

**Public Art Advisory Committee
Presentation to the University Committee
Sept. 8, 2015**

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Background:

The UW-Madison campus-wide collection includes over 1600 public artworks—not otherwise included in collections managed by the Chazen Museum of Art, the Wisconsin Union, and the University Hospital Authority.

Artworks are located in administrative buildings, housing and athletics facilities, and classroom/academic spaces. Art type includes: statuary, mosaics, mobiles, fountains, paintings, photographs, mixed media, fabric arts, terrazzo floors, portraits and murals.

Sources of acquisition include: gifts, Percent for Art, departmental purchases.

Most items are thought to be valued under \$500. A few items may be valued at many 100s of thousands of dollars. Some art is damaged or otherwise un-appreciated (stuck in a closet).

Ownership:

Everything “owned” by regents. Major outdoor installations and Percent for Art objects “generally” the responsibility of FPM. Some objects are “owned” by departments (gifts, purchased with departmental funds).

Maintenance:

In past, Physical Plant maintenance funds leveraged for major conservation treatments (e.g., Abe Lincoln and Hoard statues waxed). Some mural conservation (e.g., Curry at Biochemistry) occurs in conjunction with major building project funds. \$0 budget for all campus maintenance projects.

Current acquisitions sources:

Percent for Art program repealed in 2011. There is no current funding source for new art acquisition. On occasion art is offered as a gift to the university.

Acquisition/de-accession decisions:

Sometimes siting of large outdoor artworks is brought to the Campus Planning Committee for review/approval (e.g., mural at Humanities). Rarely are artworks sold/de-accessioned unless severely damaged or part of a construction project.

Need:

Campus-wide public art advisory committee to offer advice/support for public art activities.

Duties:

1. Review offers of gifts of artworks. (Is campus appropriate recipient?)
2. Review proposals to site new artworks. (Where is good location?)
3. Support fundraising efforts to maintain or purchase artworks. (How to access funds?)
4. Review proposals to de-accession damaged or unneeded artworks. (Should we dispose?)
5. Propose/prioritize art maintenance/conservation projects. (What deserves near-term conservation treatment?)

Possible committee representatives/constituent groups

- UW-Madison Arts Institute
- Chazen Museum of Art, curator
- Art Department, faculty
- Art History Department, faculty
- Wisconsin Union, Art Collection manager
- Bolz Center for Arts Administration, graduate student

Campus public art inventory trivia

- Total artworks listed: 1617
- Buildings surveyed: 116
- % Art commissions: 45
- % Art commissions destroyed: 5
- % Art direct purchase: 233
- Most objects: Grainger Hall: 145
- Portraits: 203
- Bronze bust: 10
- Mosaic: 9