Mission Statement of the Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens:
The mission of the Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens (the Arboretum) is to enhance the quality of life for all individuals through horticulture. We seek to enrich life by nourishing and sharing the beauty of the natural world, the joy of gardening, knowledge of plants, and the diversity of our world.

Purpose
The mission of the Arboretum is to provide a variety of gardens and activities for the education about and enjoyment of our natural world. The gardens have been designed in a manner to stand as a work of art themselves, independent of the art placed within.

Any and all tangible objects found in the gardens will be considered public art for the sake of this document. Material used by horticulture staff for staking and other maintenance purposes are not considered decorative in nature and will not be considered public art.

Summer education stations developed in the Children’s Garden to encourage independent play and exploration will not be considered public art.

Definition of “Public Art”
Depending on its scale and character, public art defines an area and provides a sense of whimsy, sophistication or drama. It can visually articulate our heritage, traditions and community identity while providing a focal point and landmark. Examples of public art include:

- Unique street furniture such as gates, manhole covers, seating, streetlights or signage
- Sculptures, murals and paintings
- Live art
- Community and neighborhood art projects
- Earthworks, bridges and other park amenities
- Memorials, monuments, historic objects or artifacts
- Fountains or water features
- Landscaping components which are not a simple extension of landscape architecture
- Special engineering or architectural features

Public Art Advisory Committee
The Public Art Advisory Committee will be an ad hoc committee of the Planning and Operations Committee and will be called upon as necessary. The Public Art Advisory Committee will be comprised of at least three members of the community along with the President of the Board, Planning & Operations Committee Chair and Director of Horticulture. A community member will chair the committee. Community members and the committee chair will be appointed by the Executive Committee.
**Acquisition Process**

Possible acquisition methods include direct purchase, loan, commission, competition or donation.

In regards to competitions, the committee may recommend rejection of all submissions if none are considered satisfactory and a new pool of artists may be established.

An applicant will consult with Arboretum staff and then submit a written proposal or letter of intent to the Arboretum for review by the committee. Whenever possible the applicant will present the actual artwork for approval. Following review, the committee will evaluate each proposed gift of artwork based on the selection criteria and make a recommendation for the Board’s approval.

All art proposals must include:

1. A site plan that locates the artwork if a specific location is proposed.
2. Description of actual materials, which may include drawings, photographs or samples.
3. Installation details, including architectural drawings and/or construction documents.
4. Recommended maintenance plan.
5. Funding provisions.
6. An estimate of value by a certified art appraiser or from a source acceptable to the Arboretum.

If the Board decides not to acquire the proposed work of art, the Board will communicate the decision in letter to the person(s) making the initial contact or request.

If the Board makes a decision to accept the proposed work of art, the committee will then enter into negotiations with the donor or artist for the acquisition of the art.

All public art, whether temporary or permanent, must be covered by the Arboretum’s insurance policy.

In regards to de-acquisitioning, the Arboretum may move, sell, or return artwork at any point in time with Board approval.

**Selection Proposal Criteria**

The committee will consider the following criteria when selecting artwork:

1. **Artistic Merit**
   Artwork must possess inherent quality and excellence along with an artist’s strength of concept and design capabilities.

2. **Context**
   Artwork must be compatible in scale, material, form and content with the surrounding gardens. When serving a functional purpose, artworks may:
   - Establish focal points.
   - Modify, enhance, or define the specific space.
   - Establish identity or address specific issues of civic design.
Consideration will also be given to the architectural, historical, geographical and social/cultural context of the site, as well as the way people may interact with the artwork.

3. Relevant Experience of Artist
   Experience and professional record of the artist(s) must provide convincing evidence of ability to successfully complete the project as proposed. Particularly on collaborative or design team projects artists must demonstrate the ability to:
   
   • Communicate effectively and elicit the ideas of team members.
   • Exhibit flexibility and problem-solving skills.
   • Work with architectural drawings and construction documents.
   • Engage community representatives in a project.

4. Permanence and Maintenance of Artwork
   Due consideration will be given to the structural soundness, operational costs and inherent resistance to theft, vandalism, weathering and excessive maintenance.

5. Technical Feasibility Artwork
   An artist must exhibit a successful track record of construction and installation of artwork or show that an appropriate professional has examined the proposed artwork and confirmed feasibility of construction and installation.

6. Project Budget
   An artist's proposal must provide a budget adequate to cover all costs for the design, fabrication, insurance, transportation, storage, and installation of the proposed artwork, plus reasonable unforeseen circumstances. Artists should have a history of completing projects within budget.

7. Diversity
   Artwork will be sought from artists of diverse ethnic and cultural identities and from local, regional, national, and international artists. The Arboretum encourages applications from artists working in both established and experimental art forms.

8. Fabrication and Installation Schedules
   The artist proposal must include a project timeline that incorporates design review, fabrication, delivery and installation in accordance with project schedule. The artist should have a history of completing projects on time.