

**POLICY ON TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART
LOWELL HISTORIC BOARD
Adopted July 12, 2004**

The Lowell Historic Board believes that the historic architecture found in the Downtown Lowell Historic District is art in and of itself and should be respected as such. The same can be said of the surrounding context including streetscape, parks, canalways, and other supporting features of the District. A cohesive whole has been created that supports economic development, tourism, and cultural activities.

Because the historic resources and any temporary public art must share the same landscape, the addition of the new to the old must be harmonious. Siting of temporary public art must respect the historic setting and have no tendency to overwhelm or be obtrusive. It also cannot cause physical damage to historic resources as well as other supporting features of the District.

The Board encourages the development of context-sensitive temporary public art installations within the District. Because the appearance of such installations can have a significant impact on the District's 19th century setting, the Board has developed guidelines to assist applicants in proposing installations that complement the District's setting.

Application

- The Lowell Historic District Act (Chapter 566 of the Acts of 1983) requires that before anyone undertake any activity within the Downtown Lowell Historic District that an application first be submitted for the Board for review and approval prior to being undertaken. Proposals for temporary public art within the District shall be considered in the same manner that other applications for development are reviewed by the Board.
- Applications will include a proposed exhibition timeline including location(s), installation and removal dates, design and installation plan, maintenance plan, and removal plan.

Duration

- Temporary installations are defined by an exhibition period of less than six months. Considerations for renewal for up to a maximum of three additional months will be considered based upon upkeep and maintenance.

Location

- Installations cannot obscure architectural features, nor detract from the existing historic, architectural, and design context of the site and surrounding area. The installation must respect the historic setting and have no tendency to overwhelm or be obtrusive.
- Installations should be placed in a site where it will enhance its surroundings or at least not detract from it. It should not be placed in a given site if the landscaping and maintenance requirements of that site cannot be met.
- Installations cannot damage existing surfaces. No direct painting of fences, walls, and other surfaces will be allowed. Method of installation and attachment must be non-intrusive and approved as part of the installation plan. All surfaces must be restored to their previous state upon removal of artwork.

Design and Installation Plan

- A graphic representation of the proposed format and installation is required. Acceptable forms might include photographic images of existing work to be installed, computer-generated simulations, line drawings, color

renderings, or other means of graphic representation of the proposed installation that adequately conveys the nature of the artist's proposal.

- A narrative description of the proposed format and installation, including discussion of materials to be used and methods of construction and installation must also accompany the graphic representation.

Materials and Signage

- The material to be used for fabrication of the work shall be of a type appropriate to the theme or concept of the proposed artwork and should respect the surrounding natural and building environments. The material shall require low maintenance and shall not include any dangerous surfaces or materials.
- Accessories to the artwork such as mounting hardware and lighting, shall not distract from the artwork. In the case of lighting, it must be non-flashing and non-moving and cannot create glare for passing drivers or pedestrians. All accessories shall be durable and require low maintenance.
- Interpretive signage must be preapproved and conform with the signage standards of the Board.

Safety and Security

- Installations cannot block windows or doorways, nor access and egress from buildings. Normal pedestrian and vehicular access cannot be inhibited.
- The artwork and accessories shall not present an attractive hazard to the public or be positioned so as to create a "blind spot" where illegal activity might take place.
- Installations must be secured in a manner so that they will not create potential hazards to the public or surrounding property.

Maintenance

- The installation shall be kept in good repair for the duration of the exhibition period. Any deterioration, vandalism, and other maintenance issues shall be addressed in a timely manner by the artist and/or sponsoring organization. Failure to properly maintain the installation will result in notification for removal.

Removal

- Installations must be removed by the approved deadline. The Board may consider exhibition periods for up to a maximum of three months based upon upkeep and maintenance.
- The installation must be completely removed from the site and all surfaces must be restored to their previous state upon removal of artwork.