

New Hampshire's Percent for Art Program



The idea of placing art in government buildings is an ancient one. New Hampshire acquired its first public artwork in 1819, the gilded eagle for the State House dome.

In 1979, New Hampshire passed a law (RSA 19A) to give everyone who enters a state building the chance to discover quality art. Funding comes from 1/2 of 1% of the money raised for the bid contract price to construct or renovate certain state buildings.

Who selects the artwork?

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, manages the process. New Hampshire's Percent for Art program, which is similar to most states, allows for the commission of new works or the purchase of existing ones. The art may be for the specific building that generated the funds or made available to any state building that has public spaces.

How to "Adopt-an-Artwork"

The artworks exhibited here have been selected for display in existing state buildings. They were created by some of New Hampshire's finest artists working today. Any branch of government that is housed in a state building may apply to "adopt" one of these artworks for exhibit in a public space.

For more information, call 271-2789.