



City of Sydney

# Interim Aerosol Art Guidelines

For the Creation and Management of Murals in the Public Domain



September 2006

## 1 Preface

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Aerosol art is a particularly urban means of artistic expression with a complex set of associations regarding its origin, relevance, creation and longevity. The City of Sydney recognises the artistic and social value of aerosol art, as well as the shared nature of the public domain. As every other item introduced into the public domain, new works of aerosol art will be subject to a DA process. This document provides guidelines for the maintenance of existing murals, proposals to modify existing murals and the creation of new murals.

This document addresses the creation, maintenance and management of aerosol art or graffiti-style murals in the City of Sydney Local Government Area. It does not address illegal graffiti, vandalism or tagging, which are subject to immediate removal and addressed in the City of Sydney Graffiti Management Policy 2004.

## 2 Purpose

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To ensure that the creation and maintenance of aerosol art works in the City of Sydney Local Government Area are managed in a fair and equitable way.

## 3 Process

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Existing murals. The City of Sydney Mural Register catalogues existing murals which have been accepted by the City as contributing to the local character of a precinct and which are not subject to removal. This register will be updated and additional information such as artist's and owner's details included, where possible, to facilitate the management of the mural.

New Murals. Proposals for new murals will require a Development Application and will be subject to Council's approval process. Proposals will be assessed by the Public Art Panel and a recommendation made to accept, accept with modifications, or reject the work. Proposals must include sufficient information for the assessment to be valid. Proposals for murals which are the subject of workshops and/or the involvement of many people, where the final result cannot be presented for assessment prior to their creation, must present a clear indication of the structure of the proposal as well as examples of the lead artist's work.

Proposals to modify existing murals. It is common practice for aerosol art walls to be "curated" or treated as changing displays of current art by property owners and/or artists. This practice often results in quality works which contribute to the public domain. In locations where this has demonstrably been the case, an applicant may apply for a two-year permit at the initial DA stage. This will allow subsequent changes to be made fairly quickly.

## 4 Criteria

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Aerosol art murals are treated as works of art in the public domain and assessed in the same manner as any other proposal. The criteria for public art are sufficiently broad to equitably accommodate different styles, aesthetics and art media. New acquisitions should be based on the following criteria:

- Standards of excellence and innovation.
- The integrity of the artwork or cultural object.
- Relevance and appropriateness of the work to the context of its site.
- Relevance and appropriateness of the work to the City of Sydney.
- Consistency with the City's Public Art Policy
- Consistency with Council's Vision for Sydney
- Consistency with current planning, heritage and environmental policies and Plans of Management
- Consideration of public safety and the public's access to and use of the public domain.
- Consideration of maintenance and durability requirements.
- Evidence of funding source and satisfactory budget including an allocation for ongoing maintenance.
- Community support should be sought and considered.