

## 8. Recreation Services Department Arts Policy

The Saanich Recreation Services Department commits, within the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to provide leadership in the development of arts and culture in a community setting. This leadership is expressed through the many programs and events created and offered by the Recreation Department in support of the development of community spirit and identity, as well as the social, emotional and physical well-being of the individual. This includes programs for a wide range of activities from instructional classes for pottery, visual arts, dance and music, to events such as Gorge on Art and the Summer Sun Fest. These programs and events are offered for all ages.

The Recreation Department will continue to enhance the community by:

1. Creating and implementing arts and cultural programs that:
  - a) Develop the creative potential of individuals;
  - b) Develop family strength and cohesion;
  - c) Develop a sense of community identity, spirit, and culture;
  - d) Create diversity in urban culture;
  - e) Promote understanding of our heritage;
  - f) Intermix generations and diverse groups for transfer of knowledge and experience.
2. Support community growth through:
  - a) *Special Events*. Incorporate elements of community arts into existing departmental events, as well as establishing new events which will highlight the arts;
  - b) *Local Community Groups*. Offer assistance to local groups when it is determined that their arts programs and services contribute to the greater good of the community;
  - c) *Family Opportunities*. Provide opportunities for families to be together, using arts activities as a focus;
  - d) *Mixing Generations*. Develop programs that encourage ages to mix, using arts activities as a focus;
  - e) *Youth Development*. Provide programs that incorporate arts activities for developing connections with youth.

3. Support individual growth through:
  - a) *Preschool Opportunities*. Arts activities such as visual arts, dance and music will be introduced at the preschool level through local recreation centre programs and community programming;
  - b) *Basic Skill Development in School-Aged Children*. Basic skill level instruction will be provided to school-aged children in a variety of recreational arts activities;
  - c) *Advanced Skill Development*. Opportunities will be provided to assist school-aged children to reach higher levels of skills within arts endeavours;
  - d) *Social Opportunities for Teens*. Arts components will be incorporated into social programming to provide focus for interaction;
  - e) *Skill Development for Teens*. Programs will address continued skill development and performing opportunities for teens;
  - f) *Basic Skills for Adults*. Introduction to enjoyment of arts opportunities for adults will be provided;
  - g) *Advanced Skills for Adults*. Provide opportunities for adults to advance their skill levels in a variety of artistic endeavours;
  - h) *Opportunities for Seniors*. While seniors may take advantage of any level of artistic involvement in adult programming, Saanich Recreation will also offer programs designed specifically for seniors in areas that are not being served by other seniors' organizations.
  
4. Be socially and fiscally responsible in the following ways:
  - a) Offer assistance to arts groups in the community with programming, marketing and promotion of events and services if those services are complementary to this Policy.
  - b) Municipal support should be offered to services that contribute to the greater good of the community, within the limitations of available public resources.
  - c) Consider sponsoring certain services that cannot be operated by other community agencies or groups.

- d) The Recreation Services Department will constantly engage in cost benefit analysis and only support programs that offer the greatest benefit. When there are two optional services in which to invest resources, the Department shall invest in the service that meets more of the policy goals.

**New Directions.** To enhance the Department's ability to provide such leadership, capital spending on projects such as studios, dance spaces, and a sound studio needs to occur.

## 9. Parks and Public Works Department Arts Policy

Saanich Parks commits, within the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to provide venues and opportunities for the development of visual and performing arts, including garden art, in parks and public spaces. By providing these places and opportunities, a wide range of short term and long term benefits can result. A sense of community identity and diversity will develop and an understanding of heritage and history can grow. Individual growth will occur. Arts groups and organizations will develop and be supported with the transfer of experience and knowledge.

Saanich Parks will promote the community's arts and cultural programs in parks and open spaces by:

1. Providing a range of sites and venues;
2. Developing and encouraging others to provide public art features through the Municipal Public Art Policy;
3. Promoting and monitoring activities related to the arts;
4. Developing projects to encourage the arts through park related initiatives;
5. Providing financial support for arts initiatives;
6. Providing support to special events and arts activities.

## 10. Engineering Department Arts Policy

By their nature, engineering works projects were built to last for tens, sometimes hundreds of years. Engineering marvels of the past and today catch the eye not only for their engineering effectiveness, but also for their beauty, whether it be a cable stayed bridge, a modern dam, or a Roman aqueduct.



*"Roy" Blenkinsop Bridge*  
Artist: Nathan Scott

Unlike continental Europe where aesthetics are applied to even the most mundane engineering items like bridge railings, here in North America with a few notable exceptions, municipal engineering projects have tended to be more utilitarian, mass produced designs. Fortunately, more communities in North America have recognized this deficiency and have incorporated public art works within public works projects. There is an increasing awareness that the arts are not a luxury add-on to visible engineering works but rather are an essential and intrinsic element of good engineering design. It is the latter which makes the physical environment around us more livable, whether it be in the curve of a bridge railing, the finish of a retaining wall, the alignment of a sidewalk or the location of a bench.

The Engineering Department will continue to enhance the community by:

1. Supporting arts/aesthetics as an intrinsic component of good engineering design;
2. Actively seeking opportunities to incorporate the arts into design processes for all above ground works.

## 11. Planning Department Arts Policy

The Planning Department, through its role of establishing municipal policy, influences the urban form. Implementation of policy happens through zoning regulations, development permit guidelines, long range land use policies, and special studies. These policies can impact both public and private design.

Streetscape concept plans are an example of a policy establishing design parameters for a public space. Development permit guidelines control the form and character of private developments. This process may also provide an opportunity to encourage public art in private developments as a way of enhancing the urban character.

The Planning Department will continue to enhance the community through:

1. Reviewing and updating the Comprehensive Arts Policy periodically;
2. Amending regulatory bylaws, including the development permit guidelines, to reflect community values supporting the arts;



*Stylistic representation of the municipal crest, east side of Municipal Hall  
Building Architect: Wade Stockdill Armour and Partners*

3. Providing opportunities to include the concept of arts and aesthetics in all planning processes;
4. Participating in the Advisory Design Panel;
5. Providing information to the development community on the Public Art Program;
6. Coordinating the Public Art Program.

## **12. General Arts Administration**

### **General Arts Administration Goals**

1. Maintenance: To maintain all artworks in their original condition.
2. Arts Documentation and Inventory: To document and inventory all artworks owned by the District of Saanich. This includes:
  - a) artworks purchased or commissioned after the adoption date of this Policy;
  - b) artworks purchased or commissioned prior to the adoption date of this Policy.
3. Arts Donations. To outline requirements for accepting donations of artworks.
4. Deaccession: To outline requirements for the removal of artworks from the District's collection.

**Maintenance.** Maintaining all municipal artworks is crucial. They consume a considerable amount of money, and volunteer and staff effort and time, and therefore become an investment worth keeping. At the time of artworks' installations, the department responsible for maintenance will be determined. Generally, it should be the Recreation Services Department, Facility Operations Division for any artworks inside or attached to buildings, and for artworks outside of buildings it should be the Parks and Public Works Department. Those departments will use the artist's maintenance plans as provided in the Arts Documentation and Inventory to maintain the artworks. Funds used in the maintenance of artworks will be acquired from the responsible departments or from the maintenance funds as stipulated in the Public Art Program, whichever is most appropriate.

**Arts Documentation and Inventory Policy.** The importance of documenting municipally-owned artworks cannot be stressed enough. Valuable resources, time,

and effort on the part of residents, elected officials, and staff were put into obtaining the artworks, and keeping basic details about them shows responsibility and genuine concern for the artworks' longevity.

To create a complete inventory of all municipally-owned artwork, all existing artworks belonging to the District of Saanich shall be likewise documented. The most pertinent information are a detailed maintenance plan, and photographic records of the artwork. Please see "Art Documentation" on pages 13 and 14.

**Arts Donations.** Please see "Art Donations" on page 14.

**Deaccession.** Please see "Deaccession" on page 14.

### **13. Public Exhibition Space at the Municipal Hall Policy**

Commencing January 1, 1996 priority use of public exhibition spaces at Saanich Municipal Hall for art displays will be granted to Saanich based residents and groups over a three week duration subject to display demand. Recreation Services is the department responsible for management of the space.

### **14. Support for Arts in Schools**

The arts have been likened to sports, in that sports are nurtured at several levels, including schools. This allows sports to thrive well beyond the nurturing grounds. The same should be true of the arts.

There is a long, historical relationship between the District of Saanich and local School Districts 61 and 63. For many young people, schools are where new experiences happen, and where attitudes are formed for life. The District's commitment to the arts needs to permeate into the schools, with useful support in the way of capital projects and opportunities for student performances. While the District has demonstrated such support in the past with the creation of theatres and sound studios, and Christmas carol concerts in the Municipal Hall, this relationship needs to be strengthened, and the following programs continued and expanded.



*Public Exhibition Space, Saanich Municipal Hall*

- Support multi-purpose rooms that can be shared with the community during non-school hours.
- Support/provide opportunities for students to perform, e.g. Saanich Family Christmas, annual retirement banquet, Christmas carols in the Municipal Hall.
- Provide display space.
- Support the school theatre at Claremont.
- Support periodically specific arts projects.

**New Directions.** The District needs to:

- Create an administrative structure and determine a responsible department for community arts issues developed in partnership with schools.
- Facilitate and encourage partnerships and initiate regular opportunities for dialogue.
- Negotiate and establish functional joint-use agreements to provide for shared access with partners.
- Work in collaboration with schools, University of Victoria, Camosun College, other organizations, and individual arts.
- Work to bring artists from various backgrounds into regular school arts classes.
- Promote Saanich Youth Legacy Fund.
- Access outside funding and support with matching funds when possible.
- Improve communication/collaboration and networking.



*Art 2000 - Victoria Millennium Mural displayed at the U.N. Building in New York*