

2019 update

Adopted by the Lincoln City Council

May 13, 2019

PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN FOR LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

PUBLIC ART LINCOLN

Japanese born artist Jun Kaneko designed Tower Square at 13th and P Streets in Downtown Lincoln, including the art glass tower titled “Ascent”. The internally illuminated 57-foot tall tower is comprised of panels of colored art glass strips creating the striking graphic pattern that is emblematic of Kaneko’s work. The plaza surface is alternating bands of light and dark brick pavers in concentric rings emanating from the base of the tower reminiscent of the patterns in Japanese sand gardens. Tower Square and Ascent were dedicated in 2014.



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CITY OF LINCOLN PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

VISION STATEMENT:

The City of Lincoln Public Art Master Plan (the “Master Plan”) has been developed in conjunction with Public Art Lincoln to develop a public art collection of national prominence in Lincoln, Nebraska, which will enrich the quality of life for Lincoln's residents, complement the City's exceptional educational and cultural amenities, and support a positive economic environment in the community. This program will serve to unify the community, to encourage creativity, and to reflect the diverse cultural heritage of Lincoln residents. The quality of the program and its projects will attract visitors, enhance their experience, and bring national recognition and prestige to the City of Lincoln.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Master Plan is intended to provide a process and a framework for the development of a public art collection of national significance in the City of Lincoln, Nebraska.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the Master Plan are as follows:

1. To develop and recommend a governance/legal structure under which the City, Public Art Lincoln and other private and public entities can cooperate in the selection, funding, acquisition, siting, installation, display, maintenance and preservation of public art in Lincoln, Nebraska;
2. To identify and prioritize appropriate locations where public art could and should be located in Lincoln, Nebraska in order to maximize its impact on the public consciousness;
3. To assure that the artistic offerings in Lincoln, Nebraska reflect, engage with, and appeal to the ethnic, gender and age diversity of Lincoln's citizens and visitors;
4. To create and maintain an inventory of art in public spaces in Lincoln, Nebraska;
5. To develop a process and procedure for selection, acquisition, installation, display, maintenance and preservation of public art in Lincoln, including the purchase, loan, and donation of art, using the following criteria and guidelines for selection:

- a. Determine the cost and scope of the proposed projects.
 - b. Determine the scale and type of art collectively preferred for each priority location/site.
 - c. Recommend choices in genre or type including, but not limited to, abstract, environmental, representational, functional, and architectural art.
 - d. Recommend a budget for the project.
 - e. Review project criteria.
 - f. Choose best method for selecting the artist (where applicable).
 - g. Adjudicate proposals.
 - h. Make critical aesthetic judgments.
 - i. Address security and conservation issues relating to public art.
6. To provide a process for funding of general operations and the acquisition, installation, maintenance and preservation of public art in Lincoln through the identification and solicitation of potential donors and participation in various fundraising activities in support of public art. This may include seeking public funding to leverage private dollars and seeking private funding to leverage public dollars;
 7. To partner, cooperate and coordinate with Lincoln's art museums and public galleries to promote public art for Lincoln; and
 8. To recommend, advocate for and assist in the adoption of statutes, laws and ordinances, as well as rules, regulations, building codes and policies, that further the mission sought to be achieved by this Master Plan.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue's Nebraska State Capitol, very consciously created in 1922-32 to incorporate "A Harmony of the Arts" inside and out, set the bar high. Our community's premier landmark is of the highest artistic quality. In 1912, a full decade before the Capitol's groundbreaking, the community installed the "Gettysburg Lincoln" on the west side of the Capitol grounds. The community placed this sculpture by one of America's leading sculptors, Daniel Chester French, in a setting designed by Henry Bacon, a nationally prominent architect. Three years later French and Bacon collaborated on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. Very appropriately, this statue and its plaza were incorporated into the new site design when Goodhue's third Nebraska State Capitol replaced the second edition of the 1880's -- the only earlier features of Capitol Square to be retained.

The Capitol was completed in the depths of the Great Depression. Work relief projects designed to ameliorate the hardship of that era gave Lincoln, like many communities, additional public amenities that included the designed landscapes of Sunken Gardens

and Pioneers Park, enhanced by public art. Sculptor Ellis Burman produced several cast stone sculptures for city parks, including "Four Wars Memorial" at Antelope Park and "Smoke Signal" at Pioneers Park. Other key events in Lincoln's emergence as a community rich in public art include:

- 1963 dedication of Sheldon Museum of Art, a gem of Modern Classicism by renowned architect Philip Johnson. Sheldon houses not only the collections of Nebraska Art Association and University of Nebraska, but also offers an extensive and expanding Sculpture Garden and sculptural display throughout UNL campuses. <http://www.sheldonartmuseum.org/about/>
- 1968 founding of Lincoln Arts Council (private non-profit); which in 2007 was designated as the City of Lincoln's agency for the arts by Mayor Chris Beutler.
- 1985 Installation of "Tem and Ptah" by Jene Highstein east of Old City Hall, supported by National Endowment for the Humanities and local donors. The black granite monoliths were later relocated in consultation with Highstein to Centennial Mall.
- 1993 Lincoln Arts Council publish "Public Art Lincoln Nebraska: A brief survey of outdoor works," featuring 93 works which were "only a sampling of the fine pieces in our city."
- 1996 Sheldon Museum and local donors install "Torn Notebook" by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen at 12th & Q Streets, a collaborative project at a location bridging Downtown Lincoln and UNL's City Campus. UNL campuses and City parks remain leading public art venues in Lincoln.
- 2011 Mayor Chris Beutler works with community art enthusiasts to establish Public Art Lincoln (then Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development) as a public/private partnership, and formed an associated primarily City staff committee called the Mayor's Art Advisors Group (MAAG).
- 2012 The City Council adopted the Public Art Master Plan for Lincoln, Nebraska developed in partnership with the Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development (now Public Art Lincoln).
- 2012 Installation of "Groundwater Colossus" by James Tyler in Union Plaza.
- 2014 Installation of "Ascent" art glass tower by Jun Kaneko as the center piece of Tower Square at 13th and P Streets in downtown Lincoln. Kaneko also designed the plaza in which Ascent is located.

- 2014 Installation of "Reflection" by Albert Paley in the roundabout at North 8th Street and Arena Drive.
- 2016 Installation of "Harvest" by Ed Carpenter in the public plaza at the south entrance to the Pinnacle Bank Arena.
- 2016 Installation of "Palo Alto I" by John Buck in the Rotary Strolling Garden in Antelope Park.
- 2017 Loan of five stone artworks by Jim Huntington for temporary display in Densmore Park. "Wedgie" and "Sluice Scythe" were purchased through donations and installed at 11th and G Streets in 2018.
- 2017 Installation of "Standing Bear, Chief of the Ponca" by Benjamin Victor in Centennial Mall between P and Q Streets.
- 2018 Loan of "Dementia" by Charles Genever for temporary display along the Billy Wolff Trail in Holmes Park.
- 2019 Loan of "Bop and Crazyed" by Charles Genever for temporary display in front of the Ager Building in Antelope Park.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS

The successful creation and execution of a strategy for public art in Lincoln, Nebraska, requires public/private partnerships. The City alone does not have the staff, resources or desire to control most aspects of the selection, acquisition, siting, maintenance, preservation and decommissioning of an extensive inventory of public art. The private sector is encouraged to install artwork on private properties that are visible to the public, but alone cannot site art on public or City property. Together the public and private sectors can translate the community vision of a strong, diverse cultural heritage in Lincoln into a systematic program for the selection, acquisition and display of public art including pieces on City property.

The governance and funding of this process must of necessity be collaborative rather than hierarchical. Significant and interdependent roles will be played by the City, Public Art Lincoln, the Mayor's Art Advisors Group (MAAG), the Lincoln Community Foundation, the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, individual donors, and various other municipal and private entities.

Accordingly, the recommended responsibilities of the public and private parties are as follows:

I. THE MAYOR'S ART ADVISORS GROUP (MAAG).

The Mayor is responsible for appointing the members of the MAAG. By authority of Executive Order 90996, those members are:

Director of Parks and Recreation, or his or her designee
Director of Transportation and Utilities, or his or her designee
Director of Urban Development, or his or her designee
Director of Planning, or his or her designee
One City Council member to be determined by the City Council
One Mayoral staff member selected by the Mayor
One of the Co-Chairs of Public Art Lincoln
Director of Lincoln Arts Council or designee

The role of MAAG is to assist Public Art Lincoln in the site selection process. The primary work done by MAAG will be to ensure that any art project placed on city property complies with public safety considerations. MAAG will have little or no direct input on the qualitative aspects of the art selection process but will be involved in site selection. MAAG will also provide internal consultation to any City departments on art projects and policy.

II. THE PUBLIC ART LINCOLN BOARD.

Under Article II of the Rules of Organization of Public Art Lincoln the Board of Public Art Lincoln is comprised of eight permanent members plus community members up to a total of twenty-four (24) advisors. Permanent positions on the Public Art Lincoln Board are filled by these agencies and organizations: Parks and Recreation, Urban Development, City/County Planning, Sheldon Museum of Art, Sheldon Art Association, Lincoln Community Foundation, University of Nebraska Foundation and Lincoln Arts Council, while the community members will be appointed by election, by the Public Art Lincoln Board. The Public Art Lincoln Board may establish working committees with membership comprised of Board members and others, with a Board member serving as chair for each committee.

Public Art Lincoln exists to provide vision, engender support, create policy, advise the City and manage the process by which donations become public art on City property. Funds deposited with the Lincoln Community Foundation will be under the control of Public Art Lincoln. Public Art Lincoln will play the dominant role in the selection of art and advise and assist in its appropriate siting.

This collaborative process looks to Public Art Lincoln to create a vision for what art can and should do for the community. Defining the purposes and vision for a unified public art strategy is the heart of Public Art Lincoln's responsibilities. Execution of this strategy is the shared responsibility of all the partners.

III. ARTWORK AND ARTIST SELECTION

Depending on the circumstances, artwork may be donated, accepted on loan or be purchased with public and/or private funds.

Where applicable, methods used for artwork and artist selection may include open competition, request for qualifications, direct selection of an artist, direct purchase of a specific artwork or a selected work from an identified roster of artists. In the instances where art is being purchased using public funds, the selection process shall conform with all laws, regulations, and City policies governing purchasing and procurement. When determining the method to be used for selection of an artwork or artist, the following should be considered:

- The process should take into consideration needs related to the site, the community the project will serve, and the goals of the public art project.
- The selection process must include people with knowledge and experience in visual arts, including but not necessarily limited to a Public Art Lincoln art or artist selection committee, as well as people with a stake in the final project.
- To create an original artwork that is site-specific and is integrated with the overall site design, an artist must research the site, learn about the community, and understand the related capital improvement project and urban design conditions. Artists should not be requested to submit detailed artistic proposals at the initial request for qualifications stage of artist selection. When an appropriate design fee can be provided, it must be agreed upon in advance of submittal of a more detailed proposal

The City of Lincoln public art collection should be diverse in representational and non-representational works and themes. An artwork should generally enhance people's experience of the site or location. Artworks placed on City property should not pose a safety concern to residents. Artworks that are part of the permanent collection should be durable, suitable for indoor or outdoor display, and require limited maintenance. Images and themes should be consistent with community values. It is desirable for public artwork to inspire enthusiasm for public art.

IV. PROJECT APPROVAL.

Application for a license agreement may come from the City, the public, or from Public Art Lincoln. The process begins with a donor or project sponsor submitting an application for a license agreement to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or by Public Art Lincoln acquiring an artwork through purchase, donation, or loan. Except in the instance of a temporary exhibition lasting less than six months, Public Art Lincoln will, review the application or proposal. Public Art Lincoln will work with donors to further develop the project, if necessary, and will help find a suitable location for the artwork. During the review process, Public Art Lincoln will also work

with MAAG regarding siting of the project. If an artwork is proposed to be placed in the Capitol Environs District, the proposal will be reviewed and approved by the Capitol Environs Commission. If an artwork is proposed to be placed in a designated historic district, guidance will be sought from the Historic Preservation Commission. If artwork is proposed for public areas outside of the aforementioned districts, guidance will be sought from the Urban Design Committee.

If the project is to be placed on City owned property (no license agreement is needed for placement on private property) and an application has not yet been submitted to the Director of Parks, Public Art Lincoln may assist the donor or may submit the application itself, depending on who will own the artwork. The Director of Parks will then seek a final recommendation from MAAG on the compliance aspects of the project and, if recommended for approval, the Director will then negotiate the terms and conditions for a license agreement with the applicant. Such terms include but are not limited to ownership, placement, maintenance (including funding), public liability insurance, and deaccessioning the artwork.

Once a project is approved by Public Art Lincoln, and MAAG and the license agreement is agreed upon in principle by the City and the applicant, the application and all related materials are submitted to the Mayor for final approval. The Mayor will approve or disapprove all requests for a Public Art License Agreement under the authority of LMC §14.56. The Mayor may delegate this authority to the Parks and Recreation Director. Approval will be necessary for the siting of public art on City property. The Mayor or designee may accept the license agreement, request that changes be made in the project, or reject it outright. If the Mayor or designee signs the license agreement, thus accepting it, notice of the license must be given to the City Council within 72 hours. Upon the appeal of no less than four Council members within 14 days of the notice, the City Council shall then conduct a public hearing on the project within 30 days of the appeal. At or after the public hearing, the Council may confirm, reject, amend, modify, revoke, or cancel the license agreement. There is no process for appealing a license application that has not been approved (rejected or to be modified) by the Mayor or designee.

Public Art Lincoln working in cooperation with the City should develop standard application forms for completion by a party expressing interest in loaning and donating an artwork to be placed on City property.

Completed installations in the street right-of-way are under the supervision of the Director of Transportation and Utilities. Installations on City property outside the right-of-way are supervised by the Director of Parks and Recreation. The directors may delegate these tasks to designees.

The private sector side of this collaborative relationship includes donors, the Lincoln Community Foundation and Public Art Lincoln.

V. FUNDING STRATEGIES

To establish a long-term legacy of artworks in public spaces in Lincoln, there needs to be a steady funding stream for administration, cataloging, and conservation of the existing and future public art collection. In addition, there needs to be community investment in the creation of new permanent and temporary works in order to keep the collection and program relevant to its time.

With these goals in mind, several mechanisms of public and private funding should be considered. Financial contributions and gifts by corporations, private individuals and foundations can leverage limited public dollars. Private fundraising campaigns for acquisition of public art will be developed by members of Public Art Lincoln, with funds held by the Lincoln Community Foundation. The campaigns will encompass general fundraising for future acquisitions as well as targeted requests for specific commissions and/or locations. This will allow for both a flexible and individual approach to fit donors' various needs and expectations. Fundraising efforts must include funding for an endowment to provide for ongoing care of the related artwork.

Regardless of the source, it is important to know what constitutes usual and customary expenditures for public art projects. The following items represent the types of expenditures generally associated with the commissioning and placement of public artwork. The following are representative of expenditures to be considered:

- Cost of actual artwork.
- Artist and artwork-selection-related expenses including proposal and project related honoraria.
- Documentation and public education materials.
- Pre-design, design, planning and service contracts.
- Expenses for technical assistance provided by architects or engineers.
- A designated fund for project costs, maintenance, restoration, and conservation.
- Site preparation.
- Endowment for ongoing care of the artwork.

With these considerations in mind, a combination of public and private investments as described above will allow the City of Lincoln to develop a robust public art collection that will enhance its environment for generations to come.

Donors may contribute art or money to acquire, install and/or maintain art. Donors interested in making financial gifts for public art should contact the Lincoln Community Foundation for the Public Art Lincoln fund. Donors interested in donating or loaning artworks should contact the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department to initiate the cooperative review process with Public Art Lincoln.

The Lincoln Community Foundation serves as the entity that collects, controls and

administers the dispersal of the contributed financial resources. Public Art Lincoln is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. It does not exist to hold property, accept gifts or disperse money. It is a committee which provides advice regarding the administration and disbursement of the Public Art Lincoln Fund held by the Lincoln Community Foundation.

VI. INVENTORIES AND ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Lincoln Arts Council has initiated development of an inventory of public artworks in Lincoln. A copy of the public artworks inventory as updated, from time to time, by the Lincoln Arts Council is available at artscene.org/public-art. This inventory is structured and managed so as to be a resource to community residents and visitors seeking to view Lincoln's public art collection.

The Parks and Recreation Department has also developed an inventory of artworks installed on City property for inclusion in an electronic asset management system. The City should continue to cooperate with the Lincoln Arts Council in development and management of inventories. Ideally, the following information will be recorded in the City inventory and asset management system:

- Title of the artwork
- Medium
- Dimensions
- Photograph(s)
- Value at time of acquisition and current value as required for insurance purposes
- Artist
- Location
- Year created
- Year acquired
- Source of artwork, or funding for artwork (e.g., donor, fundraising campaign, Winnett Trust funds)
- Maintenance/conservation instructions

Information regarding newly acquired artworks should be entered into both the City inventory and asset management system and the inventory managed by the Lincoln Arts Council as the artworks are installed.

VII. PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES

Acquisition and placement of public art is focused in four categories:

- **Art walk** as a collection of pedestrian scale artwork that are organized and sited along a pedestrian walking route.
- **Monumental artworks** that are placed at community entrances and

prominent locations in Lincoln enhancing the identity and character of the community.

- Artworks have been placed in **roundabouts** in three locations in Lincoln ("Mbera at 33rd Street and Sheridan Boulevard, "Reflection" at 8th Street and Arena Drive, and "Vase with Flowers" at 14th and Superior Streets). Artworks in roundabouts enhance the experience of people travelling in Lincoln and serve as landmarks in the community.
- Artworks that are selected as **placemaking elements** intended to enhance the identity and character of particular districts within Lincoln.

A map depicting areas or districts in the Lincoln that have been the subject of prior studies and recommendations regarding placement of public art and depicting the location of major artworks in the community is included as an exhibit to this plan. A map depicting similar information for the Downtown area at a greater scale is also included as an exhibit. The purpose of these maps is to assist with siting for future artworks with an emphasis on opportunities for viewing and experiencing public artworks throughout Lincoln.

VIII. MAINTENANCE/CONSERVATION

Each public artwork should have maintenance/conservation instructions prepared by the artist or an artwork conservator. These instructions should accompany acquisitions of all new artworks. The maintenance/conservation instructions should be recorded in the public art inventory and asset management system maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. The City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department will generally be responsible for coordinating maintenance/conservation of public artworks located in parks or open spaces; such work will be done either by staff, qualified contractors, or professional conservators. The City of Lincoln Transportation and Utilities Department will generally be responsible for coordinating maintenance/conservation of public artworks located in public right-of-way areas.

The two departments should coordinate such efforts for consistency and efficiency.

IX. MAINTENANCE/CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

Acquisition of public artworks should be accompanied by placement of funds into a maintenance/conservation endowment to provide for the long-term care and maintenance of the community's public art. The Lincoln Community Foundation has established a public art maintenance/conservation endowment fund to receive, manage and distribute these funds.

X. OWNERSHIP

It is anticipated that most of the public artworks displayed on municipal property or

public art easements will be either owned by the City of Lincoln, private foundations, charitable organizations, individuals, and displayed on municipal property through a license agreement. In some instances, privately owned artworks suitable for display on public property may be secured through a loan agreement.

Public artwork is to be identified with a plaque or marker identifying the owner (e.g., City of Lincoln Public Art Collection), the artist's name, title of the work, and year created. The plaque or marker may include the name(s) of the donor. Corporate script or logos are not permitted.

XI. COPYRIGHT

All acquisitions and displays of artwork shall be in full compliance with all federal and state laws regarding the rights of the artist in and to the artwork.

Agreements with artists for acquisition should reference the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA).

XII. ACCESSIONING AND DEACCESSIONING

The term "accessioning" is the process under which legal title to an artwork is acquired for the public art collection. This can be through commissioning, gifts, purchases, bequests, exchange and any other formal processes or transactions by which legal title to an artwork is acquired for the City public art collection. The City of Lincoln, the Lincoln Community Foundation, and Public Art Lincoln subscribe to a policy of selective acquisition of fine art with preference for works of art that are of significant artistic merit. However, there may be instances where artworks of lesser artistic significance may be acquired because of appeal to a particular audience or thematic relationship to a particular location or facility. Care and discernment are exercised in acquiring artworks because of limitations of staffing and finances to manage the public art collection and the desire to collect significant art of high quality.

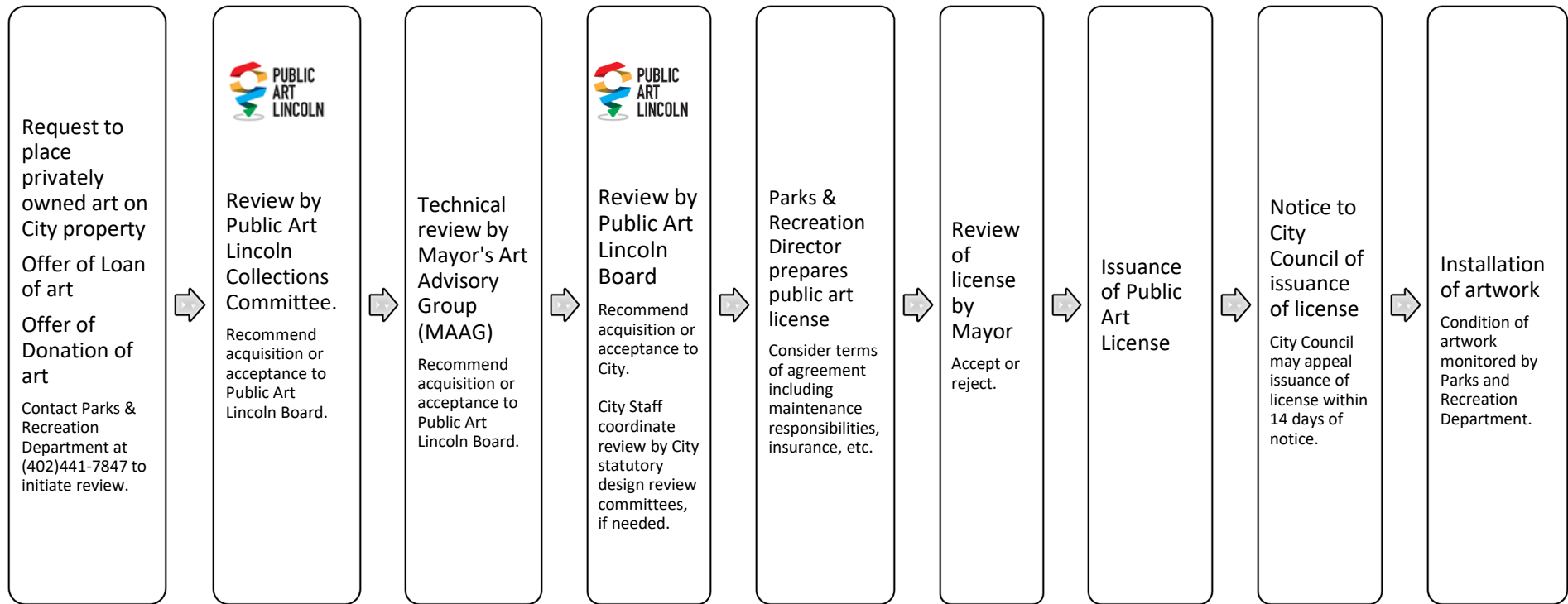
Acceptance and placement of donated artworks should be in accordance with the adopted City of Lincoln Public Art Master Plan. The quality, scale, and character of the artwork should be appropriate to the display setting. Donations of works of art that require the City to pay restoration or repair costs are not encouraged. Works of art requiring high or excessive maintenance/conservation should be declined unless funds can be secured for endowment of this work. All proposed donations of art must be reviewed by Public Art Lincoln, in conjunction with MAAG and other appropriate City advisory boards and commissions such as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Urban Design Committee, and the Capitol Environs Commission.

The City may deaccession and dispose of works of art in its collection when it finds such action is a means of improving the quality of the collection, a loan agreement expires, is

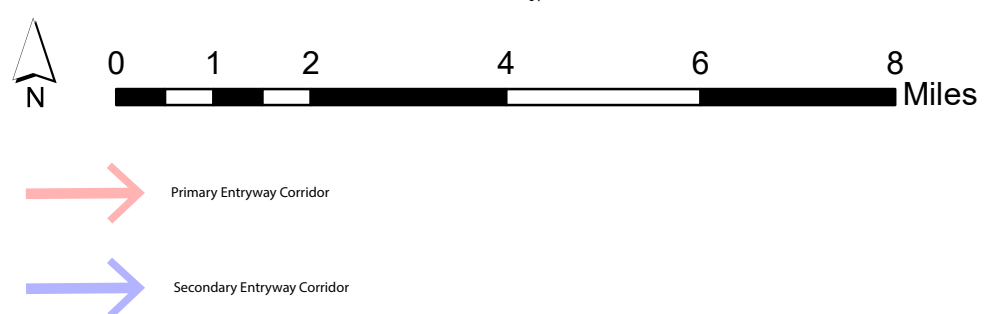
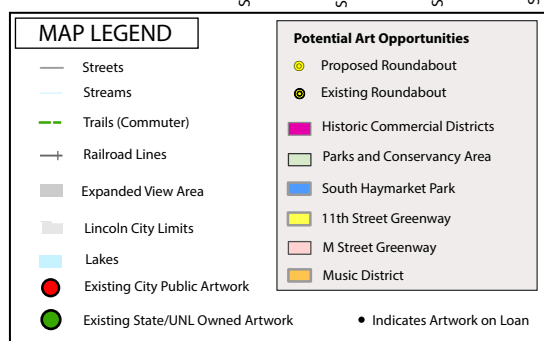
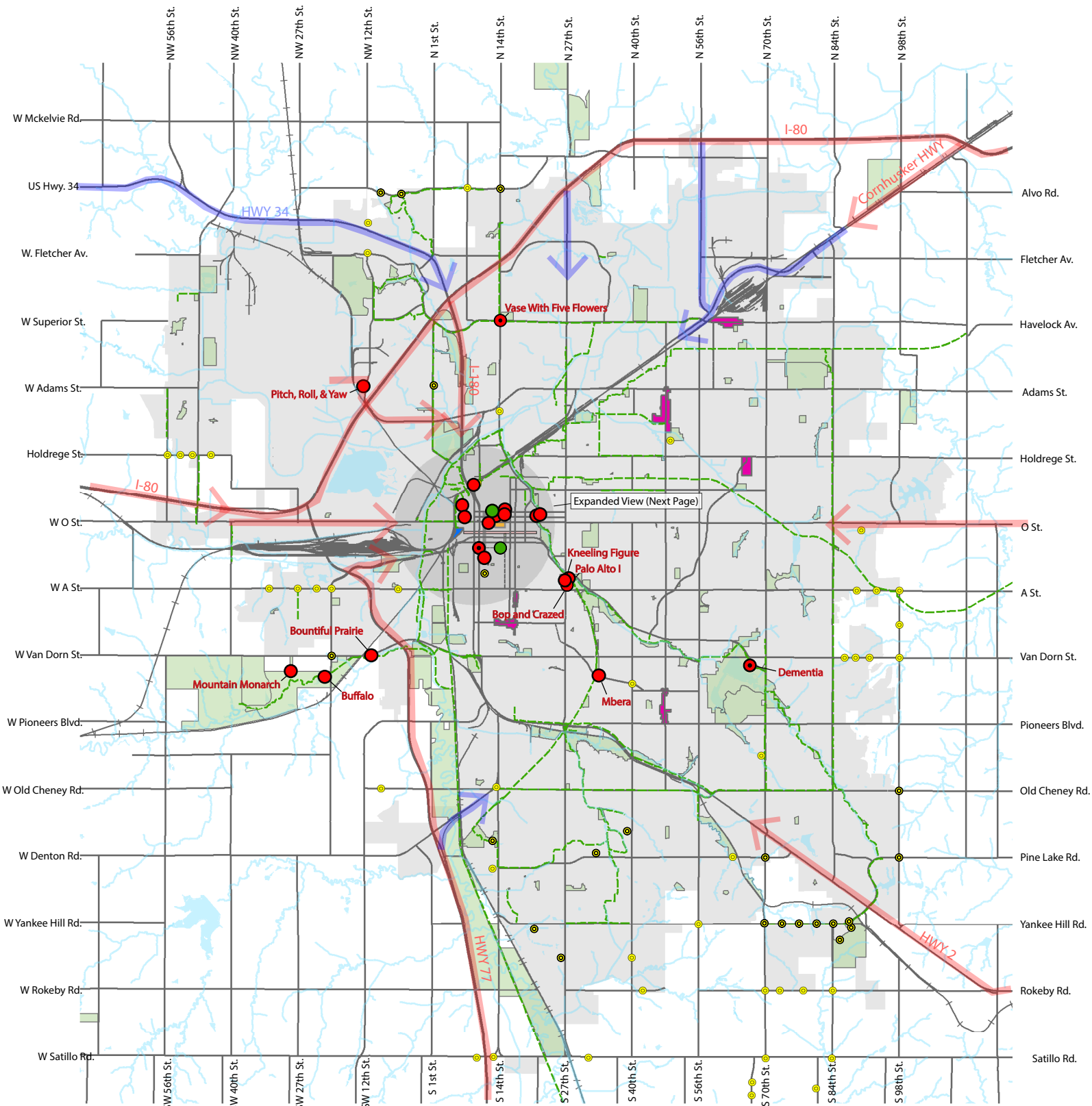
a means of protecting public safety, the license is not renewed, or otherwise is in the public interest. A public artwork may be relocated or removed if it presents a hazard or liability through deterioration or damage. Artworks proposed to be deaccessioned must be reviewed by Public Art Lincoln to seek advice and guidance. Works of art that came into the City collection prior to adoption of this policy will be subject to this deaccessioning procedure. A permanent record of all deaccessioned objects shall be kept, including the conditions and date of the action. All documents including the authorization for the action taken shall be kept in the City's files.

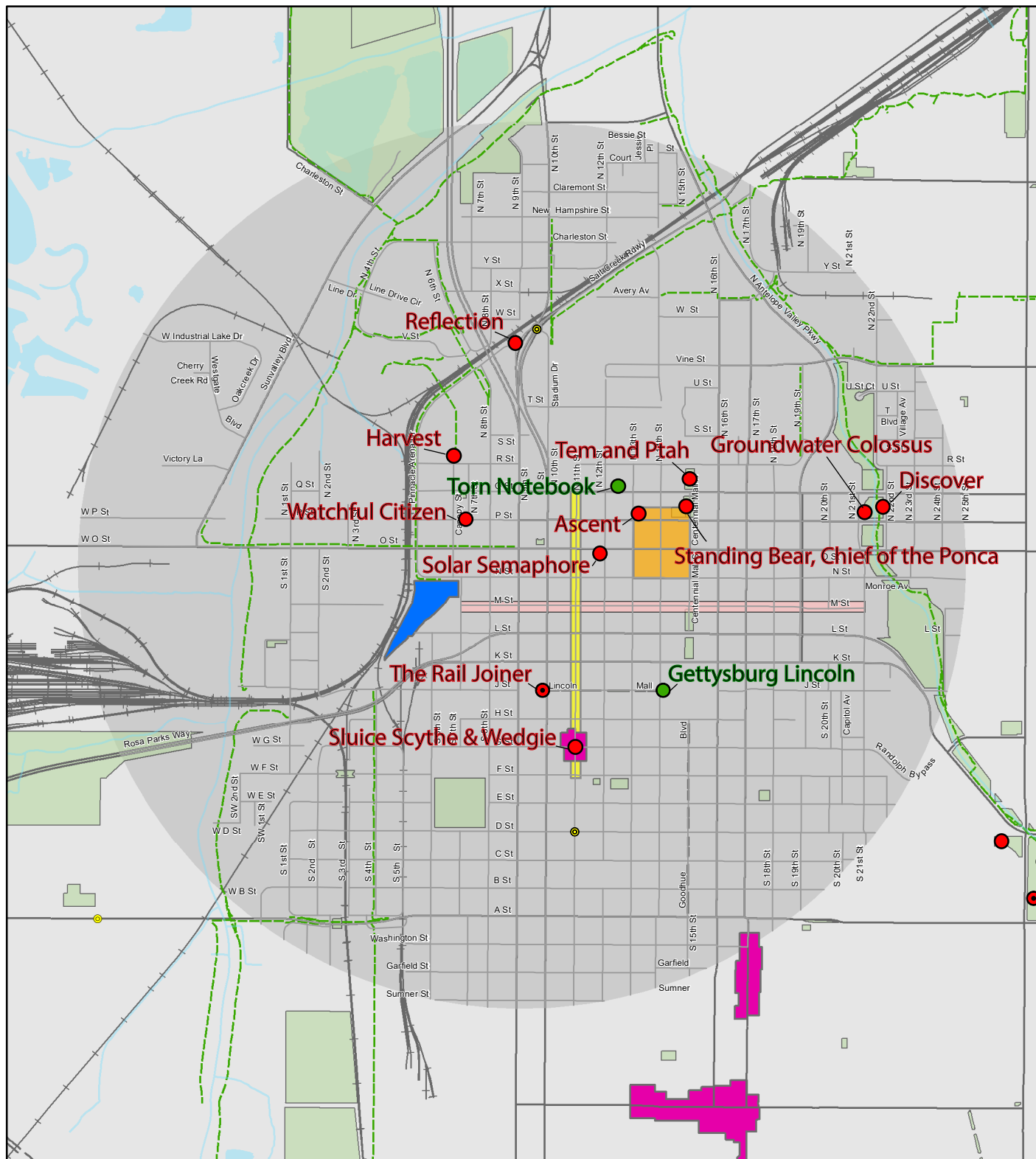
A written statement of the City's policies and procedures with respect to accessioning and deaccessioning of public art collection items shall be made available to donors and other persons upon request.

Process for Review and Approval of Placement of Artworks on City of Lincoln Property



Public Art Map + Potential Art Opportunity Locations





MAP LEGEND

- Streets
- Streams
- Trails (Commuter)
- Railroad Lines
- Expanded View Area
- Lincoln City Limits
- Lakes
- Existing City Public Artwork
- Existing State/UNL Owned Artwork

Potential Art Opportunities

- Proposed Roundabout
- Existing Roundabout
- Historic Commercial Districts
- Parks and Conservancy Area
- South Haymarket Park
- 11th Street Greenway
- M Street Greenway
- Music District
- Indicates Artwork on Loan

