

Bucknell University
Public Art Placement on Campus Grounds

Introduction

Inasmuch as universities help to create new knowledge and to protect and disseminate what is known, it is necessary for Bucknell University to embrace a discourse in ideas that recognize the range of experiences and inventions of the mind. Such inclusiveness must extend to and embody many creative processes including those of visual expression. Bucknell is committed to facilitating, nurturing, and protecting visual art as one manifestation of such broad and openly shared discourse, especially in connection with its instructional programs of study and when the display of works of art on campus can be an integral part of the educational mission of the university. Like written texts, the visual arts express ideas that foster intellectual exchange. Works of art, especially those that are publicly displayed in outdoor areas and are subject to a large audience, prompt expressions of divergent points of view and thus opportunities for our students to learn to discuss their opinions and reactions in a respectful manner informed by aesthetic sensibilities.

The interest in finding ways to implement and mediate these principles and commitments through University policy may be found as early as 1970, in the convening of "The Committee on Works of Art." The Administrative Council, convened by the President, maintains current oversight in this area and has delegated the normal procedures to assess art placement in outside, public areas owned by the University *as outlined below*. This policy document serves to establish guidelines for this assessment and implementation of policy.

I. Temporary Display of Art on Campus Grounds

A. Student Artwork

The following officers and bodies are responsible for oversight of procedures and temporary placement of student art on campus: the Vice President of Finance and Administration; the Dean of Arts and Sciences; the Department of Art and Art History; and the Director of the Samek Art Gallery. This committee may be called *The Student Temporary Art Review Team (START)*.

The College's Deans are invited to work with the Director of the Physical Plant and in consultation with the Department of Art and Art History and the Director of the Bucknell Art Gallery to find appropriate locations for concrete "pads" or other appropriate venues to install outdoor works of art produced by students when they are developed from coursework and recognized University programs. The purpose of this initiative is to provide our students opportunities *to temporarily* display their work on campus. The anticipated duration of the installation will be approximately six weeks with the goal of maximizing the availability of display space for students.

Procedure:

The procedure for the temporary installation of student art involves three levels of approval: Faculty Sponsor; departmental, and institutional.

Step One: the student will solicit the support of a faculty member in the Art Department as sponsor. The student will submit a proposal to the faculty Sponsor. The proposal will include a statement on the proposed project, drawings, diagrams and/or photographs; information including size, materials, and proposed location. Faculty sponsor will evaluate proposal, and will approve, recommend changes, or reject the proposal. Changes will be resubmitted to the Faculty Sponsor for approval. Step Two: if approved by the Faculty Sponsor, the student will present the proposal to the Art and Art History Department. Step Three: if approved by the department, finally, the Faculty Sponsor and student will call a meeting and present the proposal to the Vice President of Finance and Administration, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the Director of the Samek Art Gallery.

Concerns and problems with this student-oriented temporary installation system or with the content of the artwork will be adjudicated first at the department of origin and then, if not resolved, involve the Director of the Samek Art Gallery and the appropriate College Dean. The University cannot be held responsible for displayed objects on the pads, but will make appropriate attempts, through communications with Physical Plant and Public Safety, to allow the objects to be recognized as protected objects. The University retains the right to take into account safety issues in evaluating the appropriateness of any temporary student artwork installation. Students are responsible for reclaiming or dismantling their artwork when the display period has expired. With the exception of the art barn studio courtyard--which has been used for many years as exterior instructional space for developing work in progress, and more recently has been utilized for temporary mural presentation-and the "display pads" described above, student artwork will not normally be displayed on other parts of campus.

Exceptions: the sponsoring faculty member must review exceptions to this policy with the Dean of his/her College. The Dean will bring such proposals to START for final deliberation. Considerations such as materials involved, proposed location, aesthetic relationship of the artwork with its location, impact on the maintenance of the landscape of the campus in the proposed area, funding for any cost of upkeep or maintenance, possible liability issues either to the piece of art or to the community, and length of display will be of importance in this review.

B. Professional Artwork

The Director of the Samek Art Gallery is responsible for evaluating proposals of artwork, oversight of procedures and temporary placement of art on campus. The Director will consult with officers and bodies as outlined below. The Director will make recommendations to the Campus Art Advisory Committee.*

Members of the campus community interested in proposing a temporary display of art on the campus grounds should submit a proposal to the Director of the Samek Art Gallery. The proposal should include background information on the artist(s), and images of prior public art. The proposal for Bucknell University should include a description of the proposed work

(drawings, written, etc.) including materials, fabrication, campus location, budget and funding sources, and length of display. The director will consider the proposal using similar criteria to those used when considering temporary exhibitions for the Samek Art Gallery, including but not limited to: Is the work of high quality? Does the artist(s) have experience working with public art? With these materials? Does the proposal consider the aesthetic relationship with the proposed site and campus grounds? Will the students and campus community benefit from the work? Does the proposed work merit the possible allocation of university resources? Is the work a risk to the physical safety of community members? How long will the work be on display?

If the proposal seems viable, the Samek Art Gallery Director will consult with the Director of Physical Plant regarding placement, maintenance, potential expenses and safety. The Samek Art Gallery Director will then consult with the VP for Academic Affairs. If the proposal is supported, the director will then seek approval from the Campus Art Advisory Committee. If approved, the director, in consultation with the appropriate university offices, will write a contract for signature by the university and the artist. The contract will address the issues cited above, the length of display, and any other issues raised by VPAA and Campus Art Advisory Committee.

II. Permanent and Long-Term Placement of Public Art on Campus

The permanent display of Public Art at Bucknell University is addressed in the forthcoming Collections Management Policy. Issues including acquisition procedure for gift or purchase, installation, related public interpretive programming, placement, and maintenance are addressed in this document.

** The Campus Art Advisory Committee will consist of The Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Director of the Samek Art Gallery. The committee will be chaired by the Samek Art Gallery Director, and will meet on an "as needed" basis.*