The Public Art Unit brings together the building industry and professional artists to create vibrant and distinctive built environments that engage and inspire the community.

We strive to deliver excellence and set international benchmark standards in the procurement and management of public art in the government, corporate, and community sectors.

About us
As the agency responsible for the delivery of the majority of the Queensland Government's capital works building program, Project Services has a vital role to play in the procurement of public art.

Since the inception of the Art Built-in policy in 1999 and now under the Queensland Government's Public Art Fund, art+place, Project Services' Public Art Unit has taken the lead in managing more than 100 public art projects with a combined value in excess of $10 million across the length and breadth of the State, from Coolangatta in the south, to Mount Isa in the west, and Thursday Island in the north.

Artwork commissions have ranged from integrated architectural features, furniture and carpet design to iconic sculptures, digital media, and community engagement projects with installations in tertiary education facilities, government office buildings, cultural facilities, sporting stadia, court houses, hospitals, public plazas and parklands. Our clients range from state and local government departments and agencies, not-for-profit and community based organisations, to corporate entities, and private sector developers and builders.

How we work
The Public Art Unit manages the procurement of artwork either through voluntary commissioning or through the Queensland Government's Public Art Fund, art+place. Artworks are typically procured through commissions, purchase, design by community workshops or artist's residencies. The Public Art Unit has access to leading contemporary visual artists, ranging from emerging to established artists locally, nationally and internationally.

Through the support of other professional design consultancies within Project Services such as engineering, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture and risk management, the Public Art Unit offers a multidisciplinary approach to the procurement of public art. Further, the Public Art Unit has established successful working relationships with a number of leading contractors specialising in the fabrication of public art.
Public art services

Public art procurement management

• Providing expert advice on the interpretation and operation of art+place and assist with the preparation and submission of documents to receive public art funding
• Scoping and master planning for the procurement of public art commissions and programs
• Managing the selection and engagement of public art consultants and monitoring consultant performance.

Public art project management

• Developing the Artwork Commission Plan
• Scoping artwork opportunities and curatorial rationale
• Coordination of project design teams
• Community and stakeholder engagement with public art projects
• Curatorial services (selection of artists)
• Managing the artwork concept design and development stages
• Risk assessment of artists’ designs
• Managing the artwork commissioning, timeframe and budget
• Providing expert advice to clients, consultants, building contractors, project managers, artists, and arts industry professionals during the life of a project.

Queensland Public Art Fund – art + place

The Queensland Government established art+place on 1 July, 2007 committing $12 million to new public art projects in Queensland over three years to 30 June, 2010. The second iteration was launched on 1 July, 2010 committing a further $10 million to public art projects and project management to 30 June, 2014.

Applications are accepted in three separate funding streams reflecting the scale of project:

• Stream 1: Signature projects (requests for funds over $400,000 to $2 million)
• Stream 2: Significant projects (requests for funds over $100,000 to $400,000)
• Stream 3: Major projects (requests for funds over $50,000 to $100,000)

There are two application rounds each year with the closing dates of 31 March and 30 September for Stream 2 ($100,000 to $400,000) and Stream 3 (from $50,000 to $100,000). Proposals for signature projects requesting over $400,000 can be submitted following consultation with art+place program staff.

Queensland Government departments and agencies can apply for 100% of public art project costs for permanent and temporary artworks. Local government and not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations may apply for Stream 1 and 2 with matching cash and in-kind funding, as well as Stream 3 with a cash and in-kind contribution. Private Developers may apply with matching dollar for dollar funding.

Project Services’ Public Art Unit has the expertise to manage the preparation and submission of documents to receive public art funding and manage all aspects of artwork implementation.

It is a requirement of art+place that professional public art project manager services are engaged as part of the commissioning process.

The art + place policy, guidelines and expression of interest forms can be downloaded from www.arts.qld.gov.au/art+place

For further information about the Public Art Unit and public art commissioning contact Christine Murray, Senior Procurement Manager, on (07) 3224 4424 or email christine.murray@projectservices.qld.gov.au.