

North Somerset Council Guidelines for Temporary Public Art

Who this guidance is for

North Somerset Council has produced this Temporary Public Art Guidance which is intended for artists, agents, cultural organisations and anyone involved in placing temporary public art. These guidelines apply wherever temporary artworks are proposed for placement on property owned or controlled by North Somerset Council.

What is Temporary Public Art?

Temporary public art is defined as any art, including visual artworks, performances, projections, digital media, virtual reality and other artistic media that is not intended to be permanent and is not made a part of permanent public art. Temporary public art is generally displayed for 12 months or less.

Type of art covered by this guidance

All approaches and media for public art will be considered. These include but are not limited to artworks that consist of or include sculpture, light, community art, performance, sound, projection art and other artistic media.

Standards of material

- Physical artworks must be constructed to withstand outdoor placement during the designated display period.
- Temporary artworks and experiences must not create a nuisance in the community where the artwork is placed, especially when employing light or sound.
- Artwork must not contravene health and safety regulations and a risk assessment must be submitted where appropriate covering both installation, regular monitoring and decommissioning. The risk assessment must also cover Covid safety measures while they are appropriate.
- Physical artwork selected for temporary placement may require approved structural standards, contain no hazardous material and not be a fire risk.
- Physical artwork may require specific insurance requirements or certification.
- Physical artwork must also not be of a design or in a location that will encourage people climbing on it.
- Artwork may require planning permission or listed building consent if attached to a listed structure.
- It is the responsibility of the artist/agent/cultural organisation to maintain the appearance of the artwork including cleaning as necessary and keep it compliant within safety regulations.

- Should the quality of the artwork become damaged or degraded it is the responsibility of the artist/agent/cultural organisation to remove it in a timely manner.
- The location of the artwork should not change without further consent being given.

Content criteria for all art work

Content should not:

- be contrary to North Somerset Council's vision, values and ambitions set out in its corporate plan
- promote causes at variance with published North Somerset Council policies or decisions eg. the council's Equal Opportunities Policy
- campaign or comment against council decisions
- contravene the Equality Act in terms of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation
- promote public support for a political party or political cause
- aim to convert people to a particular faith or urge a particular course of action
- contain a direct appeal for donations of money or other goods
- advertise a commercial activity or product
- be deemed capable of breaching the peace
- be likely to cause offence to any recognisable local personalities or political figures
- promote tobacco products

Removal

All temporary artworks must be removed by the artist unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the council. The site must be restored to its original condition at the end of the display period.

Approval for art work

Projects proposed by individuals or arts organisations will be evaluated by council staff for compliance with council standards and requirements, and for consistency with public artwork policy aims. An evaluation period of 8 weeks is required for all temporary art work.

Artists or commissioning organisations submitting artwork for consideration shall submit a full project proposal 8 weeks prior to installation to include the following information:

- Artist's portfolio
- A minimum of two photographs of the work or artist's impression of the final work

- A written narrative describing the work
- Details of the proposed location of the work
- In the case of physical artwork a description of the construction materials and methods of fabrication and anchoring details
- Details of when and how the installation will be erected and taken down
- A planning application may also be required which could significantly extend the notice period
- A full appropriate risk assessment submitted a minimum of 6 weeks prior to installation
- Evidence of public liability cover to £5m
- A fee may be required to cover administration and monitoring costs

Terms and conditions

1. North Somerset Council reserves the right to manage its own property including the removal of the artwork for reasons that include but are not limited to artwork that poses a public safety risk, has been left on council property beyond the agreed terms, or is damaged beyond repair.
2. If an artwork is not completed within the agreed timescale, or if there are changes in content, materials, form, presentation or financing of the artwork, the artwork must be reviewed again by the council.
3. In accepting a temporary artwork North Somerset Council requires that the responsible parties enter into an agreement for the duration of the display that outlines any requirements arising from the risk assessment, the maintenance responsibilities and agreement to remove the work at the end of the display period, leaving the site in its original condition or better.
4. North Somerset Council or any of its agents will not be held liable for any damage or state of disrepair of a temporary artwork.

Publicity

Artists shall assist council staff to collate the following information:

- Photographs or other documentation of the installed work
- Provide the council with supporting messages for posting on social media by the artist and/or the council
- Mention and/or reviews of the artwork in local press and social media