

# Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. Public Art Policy



## **Definition of Public Art**

The term “public art” can be a confusing one for many people. What makes art “public?” The word “public” may mean that the art was paid for by tax, or “public,” dollars. It may mean that the art is on public land or on public right-of-way, such as a sidewalk. It may mean that the “public” has weighed in on or helped to create the artwork—a “public” process.

For the purposes of Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. (ICT Inc.), “public art” generally means an artwork or an aesthetically based project located on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick, which is a facility located in the public right-of-way. It also means that some portion of the general public, such as residents and businesses adjacent to a proposed location for public art, has had an opportunity to review and/or comment on the art prior to its installation. Public art on the trail may be considered permanent or it may be temporary. The public is invited to experience and consider public art on the trail as part of their experience of using the trail.

It is not just about the destination...it is also about the journey.

## **Mission and Vision Statements of Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.**

### Mission Statement:

Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. ensures that the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick is a beautifully maintained and vibrant community asset connecting people and places in downtown Indianapolis.

### Vision Statement:

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is recognized around the world for enriching the lives of Indianapolis residents and visitors by providing a beautiful connection to each other, culture, art and healthy living.

## **Principles of Art Integration**

From its inception, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene and Marilyn Glick has been a place where artists and designers could stretch their imaginations and careers; a place that embraces artistic interventions created using diverse materials, concepts, and creative professionals.

The principles of art integration that informed the commissioning of the first art projects for the Cultural Trail were established during a charrette that took place with the design and management team prior to the design of the trail. Those initial principles continue to inform decisions about projects on the trail and they include the following:

1. **Focus on quality over quantity**—The Cultural Trail runs through the heart of downtown where there are already monuments, memorials, artworks, and other architectural assets. Avoid creating visual clutter by littering the entire trail with large-scale sculptural projects. Support thoughtful, creative, and innovative work by a range of creative professionals underscoring that the Cultural Trail is a unique and progressive urban transportation system that promotes creativity.

2. **Site sensitivity**—All of the initial permanent art projects were sensitive to their sites. Artists and other creative professionals need to consider the Cultural Trail as ‘site.’ They also need to consider the historic and contemporary uses and the physical attributes of the proposed project location.
3. **Engage both experienced and emergent artists**—The trail is a place for work by artists and creative professionals with various degrees of experience. Local, regional, national, and international artists are welcome. However, artists should have track records that demonstrate professionalism and they should be proposing projects that are appropriate for their experience level.
4. **Support innovation**—The Cultural Trail is a one-of-a-kind facility. When we began design and construction, Project for Public Spaces in New York could not find anything else like it in the world. Public art projects on the trail should support the themes of diversity, innovation, and progress.
5. **Connectivity**—The Cultural Trail is about connectivity. Public art projects should support this theme in some manner. (Projects could support the theme by promoting literal physical connectivity in some manner or by exploring concepts that connect users locally, regionally, nationally, and/or globally.)

### **Goals**

To support future public art projects on the Cultural Trail, the staff and board of ICT Inc. have outlined goals for a sustainable public art program. These goals are as follows:

1. Act as a venue for and steward of public art projects that support the previously stated philosophies and are consistent with the vision and mission of Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.
2. Support a range of artistic expressions by a diverse group of artists so as to underscore the diversity in the Indianapolis community.
3. Create a standardized process that provides equitable access to groups and individuals interested in initiating public art projects on the Cultural Trail.
4. Enhance downtown Indianapolis and the Cultural Trail experience through public art. The trail is not just about the destination; it is about the journey.
5. Support temporary projects making the trail a dynamic public space where a user’s experience will be ever changing.
6. Present intellectually stimulating and aesthetically challenging projects that may expand the community’s perception of public art, embracing art’s ability to provide learning experiences and to spur dialogue.

### **Permanent versus Temporary**

Both permanent and temporary projects are considered for installation on the Cultural Trail. However, projects defined as temporary are encouraged. Temporary installations allow artists to stretch themselves, to innovate, and to take risks. Temporary installations allow for greater flexibility in what is displayed on the Trail and they keep the Trail dynamic and ever changing. When proposing a temporary project, please be sure that the preferred exhibition period is included in the applicant’s project narrative. At the end of the exhibition period, an artwork must be removed by and at the expense of the applicant. ICT Inc. may request that a project be removed prior to the end of the exhibition period if a project falls into disrepair and/or becomes an eyesore or safety hazard.

Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. does welcome applications for projects that are proposed as “permanent.” However, applicants must understand that the Cultural Trail and everything on it is in the public-right-of-way. Therefore, applicants will enter into contracts with Indianapolis

Cultural Trail Inc., which state that the organization and/or the City of Indianapolis reserve the right to remove, relocate, or deaccession artwork at anytime. Additionally, provisions for the long-term care of the artwork must accompany proposals for permanent projects. At a minimum, an additional 15% of the overall project budget should be allocated as the project's maintenance endowment. That endowment must be remitted to ICT Inc. upon the project's completion. Final acceptance of the project by ICT Inc. and the City of Indianapolis will be withheld until the maintenance endowment is received. If the maintenance endowment is not received in a timely manner, the project may be removed from the trail and disposed of at the discretion of ICT Inc.

### **Funding**

Proposed projects must be fully funded. At this time, Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. does not provide funding for public art projects being commissioned by third parties.

### **Deaccessioning Policy**

Deaccessioning is the process for withdrawal of an artwork from public exhibition through storage, loan, or disposal. Deaccessioning standards shall be such that they are applied after careful evaluation, and not because of changes in fashion and taste. The process of removing a work of art from the Cultural Trail must be as deliberate and transparent as the process of applying to install a work of art.

A work of art may be removed from the Cultural Trail if it is determined by Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. or the City of Indianapolis, upon the advice of the Executive Director and the Curatorial Advisory Committee, to merit removal based upon the criteria for removal. The criteria for removal may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- € The work of art has been exhibited for the planned length of time.
- € An installation presents a safety hazard in its present condition.
- € The security of the artwork can no longer be guaranteed.
- € Restoration or maintenance of the artwork is technically or financially unfeasible.
- € Significant changes in the use or design of the site make the original placement of the artwork unfeasible. (Please note that the Cultural Trail is built on public-right-of-way and the use(s) of public right-of-way can change frequently.)

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc. Board of Directors shall review recommendations made by the Executive Director and the Curatorial Advisory Committee and shall vote on the deaccession or relocation of an artwork. The Executive Director will make an effort to notify the commissioned artist and/or Applicant of the decision to relocate or deaccession the artwork.

### **Gift & Loan Policy**

The Cultural Trail Public Art Program may receive offers of gifts or loans of art for the Cultural Trail public art collection. Similar to the application process for newly commissioned projects, the potential donor shall make a proposal that will be reviewed by the Executive Director and the Curatorial Advisory Committee. After the review, the Executive Director will present the gift or loan proposal to the Board of Directors with a recommendation. If the gift or loan is accepted, the Executive Director will facilitate obtaining the appropriate approvals and permits from the City of Indianapolis. In considering the acceptance of gifts of works of art, the Executive Director, Curatorial Advisory Committee, and Board will utilize the following criteria:

- € Does the artwork support the vision and mission of ICT Inc. and enhance the existing collection and trail experience?
- € Is the artwork of high quality?
- € Is the artwork durable—suitable for outdoor display?
- € Does the gift or loan include a maintenance endowment, and provisions for site preparation, installation, lighting and security?
- € Is there an appropriate location available for the artwork?

## **Application & Review Process**

New public art projects proposed for the Indianapolis Cultural Trail as well as offers of gifts or loans of art to the Indianapolis Cultural Trail must be reviewed and approved by Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc. and permitted by the City of Indianapolis. Applicants must follow ICT Inc.'s application process as outlined below.

### ***Deadlines***

Applications will be reviewed once a year. Fast track applications may be considered outside published deadlines at the discretion of the Executive Director, Curatorial Advisory Committee and Board of Directors of Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.

Required application materials must be submitted digitally to Kären Haley, Executive Director of ICT Inc., by sending an email to [khaley@indyculturaltrail.org](mailto:khaley@indyculturaltrail.org), or by dropping off a disk to the following address:

*Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Inc.  
132 W. Walnut Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204*

### ***Application Review Process***

Indianapolis Cultural Trail Inc.'s Executive Director will review all applications. The Executive Director will review the proposals with the Curatorial Advisory Committee. The Board of Directors will review and vote on applications that the Executive Director and the Curatorial Advisory Committee recommend for approval.

### ***Review Criteria***

The following criteria will be used by ICT Inc. and the Curatorial Advisory Committee to review and approve public art projects on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail:

- ⊘ Submission of a completed application cover sheet & required application materials
- ⊘ Project is of a high quality both conceptually and aesthetically
- ⊘ Significance of the project—artistically, for the applicant, community, or trail
- ⊘ Site sensitive
- ⊘ Innovative –creative, potentially important, and innovative projects are encouraged
- ⊘ Selected artist, creative professional, or design team is qualified to successfully produce the project
- ⊘ Applicant's capacity to manage a successful project
- ⊘ Funding appears adequate and includes provisions for maintenance. Evidence of funding has been provided through letters from funders, etc.
- ⊘ Suitability of subject matter
- ⊘ The project does not pose safety issues or inhibit use of the trail
- ⊘ Does the applicant propose a permanent or temporary display
- ⊘ ICT Inc. can sustain the project given the amount of maintenance and conservation that the artwork will require and the funds provided in the maintenance endowment