

Greene County Public Art Policy

Whereas public art provokes thought, fosters dialogue, and promotes insight and understanding, thereby encouraging the civic virtues upon which republican government depends;

Whereas the display of art enhances the beauty of public spaces;

Whereas public art promotes tourism and economic growth;

Whereas Greene County has a substantial and important interest in maintaining the Greene County Courthouse building and grounds in an attractive and intact condition;

Whereas Greene County also has a substantial and important interest in ensuring that the Greene County Courthouse building and grounds remain accessible to the public;

Whereas the placement of dangerous or unsafe works of art, or their unsafe or improper installation, in the Courthouse or on the Courthouse grounds could endanger the safety of both County employees and Courthouse visitors and expose the County to increased liability; and

Whereas the placement of unsolicited works of art in the Courthouse building or on the Courthouse grounds could hinder the public's access to County offices, the State's court system, or public meetings and events;

Therefore, the Greene County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the following policy for the placement of public art in the Greene County Courthouse and on the Courthouse grounds:

1. The purpose of this policy to ensure that the Greene County Courthouse building and grounds are preserved in an attractive and intact condition, to guarantee that the Courthouse building and grounds remain accessible to the public, and to protect the safety of Courthouse employees and visitors, while allowing for the display of public art in the Courthouse building and on the Courthouse grounds;
2. As used herein, "placement" and "work of art" are defined as follows:
 - a. Placement – the "placement" of a work of art refers to its physical attachment or affixation to the Courthouse building or grounds, including its affixation to the ground or floor by means of the weight of the work of art itself;
 - b. Work of art – a "work of art" refers to a tangible product of the fine arts, including paintings, portraits, photographs, mural decorations, statues, busts, sculptures, plaques, and other ornaments, intended for temporary or permanent public display for a decorative or commemorative purpose;
3. Except as provided herein, beginning on July 15, 2019, the placement of a work of art in the Courthouse building or on the Courthouse grounds is prohibited unless the work of art has been solicited and approved by the Greene County Board of Supervisors ("the Board");
4. Any work of art solicited by the Board for placement in the Courthouse or on the Courthouse grounds shall be solicited pursuant to a resolution passed by the Board identifying the message the Board wishes to convey through the work of art;
5. Any work of art solicited by the Board must be approved by the Board prior to its placement in the Courthouse or on the Courthouse grounds by a separate resolution expressly affirming that the work of art conveys the Board's intended message;
6. At all times, the Board shall maintain editorial control over works of art placed in the Courthouse or on the Courthouse grounds;

7. This policy shall be narrowly construed to effectuate its purpose and shall not be applied to forms of expressive activity not involving the placement of works of art in the Courthouse building or on the Courthouse grounds; and
8. This policy does not limit the ability of department heads to approve the display of works of art in their respective offices.