

The Department of Art & Cultural Affairs was established in 2018 by Mayor Steven T. Noble, with assistance from the Kingston Arts Commission. It is led by one, part-time Director.

The Kingston Arts Commission

The Kingston Arts Commission is an advisory panel made up of 9 representatives from the arts community.

Public Art Panel

The Public Art Panel is a judiciary panel made up of 5 members of the community.

The Art in Public Panel

A critical part of our policy is the creation of the **Art in Public**. The Art in Public Panel would be a judiciary panel, made up of 5 Kingston residents or business owners, and facilitated by the Department of Art & Cultural Affairs. Their responsibilities would be to:

- Approve or deny applications for publicly displayed art projects
- Oversee proposals for permanent public art proposals in the City.
- Suggest strategies for funding and maintenance of publicly displayed artwork.
- Assist in acquisitions for the City of Kingston's art collection.
- Research funding sources for public art projects.

Procedure

- Organization or individual creates proposal for project.
- Representative downloads or comes to City Hall to fill out the “Art in Public” Application.
- Application is reviewed at the next Art in Public Panel meeting.
 - Panel must come to a decision within 30 days of submission.
- Pending approval, on-site work begins.
- If the application is denied, applicants are allowed to appeal the decision.
 - Applicants may meet with Director of Art & Cultural Affairs or Arts Commission to discuss potential revisions.
- Appeal is reviewed, and a final decision is reached.

Art in Public Application

The Art in Public application has 6 requirements:

- Completed “Art in Public Installation Permit” application form, including signature and contact information of property owner and participating, or lead artist(s), along with the address of the proposed location.
- A rendering of the proposed artwork’s dimensions on the building, property, or structure in question, along with a photo of the intended location.
- \$25.00 Application Fee.
- If the intended location for the artwork is located in a Historic District, documentation or proof of approval from the appropriate regulatory commission.
- If the artwork in question requires excavation or digging, proof of site approval from Dig Safe New York.
- List of proposed materials.

Historic Preservation

Preserving the Past, While Encouraging Growth

One of Kingston's most treasured assets are the beautiful historic districts. The City of Kingston believes that artists and preservation specialists can work together to create new and exciting works of art in our historic districts, without jeopardizing the character of structures and spaces within them.

The Art in Public policy will reinforce existing regulations regarding historic districts, without placing an outright ban on artistic amendments. Artists will be encouraged to work with Kingston's historic preservation commissions.

The Visual Artist Rights Act (VARA)

- The Art in Public policy adheres to the standards set forth by the Visual Artists Right Act, adopted by Congress in 1990.
- The Visual Artist Rights Act protects works of visual art from destruction or alteration without proper notification & consent of artist(s).
- The Visual Artist Rights Act allows for the waiving of rights by the artist.