

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION:

TITLE: Art Collections

ADOPTED:

REVISED:

No. 719 (NEW)

## (NEW) ART COLLECTIONS

### Purpose

The School District of Philadelphia holds in public trust works of art representing the cultural legacy of its community. The works of art held by The School District of Philadelphia represent a cultural legacy. The collections include many works by important American artists, including many significant works by artists associated with the Pennsylvania Impressionist movement of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as works produced as part of the Works Progress Administration's Art Project.

These pieces are considered nondisposable in order to be preserved and used to benefit the students and citizens of Philadelphia. The School District of Philadelphia's collections of art shall be held for educational purposes, research, or public exhibition for the community to enjoy or to generate funds for their preservation and not for financial gain.

### Definitions

**Art Collections** - One or more works of art owned by The School District of Philadelphia which are located at various facilities (schools and offices) throughout the District and in offsite art storage.

**Works of Art** - For purposes of this policy, the term "works of art" includes, but is not limited to original paintings, sculpture, tapestry, drawings and other works on paper, photography, maps, manuscripts, furnishings, textiles and memorabilia, integral architectural elements of buildings (including murals), collections or original historical documents acquired by donation or purchase that are located at various School District Philadelphia schools and offices and in offsite art storage.

### Mandatory Regulatory Guidelines

All works of art acquired by donation to The School District of Philadelphia, donation to an individual school, or through purchase by the School District or purchase by an individual school, are property of The School District of Philadelphia, regardless of where the artwork is located. In accordance with the Public School Code, individual schools are school district facilities, which are owned and operated by the Board of Education. Therefore, the Board/SRC owns these art works; and individual schools do not hold legal title to the works of art which may be housed at their facilities.

These items are considered nondisposable, and are held for public exhibition, educational purposes, or research in furtherance of public service instead of financial gain.

**Implementing administrative procedures shall ensure that:**

- **The School District of Philadelphia’s art collections are accounted for by annual inventory and documented in a property management database;**
- **The art collections are protected, secure, cared for, and preserved;**
- **Acquisition, deaccessioning, and loans of works in the collections are conducted in a manner that conforms to the purpose of this policy, complies with applicable law, and reflects the highest ethical standards;**
- **Access to the collections is permitted and appropriately regulated; and collection related events and activities promote the public good rather than individual financial gain.**

**Delegation of Responsibility**

**The Board of Education is charged with the stewardship of the District’s art collections. The Board of Education designates the Superintendent or his or her designee to ensure the effective documentation, preservation, and conservation of works of art owned by the District as part of its art collections. The Superintendent shall develop and implement administrative procedures that ensure the care of the District’s art collections consistent with the purposes of this policy. The Superintendent shall also appoint a committee charged with establishing a charitable trust responsible for the preservation and management of the District’s art collections.**

**Legal References:**

GASB Statement No. 34  
Pol. 624 - Capital Asset