



Vaudreuil  
— Dorion

# Artwork Acquisition Policy

City of Vaudreuil-Dorion



*Je m'attache à la culture, 2014*  
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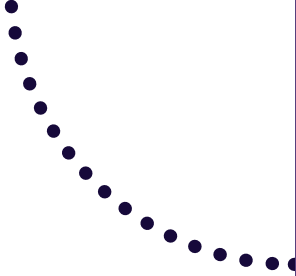
Photo: Daniel Bouguerra

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PREAMBLE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Policy Framework</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Eligibility	3
1.2 Acquisition Policy objectives	4
1.3 Guidelins for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion’s collection	4
<b>2. Selection and Acquisition Procedure</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1. Types of acquisition	5
2.2. Acquisition Committee	5
2.3. Selection criteria	5
2.4 Refusal criteria	6
2.5 Deaccession criteria	6
2.6 Presentation form for the acquisition of an artwork	6
2.7 Dossier review and recommendations	6
2.8 Acquisition budget	7
2.9 Documentation and integration of the artwork into the municipal collection	7
<b>3. Copyrights</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4. Application of the Policy</b>	<b>7</b>



## PREAMBLE



During its last strategic planning exercise, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion established five aspirations upon which several projects were to be developed, one of which was called Propulser la Culture. It is with this philosophy in mind that the City chose to create its first Artwork Acquisition Policy in order to support and promote local artists while fostering access to arts by building a rich and coherent municipal collection that reflects the values of the City and its community.

## 1. Policy Framework

The Art Acquisition Policy allows for the effective management of acquisitions geared towards building a diverse collection and outlines the procedure for the acquisition and selection of artwork based on the use of best practices.

The acquisition and management of public works of art and cultural mediation projects initiated by the City are not the subject of this policy, nor is the acquisition of cultural objects, artifacts and archival documents.

### 1.1 Eligibility

The present Artwork Acquisition Policy is intended for professional artists, as defined under the Act respecting the professional status of artists in the visual arts, arts and crafts and literature and their contracts with disseminators (R.S.Q., S-32.01).

It also addresses emerging professional artists who have formal art training, competencies and practical experience recognized by their peers in their discipline and who have exhibited or displayed their artwork at least once for the public in a professional context.

## 1.2 Objectives of the Acquisition Policy

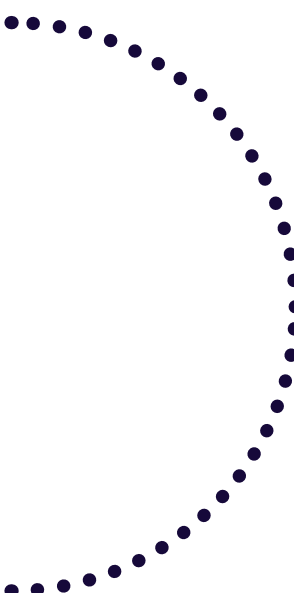
Through this Policy, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion provides for the development, conservation and dissemination of artwork in the field of visual arts. The objectives are to:

- Acknowledge the professional artists and emerging artists who work in, reside in, or originate from Vaudreuil-Dorion.
- Acquire works of art representative of the artistic trends that have marked the development of art in Vaudreuil-Dorion and across Quebec.
- Develop a municipal collection of artworks created by artists who shine at the local, national and international levels, and one that will reflect our cultural and artistic identity.
- Acquire works of art that are relevant through their creativity, aesthetics, and expressive quality, and that use different forms of art such as painting, photography, sculpture, mixed media, printmaking, works on paper, digital media and other disciplines.
- Encourage the purchase of artworks produced by local artists.
- Make the artwork collection accessible to citizens and the public and increase the presence of art in municipal buildings and public places.
- Recognize the contribution of artists to the cultural development of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion by exhibiting their works in public spaces and other locations.

## 1.3 Guidelines for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's collection

To ensure the coherent and harmonious development of the municipal art collection, acquisition procedures will be based on the following guidelines:

- Showcase the creative talent of Vaudreuil-Dorion's artists;
- Foster innovative practices;
- Demonstrate openness towards the artistic approaches of emerging artists;
- Favour the acquisition of recent works: selecting works produced in the last ten years;
- Choose from various forms of visual artworks: painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, mixed media, printmaking, stamping, installation, new techniques, etc;
- Avoid redundancy in terms of artist and theme focus.



## 2. Selection and Acquisition Procedure

### 2.1. Types of acquisition

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion makes an acquisition during a transaction where legal title of the artwork in question, along with the corresponding ownership rights, are transferred to the buyer by contract. The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion may acquire works of art through purchase, bequest or donation.

### 2.2. Acquisition Committee

An acquisition committee is mandated to analyze the dossiers and proposals received. The members submit recommendations to the Municipal Council, taking into account the budget allocated annually according to the financial resources available for this purpose, in order to formalize the acquisition of one or more works. Any decision by the Acquisition Committee to acquire a work of art must be endorsed by resolution of the Municipal Council.

The Acquisition Committee is composed of six members: the mayor of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion, an elected member of the Culture and Community Life Committee, the Head of the Culture and Community Life Division, the Director of the Recreation and Culture Department, an expert in visual art who is not a resident of Vaudreuil-Dorion and a professional visual artist who is a resident of Vaudreuil-Dorion. The members of the Acquisition Committee can be neither directly nor indirectly linked to the ownership of the work acquired.

The term of office for members of the Committee shall be renewable every two years. The members of the Committee are appointed and acknowledged by municipal resolution. One vote is granted per individual and decisions are taken by a majority of the votes cast.

### 2.3. Selection criteria

- Work of art by a professional or emerging professional artist
- Place of origin or place of residence of the artist
- Legality of the artwork's provenance proven beyond all doubt
- Quality and relevance of the artwork
- Recognition of the artist by the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion
- Uniqueness and creative aspect of the work
- Dissemination and showcasing possibilities
- Consistency of the work with the municipal collection
- Cost of purchasing the work
- Aesthetic value of the work
- Diversity of artistic expressions in both the style and techniques used
- State of preservation of the work

## 2.4 Refusal criteria

- One or more acquisition criteria are not met
- Questionable authenticity
- Duplication in the collection
- Overly constraining donor requirements
- Flaws in the artist's practice or process

An issue of ethical or moral concern or one that does not correspond to the moral values of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion may be considered a criterion for refusal. The work may also be refused if there is a chance it could generate controversy by dealing with a topic likely to render its dissemination difficult, without questioning the artistic value of the work or the artist.

## 2.5 Deaccession criteria

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion reserves the right to dispose of any artwork it owns by purchase, gift or exchange, or by offering such artwork to a cultural institution according to the following criteria:

- Duplication and questionable provenance of the work
- Poor state of preservation of the work
- Work that has become irrelevant for moral reasons
- Demanding requirements on the part of the donor or seller

The deaccession of a work of art remains an exceptional measure that must be documented and endorsed by a resolution of the Municipal Council.

## 2.6 Presentation form for the acquisition of an artwork

The presentation form for the acquisition of an artwork must be completed and submitted to the Recreation and Culture Department along with digital photographs, the artist's curriculum vitae and an outline of the artistic process. In a case where the artist has died, a biography must be included. These elements must be part of the dossier to be reviewed by the Acquisition Committee.

## 2.7 Dossier review and recommendations

To assist in the review of the dossier, the Acquisition Committee may call upon the services and opinions of an external appraiser to validate and verify the authenticity, value or restoration costs as required. Committee members may also request any additional documents necessary for a better review of the proposal. The selection made by the Acquisition Committee is final.

## 2.8 Acquisition budget

The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is committed to providing an annual budget towards the development of its municipal collection. The budget will take into account the City's available funds, along with its directions in terms of arts and culture and opportunities.

Any sums arising from the removal of an artwork from the collection or a monetary donation towards the purchase of an artwork must be deposited into the Artwork Acquisition Fund.

## 2.9 Documentation and integration of the artwork into the municipal collection

As soon as a new work of art is acquired, the Committee must ensure that it is documented on a specification sheet before it is integrated into the municipal collection. This will allow for an inventory to be kept, which will serve to document all the works, including any preventive maintenance and restoration work done or needing to be done. The specification sheet will also indicate the place where the artwork is on display or is being kept. Every dossier concerning an artwork must include:

- A number allowing it to be identified (numbering of the work);
- The duly signed contract for the acquisition of a work;
- The Municipal Council's resolution authorizing the acquisition;
- The artwork's specification sheet: identification, dimensions, physical description, condition, location, title ownership, photograph;
- Any other information required for its documentation.

## 3. Copyrights

The acquisition of an artwork must be formalized by a contract between the artist and the buyer. An artist whose work of art is acquired by the City through the Acquisition Policy retains full copyrights granted to the artist by law. At the time of acquisition, however, the artist agrees to grant the City a license allowing the artwork to be disseminated.

## 4. Application of the Policy

The Recreation and Culture Department is responsible for the application of this Policy, which comes into effect on the date it is adopted by resolution of the Council, and may only be amended by a new resolution.