



Art In Public Places Program: City of Austin's Artwork Donation and Loan Process

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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FRANK WICK – SR. COLLECTION MANAGER

Quick Introduction: Artwork Donation*

City of Austin Artwork Acquisition Policy (2008)

- * Artwork Loans and donations are similar enough in process to use the donation term here. My hope is to clarify rather than take a deep dive into our terminology.
- An artwork loan is limited to 5 years with an option to renew once for another 5 years. For our purposes the two are identical.

Artwork Donation and Loan Process:

- Donor completes and submits an *Artwork Donation Application* with proposed locations and artwork images to the AIPP Collection Manager, me.
- If the project isn't deemed artwork the Donor will not proceed with AIPP involvement. The Collection Manager will identify who they should work with. AIPP often receives proposals for signage and place-making. Place making can be: arches, safety and health communications as well as calling-out or identifying a significant location for visitors and community.
- If deemed artwork AIPP will facilitate the COA Artwork Donation Process – This can be fairly rigorous. I work with stakeholders and COA User Departments such as Public Works, Parks & Recreation. Expectations of the donor to ensure public input and community support.
- Past Artwork Donations have included Historic Preservation and Historic Landmarks Commission. The Leslie Cochran memorial being the most notable. FYI: Historic Landmarks Commission will receive the proposal through Historic Preservation. You'd review a proposal and your vote will be for "appropriateness". Your job isn't to approve an artwork but is a means of providing Arts Commission critical feedback on your review of that artwork. I can't imagine a scenario where AC would accept something HLC didn't support.
- Arts Commission would not vote on a place making object, only artwork.
- With a folder of information Artwork Donations will be reviewed and voted on by Arts Commission. At that point the donor can proceed. The User Department will work with them on future plans for installation. AIPP will work with the Donor at completion and for repairs and maintenance for the life of the artwork.

Reconnecting With HLC & HP

DWG's 'Weird' Proposal

- AIPP and Historic Preservation have reconnected after Steve's passing.
- This was an unforeseen event that broke AIPP's connection with Historic Preservation.
- Three or four years ago DWG approached AIPP with the proposal for the text-based object along Congress. Sue Lambe, AIPP's Program Manager at the time, and I deemed the project place-making rather than artwork. This during this meeting we made it clear that DWG should avoid presenting this as artwork to the public. However, it became obvious that didn't happen when they approached you and Austin Chronicle picked up on it.
- AIPP was contacted by Arts Commissioners who explained that this sounded like Historic Landmarks Commission was put in a position of accepting art. The Austin Chronicle's article seemed to suggest that the HLC wasn't prepared for this. Again, I want to stress that HLC isn't set up to accept artwork but rather 'vote on the appropriateness of a proposal' that has made it to you. HLC would review both artwork and place-making within any areas Historic Preservation deemed fit for you to review.
- I'd like to suggest that AIPP provide an annual update with HLC. Please let me know if you support this. I think it is important to stay connected.
- I'll be working with the HP team in the future and have a single point of contact there to help navigate questions of any historic triggers that would bring a proposal to you.