

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles Art Collection is a significant public cultural resource that includes artworks acquired, commissioned, or otherwise owned by the City and displayed in public buildings, civic spaces, and other City facilities. The City Art Collection, managed by the Department of Cultural Affairs, consists of more than 2,000 artworks and objects. The collection reflects Los Angeles' history, diverse communities, and artistic heritage and can include paintings, sculptures, photographs, murals, and other forms of visual art. Proper stewardship of the collection requires the City to maintain accurate inventories, ensure artwork is handled with care through conservation, art handling and installation, document ownership and provenance, and establish clear policies for acquisition, relocation, maintenance, and deaccessioning.

Art deaccession procedures are necessary to ensure that museums, cultural institutions, and public agencies have a transparent, consistent, and accountable process for removing artworks from their collections. A formal policy would establish clear criteria for deaccessioning, require appropriate professional review and documentation, address legal and ethical considerations, and provide safeguards against decisions based solely on changing tastes, political pressure, financial needs, or individual preferences. It should also establish how proceeds from any sale are handled, generally limiting their use to purposes that directly support the institution's collection and stewardship responsibilities. For public art and publicly owned collections, these procedures are particularly important because they protect public assets, maintain public trust, preserve institutional history, and ensure that decisions are made through a documented process that is open to appropriate oversight and community input.

The City of Los Angeles currently does not have a deaccession policy for works of art and objects that may no longer fit in the City's art collection or have become damaged beyond repair. Deaccession policies are common in accredited museums and municipal collections. It is important that the City develop a process that is objective and ensures proper disposition of artworks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council instruct the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, in coordination with the Department of Cultural Affairs and other necessary departments, to report on a proposed deaccession policy that mirrors what other municipalities and museums have created, or includes other industry best practices

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:




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