

Policy for Public Art and Other Donations to Public Spaces

Purpose and Intent

To establish a standardized process for accepting donations to public spaces within the Town of Oak Island. This ordinance aims to:

- Ensure that donations align with the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and aesthetic standards.
- Mitigate maintenance burdens on the town.
- Provide a fair, transparent, and intentional method for incorporating public donations.

Definitions

Committee: The group of representatives from Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and other relevant Town staff that will review proposals.

Donation: Any item, including but not limited to benches, statues, public art, and landscaping, offered to the town for placement in public spaces.

Public Space: Any park, square, building, right-of-way, or other area owned, leased, or managed by the Town of Oak Island that is accessible to the public.

Request for Proposal (RFP): A formal process by which the town solicits donations for specific public projects or spaces in accordance with the town's needs and strategic goals.

Donation Proposal Process

Town-Led Initiatives

1. The town shall periodically identify opportunities for donations in public spaces and issue Request for Proposals (RFPs) for specific projects or items.
2. The RFPs shall be posted on the town's website and other public forums as determined appropriate.
3. The RFP shall specify the type of donation desired, preferred materials, aesthetic considerations, and any other criteria related to the Town's needs and objectives.
4. The RFP will require applicants to include a detailed description (including images or sketches), proposed installation methods, estimate maintenance requirements, and any associated costs.
5. The Committee shall review all proposals submitted under the RFP.
6. Proposals shall be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a. Alignment with the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan: Does the donation contribute to the Town's strategic goals?
 - b. Design and Aesthetic Compatibility: Does the donation enhance the visual appeal of the intended public space?
 - c. Durability and Maintenance Requirements: Can the town reasonably maintain the donation over its expected life?
 - d. Safety and Accessibility: Does the donation comply with all safety regulations and accessibility standards?
 - e. Financial Impact: Are the donor's proposed costs and, if applicable, ongoing maintenance contributions adequate?
7. After the committee has completed its evaluation, the committee shall notify all applicants of their decision within seven (7) days of the decision.
8. After completion, the donation will become property of the Town.
9. In rare and exceptional cases, where a proposed donation is of outstanding artistic, cultural, or historical significance and clearly aligns with the Town's values and strategic goals, Town staff may bring the item forward for Committee review outside of an active RFP. Such exceptions are reserved only for opportunities that would be a substantial and unique benefit to the community.