

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION:

TITLE: Art Collections

ADOPTED: December 13,
2018

REVISED:

719 ART COLLECTIONS

Purpose

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

These collections are inexhaustible and are 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

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textiles and memorabilia, integral architectural elements of buildings (including murals), collections or original historical documents acquired by donation or purchase that are located at various School District Philadelphia schools and offices and in offsite art storage.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 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 pieces are considered non-disposable, 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;
- Immediately following the decision to close a school, merge schools, relocate schools, or transfer a school building to a charter operator, all works of art housed in that school building will be accounted for and will be relocated into safe storage or another District managed public location;
- 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 (in administrative procedures); and collection related events and activities promote the public good rather than individual financial gain.
- The School District of Philadelphia will make annual reports to the Board during a public meeting related to activities of the art collection.

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 professional collection management including security, registration, documentation, conservation, and professional standards 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. The trust is responsible for the preservation and management of the District’s art collections. It will also ensure student access to the collection.

Legal References:

1. GASB Statement No. 34
2. American Alliance of Museums: Ethics Standards and Professional Practices
3. American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice