

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

HSU Campus Guidelines for Implementation of EO 276 (1977): Policy and Procedure for the Acceptance and Installation of Exterior Artwork on The California State University and Colleges Campuses

Overview

Detailed below is an interpretation of EO 276 specific to the circumstances of Humboldt State University. Public artworks on University campuses are a storied and engaging means of allowing the surfaces of our architectural structures to reflect and celebrate the aesthetic and cultural values of the University. The development and installation of these works should thus be subject to careful consideration in order to ensure that installed artworks are chosen and adopted with an eye towards realizing those shared aesthetic and cultural values, through consultation between the artist, the stewards of facilities and spaces, the current stakeholder occupants of the structure in question, and the larger campus community. To ensure such, the University has composed and adopted a *Campus Implementation Plan for EO 276 (1977) Policy and Procedure for the Acceptance and Installation of Exterior Artwork on The California State University and Colleges Campuses*, aimed at codifying a process that might allow for and direct the development of public artworks on campus.

It is acknowledged that this is only an interpretation for implementation of an existing Executive Order, and does not supersede that order, but rather details our Campus' guidelines for how that order should be enacted. It should not be construed as a policy in and of itself. This implementation plan does not apply to on-campus museums and galleries, displayed materials of the University's permanent collection, materials pertinent to campus marketing and communication initiatives, or overtly curricular presentations or displays (including, but not limited to: research posters, tables and diagrams, wildlife specimens, examples of classwork). The implementation plan only pertains to works interred in shared public spaces (including but not limited to: hallways, "all school" rooms, exterior spaces), and does not direct action in department controlled spaces. The text in italics hereafter are the unedited Policies and Procedures outlined in the Executive Order, and the narrative that follows each are our understandings of the same.

Policy

1. *Artwork shall be architecturally or artistically significant to overall campus design.*

There is an intentional architectural design to Humboldt State University's campus, and proposed public artworks that are considered for installation on campus should be reviewed in relation to this design prior to their installation. The proposed work should be deemed by the committee to not be jarringly antithetical to the aesthetic of the overall composition of the campus design.

2. Artwork shall be compatible with the approved campus physical master plan as to scale, size, and location.

The physical design of the University is realized over extended periods of time, and thus the artworks exhibited as part of that design should be subject to ongoing consideration in relation to the changing landscape of the institution. Installed artworks should be subject to either: (a) a "10-year Institutional Review" option, through which the campus community is expected to review and then retain or remove/replace artworks after a 10-year period, or (b) a "Living Wall" option, through which artworks are subject to a shorter review period designated by the USFAC.

Authorship, provenance, and terms of installation should be established and retained in order to ensure adherence to either of these options. In order to do so, Facilities Management will: (a) catalog existing public artworks (including their locations, dimensions, and the agreements made with their respective authors), and (b) to identify and designate reasonable locations for the installation of public artworks. Alternate locations for the installation of new public artworks can be considered as they arise, but would be subject to review and approval by the USFAC. Timelines detailing the date of the installation of campus artworks, including the agreed upon review period and terms of the installation, should be reviewed annually in order to assure adherence to these agreements.

3. Subject matter or theme of such artwork shall be directed to achieving long-term public acceptance as an appropriate artistic expression.

Review of subject matter and theme should be required prior to the acceptance of the artwork for installation, and conducted as one part of the above-mentioned working group's charge. It is acknowledged that public perception of both content and form can change with time, and if a piece is determined to be offensive or otherwise objectionable after the installation of the work and before the agreed upon review period, the artwork may be removed or replaced under direction of the Office of the President. This point should be made clear to the author of the work in the drafted agreement for the installation of the work.

4. Materials of such artworks shall be compatible with that used on the campus.

Facilities Management will retain the authority to review and approve materials used for the creation and installation of artworks (including but not limited to types of paint, sealant, paneling or canvas) in order to ensure high quality and safe materials are used.

All artworks should be designed such that they may be temporarily removed in order to allow for maintenance and repair work. If the author of the work determines that for whatever reason this is not possible, the author must be made aware that the piece is subject to damage or destruction in the event of required maintenance and repair work in the vicinity of the installation.

5. The highest quality of workmanship and care shall be used in the production and placement of such artworks.

All artworks will be subject to formative assessment or presentations of work-in-progress to throughout the creation and installation of the work, at the direction of the Public Art Working Group, in order to ensure commensurability of the proposed design of the work in relation to the completed piece/s.

6. Artwork shall be structurally sound.

Representatives of Facilities Management should consult with the artist/s prior to installation in order to ensure that the proposed work meets all relevant health and safety codes, and to determine whether the proposed structure is likely to degrade during the agreed upon time period.

Procedure

1. Design of the artwork in final form shall be submitted to a committee designated by the President for consideration of art form, materials, location, quality of workmanship, and costs involved. The committee shall include the campus consulting architect and the campus consulting landscape architect.

Public artwork may either be proposed by an artist, or solicited through commission or open call proposed by either the occupant/stakeholder of a given architectural structure or a relevant administrator. In the event that the artist making a proposal is an HSU student, a voluntary faculty sponsor must co-author and submit the proposal.

Review of the proposed artwork should be conducted by a “Public Art Working Group,” comprised of select USFAC members and outside advisors that must include students, staff, faculty (with subject matter experts ((such as representatives of the Art Department)) prioritized), and stakeholder/occupants of the structure under consideration. The campus consulting architect and the campus consulting landscape architect will consult with and advise this group. This working group should be created as needed for each submitted proposal, with the intention of including immediately relevant input, and should not be a standing group. It is important that one, continuous working group not be perceived as the arbiters of artistic quality or taste on campus.

Artists will be asked to provide a sketch concept of the content of the proposed work of public art and a brief narrative explaining its desired interpretive intent. Artists will further be directed to include both a photo and map location of where the public artwork is proposed to be installed and approximate size of the finished work. The artwork proposal should include a detailed description of what media will be used to create the piece and the manner through which it will be installed. All of these elements should be included in one missive (e-mail preferred at the date of this writing). The Public Art Working Group will then provide feedback to the author and USFAC regarding subject matter, materials, workmanship, and structural soundness of the proposal.

2. The artwork, after consideration by the above committee, shall be presented to the campus planning committee for consideration.

Following the completion and submission of the Public Art Working Group's recommendations to the USFAC, the USFAC will approve or deny the installation of the proposed artwork. In the event that the USFAC accepts the work, they will then revise and amend the Public Art Working Group's feedback or accept it as written. The USFAC will also render an estimate of potential maintenance costs and logistics related to the work, which will then be attached to the proposal which will be sent to the University President, or their designee, for final approval.

3. The artwork, after consideration by the Campus Planning Committee, shall be submitted to the University President for final approval. Submittal shall include either photographs, a rendering or model of the artwork, plus a statement when available by the artist as to [their] intent in creating the artwork.

The University President, or their designee, will receive a report that includes: (a) a sketch concept of the content of the proposed work of public art and a brief narrative explaining its desired interpretive intent composed by the author (b) both a photo and map location of where the public artwork is proposed to be installed, including approximate size of the finished work, (c) the Public Art Working Group's feedback on the proposal regarding subject matter, materials, workmanship, and structural soundness, complete with amendments offered by the USFAC (if applicable), and (d) an estimate of potential maintenance costs and logistics related to the work. The University President, or their designee, will render final approval or denial of the work prior to installation.

(Voted in by University Space & Facilities Advisory Committee on 1/24/20)