What is the Public Art Committee?

The Public Art Committee is a student, faculty, and staff group which encourages the exhibition of art in public places. The Committee’s responsibility is to create a welcoming environment for people passing through public spaces, to stimulate conversation about art among community members, to challenge perceptions of art, and to illuminate diverse cultures. The Public Art Committee sees the audience for such works to be the entire College community, taking into account the mission of the institution, which will be reflected in the acquisition, siting, and interpretation process of the art.

The Public Art Committee is advisory to the President of the College.

Committee members in 2013-2014 are Fatma Alshantii, Malinda Carlson, Al Dillow, Jeff Garland, Robyn Maher, Jovanny Nava, Marcia Short, and Elizabeth Tobin.

What does the Public Art Committee Do?

The Committee makes recommendations to the President about the policies concerning public art in the Illinois College community.

- The Committee recommends policies to guide the Office of Development in accepting gifts of art.
- The Committee recommends policies for the security and care of public art objects.
- The Committee recommends policies for dealing with proposals for the siting of art in public locations on campus.

The Committee identifies spaces on campus it recommends for the location of art.

- The Committee creates maps of “Identified Spaces” on campus where temporary art and permanent art might be sited.
- When members of the Illinois College community propose to place art in a public location, the Committee considers such proposals, consults with representatives of those who frequently use nearby spaces, and makes a recommendation about the proposal.

The Committee acts to include art on the Illinois College campus as part of the liberal arts education of students.
• The Committee considers how faculty, staff, and students can encourage the donation, siting, and discussion of art on the campus.
• The Committee encourages the use of art to create a welcoming environment for those who attend, work at, or visit Illinois College.
• The Committee seeks to encourage the use of art to illuminate the diversity of cultures at Illinois College.
• The Committee works to make possible proposals for temporary exhibitions of controversial art by working with proposers to place the controversy in the context of a liberal arts education.

Operating Procedures for the Public Art Committee

The Public Art Committee will consider the audience for such works to be the entire College community and will take into account the mission of the institution, which will be reflected in the acquisition, siting, and interpretation process. Works of art will be acquired for exhibition in public places following the guidelines established by the Public Art Committee for its collection.

Distinctive works of art chosen, acquired or created for the public spaces on the campus will represent a broad range of artistic styles and be of sufficiently high quality to merit their inclusion in the College's permanent collection.

All works will be reviewed for site specifications, function of site, primary users of the site, site-specific maintenance and safety questions, and appropriateness of a loan or permanent placement. Loans of works to be exhibited in public places will be considered, especially as they allow for experimental and challenging works to be shown.

The Public Art Committee will be fiscally responsible in accepting works for loan exhibition, reviewing financial and legal obligations regarding the acquisition of works of art, artist fees, travel costs, transportation of work, site preparation, signage, potential repair and restoration costs, insurance and security costs, and costs for an educational program designed around the work and for publicity to introduce the work to the community. A procedure for exhibition of works of public art on loan will be established before loans are accepted.

The Public Art Committee will take ethical considerations on the rights of artists concerning the discussion, alteration, and placement of works of art into account when choosing and negotiating for works of art to be displayed in public places.

The Public Art Committee will recommend the deaccession of works guided by the same standards used by the transfer of ownership policy.

Policy on the Temporary Exhibition of Works of Art on the Illinois College Campus

The Public Art Committee does not presume any authority over works of art, photographs, etc., that faculty and staff place on view in their offices, that departments choose to install in their offices and teaching spaces, that students place in their rooms, that Commons choose for their lounges not
designated as an Identified Space.

The Public Art Committee welcomes temporary installations in public spaces organized by departments or individuals. There is no need for The Public Art Committee to monitor short exhibits (three weeks or less) outside identified spaces, but such presentations must always be clearly communicated to the community prior to installation and labeled to indicate their source and the educational purpose that lies behind them.

The Public Art Committee must approve any work or works to be placed on view for a longer period. When a work or works are approved for temporary exhibition, the length of time it/they will be on view must be clearly indicated and stipulated in writing, indicating the agreement between the installer and the committee. Normally, an academic year would be the longest time for such an exhibition. If the department or individual wishes, a request may be made at the end of the designated period to extend the exhibition, or to acquire the work or works for permanent installation. If The Public Art Committee does not approve the extension, the work or works must be removed.

Policy on the Permanent Exhibition of Works of Art on the Illinois College Campus

The Public Art Committee welcomes the siting of works of art on a permanent basis. A) Some locations are better-suited to permanent installations, because of the difficulty of reaching the site to change works of art or because the site is most conducive to works of art which cannot easily be moved. For example, the atmosphere of some stairwells might be made much more pleasant by siting art in them, but such siting might require a crane. B) Some works of art are large or heavy and not easily moved. Once we find a good location, we should avoid the effort and expense of site changes. C) Some works of art may come to be positively associated with their location. The presidential portraits in the Trustee Room in Tanner would lose some of their historical meaning through relocation.

The Committee will consider all proposals for permanent exhibition of works of art, consider the comments of those who use the spaces nearby, and make a recommendation to the President.