

## **PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES**

The Public Art Program operates consistently with the University's posture as a public leadership institution, identifying works of public art as operating equivalently to projects of research and publication in a variety of academic disciplines. As such, the Program seeks to give visual and physical form to core values of the University, such as freedom of speech and expression alongside respect for diverse viewers and users and the creation of a stimulating yet safe environment.

The Public Art Program, distinct from arts activities that operate in a variety of University facilities, recognizes and makes use of the particular characteristics of public environments in which large numbers of users come together for a wide range of purposes. Accordingly, the Program seeks to balance issues of originality and intellectual and visual provocation with a respect for the diverse activities that take place in the public domain.

The Public Art Program reflects the history of the University of Michigan, including the evolution of taste, values, and formal expressions in the sphere of public art, while also reflecting the University's evolving priorities as a global leader in higher education. The Program particularly fosters new works of public art reflective of the University's engagement in the world, both culturally and geographically (including essential international initiatives) and intellectually (including new disciplinary strengths and investigations).

The Public Art Program at the University of Michigan strives to position works of public art of the highest caliber in settings appropriate to the scale, purposes, aesthetics, and materials of individual works. The Program helps to assure that all works of public art placed on the University of Michigan campus reflect the University's commitment to excellence, while also assuring the appropriate long- or short-term care for these works. Thus, stewardship for the existing collection of public art and for all works entering the University's collection in the future is an integral part of the Program, as is caring for the value of the public art collection as a collection.

Acting as a central review mechanism for works of art proposed for placement on the University campus, the Public Art Program strives to foster the enrichment of the University's visual environment, helping to assure that only works of public art of an appropriately high standard become part of the Program whether permanently or temporarily. Accordingly, the Program strives to operate on a timely and responsive basis relative to University units, donors, and others. Further, the Program strives to foster productive relationships with the diverse stakeholders in public art, including both University units and community constituents, including organizations and individuals. In particular, the Program strives to stimulate a dynamic public art presence not only on the University campus itself but also in the

city of Ann Arbor, paying particular attention to areas of intersection where the City and the University come together.

### *Criteria*

The Public Art Program applies a consistent set of criteria in evaluating works of public art—whether sited permanently or temporarily—that are offered to the University, as well as works that the University or its units proactively seek to add to the public environment. Essential to these criteria are the following:

- The aesthetic significance of an individual work of public art
- The significance of the artist or artists
- The relative uniqueness of the work of art, including factors of originality and authenticity
- The ethical position occupied by the work of art, including consideration of provenance
- The contribution an individual work of art can be expected to make to the University's educational mission, as well as to the existing collection of public art
- Appropriateness to site, including (for outdoor sites) appropriateness to the site's adjacent architecture, hardscaping, and landscaping
- The appropriate use of public resources, including funding, staffing, etc.
- The University's ability to assure the proper long-term care of the individual work of public art, including security, conservation, and maintenance
- The safety of the work of public art, as well as the safety of users interacting with it
- Where works of art come as donations, the University's ability to manage effectively the long-term stewardship of donor relationships