



CATHEDRAL  
ISLE OF MAN

# Art Acquisitions Policy

*Community, Worship, Culture*

Cathedral Isle of Man, a partnership of:

	Adopted by <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• St German's Cathedral *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• The Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• St German's Cathedral Foundation for Music and the Arts (FMA)	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* St German's Cathedral is legally a sub-Committee of the PCC of the Parish of the West Coast. It is hoped that under new governance arrangements a new 'Cathedral Chapter' will become the legal authority governing St German's Cathedral.

**Date Last Reviewed:** October 2019

**Frequency of Review Recommended:** Annually

## **Purpose**

The Art Acquisitions Policy confirms the Cathedral's commitment to enriching the Cathedral as a focus for the Arts in the Island through the collection of art and commissioning of public art dominantly from leading local artists, but also those with international reputations.

## **Definitions**

**A work of art** means a form or expression of the visual arts. It may include, but is not limited to, painting, sculpture, ceramics, photographs, printmaking, drawing, use of information technology, multimedia, mixed media and music.

**Acquisition** taking legal possession and ownership of a work of art through purchase, bequest or gift or donation to purchase a work of art.

**Statement of significance** explains how and why each item makes a significant contribution to the collection.

**De-accessioning** is about the permanent removal of a work of art

**Public Art** refers to many different types of art created for the public domain. It can include temporary or permanent site works, murals, sculptures, video installations, sound installations, street art, performances and collaborations with fellow participants, community groups, architects, landscape architects or urban designers.

**The Acquisition Fund** This refers to three independent bodies each making their own acquisitions:

- The Local Cathedral Council/Chapter (LCC/C),
- The Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT)
- St German's Cathedral Foundation for Music and the Arts (FMA)

## **Scope**

Public Art is conceived, designed and developed by artist/s and does not include objects such as monuments, heritage fixtures, nor imagery related to a brand, including signage and plaques. This policy does not relate to Public Art or memorabilia donated to or acquired by the Cathedral.

## **Context**

The Cathedral in 2020 celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Cathedral, so it is a very young institution. While it has a number of treasures it has inherited, for example, silverware, not just that belonging to the current Cathedral, but also that belonging to the previous parish Church of Peel and indeed other churches on the Island, some of it dating back to the reign of Elizabeth I, nevertheless for the most part it has few treasures. There are a few artefacts with global appeal associated with Archibald Knox, ghost designer of Liberty of London.

## **The Cathedral's ambition**

- Developing its sculpture collection in the Cathedral gardens so that it represents the work of contemporary Manx artists.
- Develops sculpture in the gardens that furthers the narrative of the landscape
- Commissions Music for special occasions
- Commissions music that recognises Celtic heritage and offers new Choral settings for choirs or hymns for congregations
- Commission Art that enhances the Cathedral as a unique place
- Acquiring artefacts that enhance the existing Manx ecclesiastical silver/religious artefact collection
- Acquire further artefacts associated with Archibald Knox that enables his story to be told. (See Business Plan for Knox Gallery)
- Commission literature, for example, poetry from the Manx Bard that reflects the Cathedral's life.

## **Criteria for acquisition**

These works aim to meet some of the following criteria:

- Interpret the Christian Faith and challenge our contemporary society
- Become a destination for arts, culture that attracts visitors and brings communities together.
- Creates a positive image of Christianity and the Cathedral
- Creates work opportunities for artists
- Encourage society to value the arts as enhancing life and well-being
- Celebrating the creativity of Manx artists
- Reflect the social, cultural and economic life of the Island
- Informing, enlightening and enhancing the life of the Island
- Indicate responsibility for preserving work and displaying it that has historic significance and contributes to our heritage

## **Funding**

A budget will aim to be set aside annually for this purpose. The CQT will aim to raise a minimum of £10,000 annually for public art. The FMA might consider also setting aside a fund for commissioning music. The LCC/C might also put aside a sum, particularly for art associated with the fabric, which may be the subject of a particular appeal. The bodies referred to (or a sub-committee established by these bodies) will make the necessary decisions. Many recommendations made will involve Faculty Consent which will have to be obtained before making final arrangements.

## **Decision-Making**

Each body (The Local Cathedral Council/Chapter (LCC/C), The Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT) and the St German's Cathedral Foundation for Music and the Arts (FMA) will each make their decisions as bodies. Recommendations will come from The Cathedral Curator in terms of the CQT, from the Director of Music in terms of the FMA and The Dean, Curator or DoFM in terms of the LCC/C.

## **Acquisition Proposals**

When reviewing acquisition proposals, the Acquisition Fund will consider:

- The significance of the work and how it relates to the purpose of the Collection via a Statement of Significance
- The artist/s professional history in arts practice or in the case of emerging artists, the realistic potential for establishing a long-term career in the arts
- Available resources, including cost of the work in relation to current market value and costs of conservation, maintenance and storage
- The provenance of the work and the possibility of theft or unethical obtainment.

## **De-accessioning**

A record of all items de-accessioned and their method of disposal will be kept. This may be necessary because:

- Conservation and/or storage requirements are beyond the reasonable means of the Cathedral
- the item is irreparably damaged or destroyed or is missing, or stolen without hope of return
- the item no longer meets the current acquisition criteria for the Cathedral Art Collection
- A de-accessioned item must be disposed of by the following methods listed in priority order:
  - Return to the donor or family
  - Sold
  - Transferred to another appropriate institution by gift
  - Destroyed or recycled.