

DRAFT

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL ACQUISITION, LOAN AND DISPOSAL POLICY

This policy considers the role and management of Darlington Borough Art Collection and illustrates the Council's commitment to developing and maintaining a collection of high quality artworks for exhibition and public display. It outlines clear guidance on the acquisition, loan and disposal of artworks and seeks to establish good practice for the development of the collection, which will be delivered through a coordinated and consistent approach with consultation and guidance from the Borough Collection Steering Group. This policy will link to the development of the visual arts in Darlington and the Public Art Policy 2009/2010.

The History of the Borough Collection

Darlington Borough Council owns a collection of artworks consisting mainly of paintings but also including textiles, sculpture and ceramics. These artworks have varying themes and may be by a named artist, amateur artists, local artists, and may have local reference, for example, depicting a local scene. Some artworks have been donated or received by bequest and others have been purchased, forming a diverse collection in medium, style, period and subject matter. The collection has previously been exhibited throughout different venues in Darlington including The Myles Meehan Gallery, Darlington Arts Centre, The Dolphin Centre, the Town Hall and many other locations. There is a strong public interest in the collection from a heritage and artistic perspective, with enquiries received from across the region and nationally.

The Diversity of Artworks

It is desirable that the collection should reflect the diversity of the visual arts and may take many different forms including

- Paintings in acrylics, oils, watercolours.
- Drawings using pencils, pens, charcoal, chalk, pastel.
- Collages, made up of different layers, materials and mixed media.
- Ceramics, glass, wood, textiles, banners, photography, sculpture.
- Artworks should be high quality and may have reference to the local region, created by a local or well-known artist.
- The style of work may be abstract, realist, traditional, contemporary and may feature landscapes, portraits, animals, monuments etc.
- Artworks may be black and white, tonal or in full colour.

It is important to communicate and consult with the Arts Team and Borough Collection Steering Group on the selection of artworks and ensure community engagement with the collection, through exhibitions and education workshops to effectively use and develop Darlington Borough Art Collection.

1 Why adopt a Borough Collection Art Policy?

- 1.1 The policy would demonstrate the Council's commitment to developing and maintaining a high quality publicly owned collection of artworks to encourage community engagement through exhibitions and public display of the work.
- 1.2 The profile of the Darlington Borough Art Collection will be raised across all services within the Council creating a consistent approach to acquiring, loaning and disposing of artworks and linking strategically to the Public Art Policy 2009/2010 demonstrating the Council's commitment to the development of the visual arts in Darlington.
- 1.3 The policy will outline the guidelines for the acquisition of artworks to ensure they are high quality and have a value to the Council and to the Borough by being created by a named artist, a local artist or have reference to the Darlington or the wider North East region.
- 1.4 It could strengthen the case for applications to potential private or public funders or sponsors for future purchases, maintenance and restoration of the collection.
- 1.5 It will ensure good practice and clear guidelines are established for acquiring, loaning and disposing of all artworks.

2 How the policy and the development of Darlington Borough Art Collection will benefit Darlington

Developing and maintaining a permanent collection of art can:

- 2.1 Promote access to the arts by developing new audiences through creating debates, consultation, exhibitions, education workshops, identifying any barriers to inclusion and helping participants to develop creative skills.
- 2.2 Encourage and increase interest in local and regional history and the history of the arts by viewing and engaging with artworks from different periods, mediums, and styles, some of which depict local scenes or are created by local artists.
- 2.3 Aid the development of a high quality collection as an asset to Darlington Borough Council, which could appreciate in value and potentially generate income through loans, funding and sponsorship or future sales.
- 2.4 Help to create, develop and sustain local and national partnerships.

- 2.5 Protect the Council's assets and formally introduce working procedures reinforcing the ownership of artworks as Darlington Borough Council's whilst detailing the terms and conditions of all loans.
- 2.6 Establish a consistent approach across all Council services for acquiring, loaning or disposing of artworks purchased with public money, donated or bequest to the collection.
- 2.7 The selling of artworks in the collection could generate income, which could be used to purchase new artworks for the collection.
- 2.8 The loaning of artworks from the collection could generate income, which could be used to maintain and conserve artworks from the collection or purchase new work.
- 2.9 Increase public access to the collection through coordinated loans scheme, particularly within council owned public buildings.

3 How to implement the Policy

- 3.1 Establish good working practices in acquiring and maintaining artworks for the Darlington Borough Art Collection that are high quality and are by a named artist or have local reference or relevance.
- 3.2 Ensure that all Council employees seek professional guidance from the Borough Collection Steering Group before purchasing artworks with the Council's resources or acquiring artworks through donation or bequest.
- 3.3 Seek to secure funding from the Council and actively sourcing potential funders and sponsors to aid with the development and maintenance of the collection.
- 3.4 Establish a Borough Collection Steering Group consisting of the following members:
 - The Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being
 - A Member of the Resources Scrutiny Committee
 - A Member of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee
 - Head of Cultural Services (or a member nominated by the Head of Cultural Services)
 - Arts Manager
 - Visual and Public Arts Officer
 - Arts Development Officer

A Borough Collection Strategy will be developed and agreed by the Borough Collection Steering Group to aid the effective implementation of this policy.

- 3.5 Develop clear and good practise for the acquisition, loan and disposal of artworks.
- 3.6 Establish appropriate contracts detailing the conditions of loan of artworks including length of loan, insurance of the artwork, price agreed for loan (where appropriate), location, public access of artworks and maintenance.
- 3.7 Actively seek to exhibit the collection improving public access, especially within the local authority owned buildings.

4 Acquisition, Loan and Disposal Policy

- 4.1 All Council employees must seek guidance from the Borough Collection Steering Group before acquiring new artwork for the Darlington Borough Art Collection through purchasing with Council resources, bequest or donation.
- 4.2 Diversity of style and medium when acquiring new artworks will be encouraged, although all artworks to be considered for acceptance into the Collection must satisfy at least one of the following criteria:
- It must be by a well known, named artist and therefore may have monetary value (which is likely to appreciate over time), have national significance and/or will enhance the diversity of the collection.
 - Have a strong local interest either by depicting a local scene or representing the regions history and heritage or be created by a local artist.

Although diversity is encouraged the Borough Collection Steering Group may accept several artworks by the same artist, which may illustrate different periods within the artists career. Artworks by emerging artist will also be considered for acquisition.

- 4.3 All acquired artworks must be formally catalogued as part of the collection detailing date of acquisition, price of purchase or details of donation or bequest, name of artwork, name of artist(s) (and additional information on the artist if available to keep on record for future publicity purposes), medium and details of past conservation. Artworks must not be loaned to other venues before this formal cataloguing has taken place.
- 4.4 All acquired artwork must include copyright permissions for exhibiting, publicity and marketing and education work and must not have any conditions of purchase, donation or bequest. There must be a clear history of provenance before artworks are accepted.
- 4.5 Artworks must not be loaned to other venues without a formal contract in place detailing conditions of loan including length of loan, responsibilities of both parties, insurance of the work, security, maintenance, agreed location within the

- venue, agreement of notification of damage and of regular inspection by host venue. Artwork on loan may be recalled at any time if deemed necessary by the Arts Team and Borough Collection Steering Group.
- 4.6 All loans will be inspected annually to confirm location and condition of the work to identify restoration and maintenance requirements.
 - 4.7 Artwork will only be considered for loan if it will increase public access to the collection. Venues will not be considered if the public will not be granted access to view the work. All artworks on loan must be on display in a secure location and all painting should be mirror plated.
 - 4.8 All Council employees must seek guidance from the Borough Collection Steering Group before disposing of artworks to ensure they are appropriate for sale or disposal. It is not envisaged that any significant artworks would be considered for sale although the Borough Collection Steering Group will assess this on a case-by-case basis.
 - 4.9 A generic risk assessment will be developed to be completed when a artwork is being considered for disposal.
 - 4.10 All monies received from the sale of artwork from the Darlington Borough Art Collection will be referred to the Borough Collection Steering Group to agree how the monies will be allocated.
 - 4.11 All monies made from the loan of artwork from the Darlington Borough Art Collection will be used to purchase new work for the Collection using the criteria outlined above for all acquisitions or to maintain or restore artworks within the collection.
 - 4.12 All acquired artworks must be high quality and in a good state of repair.

For further information on the Darlington Borough Art Collection or the Visual Arts in Darlington please contact:

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