

The State Art Fund: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the State Art Fund?

The State Art Fund, known as the Percent for Art Program, is dedicated to enhancing our state-funded buildings, illustrating and supporting the services provided in those buildings through the art displayed, and making art more accessible to our citizens. All artwork acquired through the State Art Fund is intended for public view.

Why is the State Art Fund important?

The program was set up to safeguard a modest public investment in the arts, and to establish an on-going process by which original art is created and selected for our public buildings. It provides:

- **Fairness:** All buildings receive art reflective of New Hampshire's history and heritage.
- **Clear process:** There is an open, inclusive, deliberative process for selection of artwork.
- **Professional standards:** There is professional oversight and stewardship of our public art.
- **Integration of artwork:** the selection of artwork aligns with the timing of capital projects, which allows for full integration, efficiency and cost savings throughout the project.

How is the program funded?

The State Art Fund was enacted by the NH State Legislature in 1979 through RSA 19-A:9 and RSA 19-A:10. It authorizes ½ half of one percent of the capital budget appropriation for a new building or significant renovation to be set aside in a non-lapsing account for acquiring or commissioning artwork for that building.

Program guidelines specify that up to 80% of the amount generated is applied to the purchase of artwork for display **in the building generating the funds**. The balance is utilized for costs related to convening selection committees, labeling, and the periodic acquisition of artwork for the State Arts Bank so that other state buildings may benefit from the program.

Stewardship of the State Arts Collections is the responsibility of the Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) and the NH State Council on the Arts (NHSCA) and meets professional standards of collection management. Repairs to artwork in the Arts Council's collections are also funded through the State Arts Fund and through the DCR's allocated Cultural Conservation funds.

How is the art selected?

In accordance with RSA 19-A:10, the NHSCA oversees the process for selection of artwork by convening a Site Selection Committee made up of site and art advisors. Site advisors include representatives from the agency or agencies housed in the building; the project architect, if available; a representative from the Bureau of Public Works' Division of Design & Construction; users of the building; and sometimes a state legislator from the district where the building is located. Art advisors include one to three people who may be professional artists, craftsmen, art educators, or gallery directors. Site Selection Committee meetings are facilitated by one or more staff members from the NHSCA.

For each project, the Site Selection Committee identifies the primary locations where the public will have the greatest access to the artwork and also identifies themes for the artwork to address.

The NHSCA issues Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to artists for that specific project. Rules call for preference to be given to artists residing in New Hampshire and the Northeast. (Over the last 7 years, 74% of the selected artists were from New Hampshire.)

The Site Selection Committee reviews proposals submitted by artists and makes recommendations to the Arts Council for selection of artwork based on the following criteria:

- Quality, appropriateness, and suitability of the proposed artwork in relation to the RFP.
- Suitability of the proposed artwork to the location.
- Suitability to the stated themes of the proposed medium, form, and artistic concept.
- Design considerations: artworks must be durable, require minimal maintenance, meet safety standards, and adhere to building codes and other state regulations.
- The artist's ability to carry out the commission, to keep the project within budget, and to complete and install the work on schedule. Assessment is based on evidence of successful projects undertaken and completed as presented in the artist's resume and work samples. All work selected must be original.

What type of artwork is purchased through the program?

All forms of art are commissioned and acquired through the program, including two-dimensional works (paintings, watercolors, photographs, tile murals, stained glass, mixed media pieces, etc.) and three-dimensional works (sculptures, mobiles, free-standing ceramics, etc.).

How much is spent in a typical year?

There is no "typical" year. The amount spent each year varies with the funding generated for state building projects through the capital budget and the speed with which projects advance. (In FY2010 and FY2011, several building projects came to fruition enabling the implementation of a number of projects, resulting in an overall increase of expenditure in those two years.)

Expenditures for the past five fiscal years (as reported in the HB1285 Fiscal Note):

FY2007 - \$39,180

FY 2008 – \$8,580

FY2009 - \$27,210

FY2010 - \$92,220

FY2011 - \$81,513

Projected Expenditures:

FY2012 - \$67,190

FY2013 - \$44,268

What is the State Arts Bank?

As part of the State Arts Collections, the NH State Council on the Arts maintains an Arts Bank, established in the 1980s, consisting primarily of two-dimensional artwork. Artwork in this collection is available on loan to state agencies for display in public spaces of state buildings for the benefit of New Hampshire citizens.

For more information on the Percent for Art program, please visit:

<http://www.nh.gov/nharts/programservices/percentforart.htm>