

Policy

Tweed Regional Gallery Collection Accession and De-Accession Policy Version 1.1

Adopted by Council at its meeting on Thursday 15 September 2022

Minute No: 17.1

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| Division: | Sustainable Communities & Environment |
| Section: | Tweed Holiday Parks and Cultural Facilities |
| File Reference: | Council Policies/Procedures/Protocols |
| Historical Reference: | See Version Control |

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Tweed Regional Gallery Collection Accession and De-Accession Policy

Policy Objective

To develop and preserve a collection for the Tweed Regional Gallery (the Gallery) of national and regional significance.

The Tweed Regional Gallery Accession and De-Accession Policy aims to promote a greater understanding and enjoyment of the Visual Arts through the acquisition, preservation, display and conservation of the region's visual arts heritage.

The Tweed Regional Gallery Collection will focus on four areas:

- Australian portraits of all eras in any media and seek to reflect the diversity of the Australian community;
- The Tweed region; artworks of regional relevance (being Northern Rivers of New South Wales and South Eastern Queensland) in any media;
- Australian Artist' Prints; and
- Artworks by Margaret Olley and artworks, objects and material associated with Margaret Olley, including artwork by relevant contemporaries, in any media.

A possible exception to the above criteria would be where a single work or group of works are offered that are of sufficient quality, excellence, national relevance and interest to merit inclusion in the Tweed Regional Gallery Collection.

Definitions

Not applicable.

Policy Background

This Policy has been renamed from the previous Art Gallery Collection and De-Accession Protocol, last amended on 30 July 2014.

Policy

Accession Protocol

The Gallery will acquire significant objects through donation, bequest, purchase or transfer. Where works of art are acquired through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, the responsibility for the cost of the valuations, where possible, will rest with the donor.

All artworks will be chosen or nominated, and ratified for acquisition to the Tweed Regional Gallery Advisory Committee by the Gallery Director.

Indigenous Artworks

In the case of Indigenous art, only culturally appropriate artworks will be acquired. The Gallery will not acquire artworks that are deemed to be sacred/secret. The Gallery Director will approach the appropriate and relevant Indigenous authorities for verification and endorsement of such artworks. Where an artwork is deemed to be inappropriate, the artwork will be returned to the vendor/donor. If this is not possible the artwork will be returned to an appropriate Indigenous group for disposal.

Copyright

The Gallery recognises artists' copyright and moral rights over artworks. Wherever appropriate the Gallery will request, in writing, for limited and specific non-commercial rights to reproduce the work/s for promotional or documentation purposes.

De-accessioning

There are legitimate and compelling reasons why artworks should or should not be included in a collection. De-accessioning artworks should be a rigorous and formal procedure to facilitate the disposal of artworks that are no longer seen as significant or relevant to the Tweed Regional Gallery Collection Accession and De-accession Policy.

De-accession Criteria

The assessment criteria for de-accessioning are:

- Little or no relevance to the Collection Policy and Acquisition Criteria
- Little or no significance
- Poor condition and/or lack of provenance or documentation
- Duplication in the Gallery collection or other relevant collection
- Inability to safely store and manage the Artwork
- Request from the art or donor to return the work to their own collection or to another collection for relevant an significant reasons, where the artwork meets one of the above criteria

In exceptional circumstances, artworks may be deaccessioned where the Artwork is of particular indigenous significance and its return to the community will support the maintenance and renewal of cultural traditions.

De-accession Procedures

The Gallery Director will determine whether an artwork currently held shall be considered for de-accessioning. An accessioned Artwork must meet one or more of the De-accession Criteria above to be selected for de-accessioning.

Artworks acquired through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program should not be returned to the donor, as the donor has previously received the benefit of a tax deduction for the gift. It is preferred that gifts donated through the Cultural Gifts Program should not be considered for de-accession unless there is a significant change in Collection Policy.

A report outlining the reason/s for de-accessioning will be prepared by the Gallery Director and presented to the Art Gallery Advisory Committee.

The Art Gallery Advisory Committee will formally endorse/not endorse the de-accessioning, on the recommendation of the Gallery Director.

Following the initial decision to de-accession a work there will be a 90 day “cooling off” period.

If de-accessioned Artworks are sold, the proceeds go into the Gallery’s Donations Fund.

The accession number of the de-accessioned Artwork will not be reused.

Disposal Procedures

The following options will be considered, in order of preference and importance, for the disposal of a work of art from the Gallery Collection:

1. Return to the donor or donor’s closest family.
2. Transfer to another gallery collection or appropriate institution
3. Sell/Auction
4. Dispose or recycle components if the Artwork is deemed to be of little value or no purchaser can be found

All disposals will be executed in accordance with *Tweed Shire Council Disposal of Assets Policy*.

No Gallery or Council staff, Committee members or Volunteers may benefit or in any way acquire Artworks that have been de-accessioned unless these persons are the artist, original donor or donor’s family (as referred to in Point 1 above).

Related Legislation

Code of Ethics for Museums, International Council of Museums, 2002

Moveable Heritage Principles, New South Wales Heritage Office & NSW Ministry for the Arts, 2002

Compliance

Not applicable.

Forms

Not applicable.

Review Period

The Tweed Regional Gallery will conduct a review of the Policy every three years to maintain its relevance. The review will be presented to the Tweed Regional Gallery Advisory Committee for consideration and comment.

Useful Links

[Tweed Shire Council website](#)

Version Control:

| Version History | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Version # | Summary of changes made | Date changes made |
| 1.0 | <i>Adoption of Art Gallery Collection Accession and De-Accession Protocol</i> | <i>Adopted by EMT 08.09.2010</i> |
| 1.1 | <i>Minor change to reflect addition of artworks and artefacts associated with artist Margaret Olley, following opening of the Margaret Olley Art Centre</i> | <i>Adopted by EMT 30.07.2014</i> |
| 1.1 | <i>Formerly Art Gallery Collection Accession and De-Accession Protocol Version 1.1 ECM 2374604</i> | |
| 1.0 | <i>Amended Policy and renamed</i> | <i>Adopted by Council 20.09.2018</i> |
| | <i>Minor changes to align the policy with industry standards including with Tweed Regional Museum for consistency across council – de-accession criteria, procedures and cooling off period updated.</i> | <i>21.04.2022</i> |
| 1.1 | <i>Amended Policy and renamed</i> | <i>Adopted by Council 15.09.2022</i> |
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