

**SUBJECT: ART ACQUISITIONS POLICY****1. Purpose**

The following *Art Acquisitions Policy* provides clear definitions, guidelines, criteria and procedures for the acquisition of art works acquired by the University of Northern British Columbia. This policy also provides a statement of limits to the collecting responsibilities of the UNBC Senate Committee on Academic Affairs (SCAAF) Senate Art Acquisition Sub-Committee (SAAS). It is the intent of this policy to ensure that the University's Art Collections meet the teaching and academic research needs of the University community and the research needs of the public in general.

**2. Scope**

The *Art Acquisitions Policy* applies only to the Permanent and Education Art Collections and Temporary Art Holdings of the University of Northern British Columbia (hereafter referred to as the *University's Artwork Collections*). SAAS will redirect objects which fall outside the purview of this policy to appropriate University departments.<sup>1</sup>

**3. Authority/Responsibility**

The *University Act* grants Senate the power to establish policies regarding the conservation of heritage objects and collections owned by the University [see Section 37 (1) (m)]. On May 1, 2009, in response to Section 37 (1) (m), the responsibility for the acquisition and disposition of University Artworks was re-designated by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy & Planning (SCAPP) to a stand-alone Art Acquisition Sub-Committee. Under the administrative authority of the Steering Committee of Senate, SAAS was established. Through its *Terms of Reference [approved May 13, 2009]*, SAAS is responsible for ensuring compliance of its mandate and providing direction for the University Artwork Collection. The Head of the University's Northern BC Archives & Special Collections maintains and preserves the University's Artwork Collections and is the primary contact for care of the collection.

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Terms of Reference for SAAS: *(Revision approved by Senate, see minutes December 15, 2010)*

- To provide support, direction and advice to the University community, Senate, and the President on issues that might impact a proposed artwork acquisition; including budgetary implications, conservation needs, appraisal and space requirements;
- To review and monitor the growth and relevance of the University's Artwork Collections as it pertains to the research needs of the University community;
- To develop appropriate relationships with persons whose expertise is relevant to the objects in the collection;
- To review and facilitate the de-accessioning process.

The linked document informs this policy and should be consulted in connection to it. It outlines procedures and guidelines on gifting, monetary appraisal, loans, exhibition, commissioning and de-accessioning as it pertains to the University Artworks Collection. (*See University Artworks Guidelines* [link])

#### History of the Development of the University Art Collections:

In 1996 a number of UNBC employees founded the Arts Council of UNBC in response to the need to acquire art for exhibition on campus, and to foster a relationship between the University and the arts community in Prince George and its regions. UNBC acquired its first significant donation from Ray Anderson including 25 major Inuit sculptures, 75 small soap stone sculptures and 40 stone cut Inuit prints. Since that time the Arts Council has initiated and collaborated on many art exhibitions and encouraged the acquisition of art on behalf of the University. Originally the *UNBC Art and Artifact Acquisitions Committee*, a standing committee under the auspices of the President's Office, reviewed all acquisitions of art and artifacts. This committee was dissolved and from 1999-2009 the Arts Council of UNBC, as an existing standing committee under the auspices of the President's Office, reviewed all acquisitions of art, along with the exhibition thereof. On May 1, 2009, in response to Section 37(1) (m) of the *University Act*, the responsibility for the acquisition and disposition of University Artworks was re-designated by SCAPP to a stand-alone Art Acquisition Sub-Committee, SAAS. With the responsibility of acquisitions now reassigned, the Arts Council of UNBC now focuses solely upon exhibition and supporting cultural events both on and off campus.

The University Art Collections are stored, maintained and preserved by the Northern BC Archives & Special Collections, an administrative unit of the Geoffrey R. Weller Library. The art collections, not on permanent exhibit throughout the University, are housed in the Archives' environmentally controlled, storage facility located on the fourth floor of the Library Building. While the physical care of the art is the responsibility of the Archives, the actual curation and exhibition of these artworks is the duty of the Arts Council of UNBC.

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## UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTIONS – DEFINITIONS

In order to fulfill the mandate to exhibit, maintain and preserve the art holdings two categories have been created: *Permanent Art Collection* and the *Education Art Collection*. A third category for loans or fundraising purposes will be *Temporary Art Holdings*.

### 1. Permanent Art Collection

This collection is comprised of original artworks and may include supplementary textual information about the item. These works may be displayed on occasion and efforts will be made to monitor the display environment and mitigate fluctuations in environmental conditions. The Head of Archives supervises access to these works.

### 2. Education Art Collection

This collection is comprised of reproduction prints, support materials and resource materials (i.e. exhibition catalogues). The focus of the *Education Art Collection* is to support and expand the greater context of the *Permanent Art Collection* and to act as a hands-on educational tool. These works may be placed on display and are available for faculty and students' research or presentation needs and may be considered for circulation to other cultural institutions. The Head of Archives supervises access to these works.

### 3. Temporary Art Holdings

Temporary holdings of art will normally refer to artworks on loan for exhibition and such loans will be administered by the Head of Archives and will be referred to the UNBC Arts Council for submission, review and approval. On occasion UNBC may be offered artworks for fundraising purposes and the receipt of such items will be ascertained in consultation with the Office of External Relations. SAAS will also refer the disposition of such items to the Office of External Relations for consideration.

### 4. University Artwork Collections

In the interest of simplicity, when referring to the University's *Permanent Art Collection*, and its *Education Art Collection*, the phrase *University (UNBC) Artwork Collections* will be used to encompass both collections.

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<sup>i</sup> Archaeological specimens owned or in the care of UNBC are not included within this policy document. Contact the Archaeology Department for policy and procedures documentation on archaeological specimens in its care.