

Report to Council



Date: April 29, 2019

File: 1840-40

To: City Manager

From: R. Parlane, Parks & Buildings Planning Manager

Subject: Public Art Program Update

Report Prepared by: D. James, Planner Specialist

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information the Report from the Parks & Buildings Planning Manager, dated April 29, 2019, regarding recent updates to the City of Kelowna's Public Art Program;

AND THAT Council approve the proposed location for the Chief Swknc'ut Sculpture as outlined in the report of the Parks & Buildings Planning Manager, dated April 29, 2019;

AND FURTHER THAT Council directs staff to bring forward an Unsolicited Donation of Public Artwork Policy to Council for approval.

Purpose:

To update Council on the Public Art Program and approve the location for the Chief Swknc'ut Sculpture.

Background:

The City of Kelowna's Public Art Program was established in 1997 with the goal of helping to create culturally enriched public spaces. Since then, annual operating budget in support of the Program has been allocated by Council.

The City of Kelowna recognizes that culture (interpreted to include arts and heritage) is important to the well-being of the community, the quality of life for all residents, and the economic vibrancy of the City. Public art is one of the programs under the City's Cultural Policy that contributes to, as well as enhances, a sense of community and appreciation of culture within the City.

Public art also touches upon a number of *Imagine Kelowna's* core principles and goals such as:

- Connected: 'cultivate an engaging arts & culture scene';
- Connected: 'creating great spaces'; and
- Responsibility: 'growing vibrant urban centres'.

Improvements to Public Art Call-Outs

The initial Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) in September, 2016, for the Kelowna Police Services Building unfortunately generated a very limited response, and the selection jury was unwilling to proceed with any of those submitted. As a result, the City of Kelowna engaged Ciara McKeown, a Public Art Consultant, to carry out a review of the earlier RFEI and make recommendations for improving the procedures and processes for Call to Artists on future public art commissions in order to attract a greater diversity of responses. Some of the consultant's significant recommendations include:

- Improve quality of submissions by limiting eligibility to 'Professional Artist', as defined by Canada Council for the Arts.
- Improve participation by employing a two stage artist call-out and selection process:
Stage 1 - Expression of Interest focused on artist's qualifications, examples of past works, and brief written statement of their interest.
Stage 2 – Concept Design Proposals from a shortlist of selected artists (typically five) for which they receive a small stipend.
- Improve the reach and awareness of the public art opportunity, by posting the Call for Expression of Interest on sites specifically targeted towards public artists.

Since receiving this report, staff have implemented all the recommendations on subsequent Calls for Expressions of Interest. These changes have yielded positive results, in terms of number and diversity of artists, and quality of submissions.

Public Art, Project Update

A number of public art projects were completed, as well as a number of new public art commissions initiated since the last update to Council. These include:

***The Valley*, Ron Hart + Michael Fugeta – Library Parkade (completed January 2018)**



This public art piece consists of a series of seven screens mounted to the façade of the Library Parkade structure. The value of the work was \$135,000 with funding (\$15,000) from the Library Parkade capital project budget and (\$120,000) from the Public Art Reserve, and installation was completed in January, 2018.

"The work is a sculptural abstraction of the Okanagan Valley's varied topography covering over 200 kilometers from Osoyoos to Enderby. Each cross section exhibits a unique topographical identity. When read together, The Valley represents a geologically changing space with diverse ecologies, rich connections among its inhabitants, and endless opportunities".

From Within, David Jacob Harder – Karis Supportive Housing (completed May 2018)

This public art piece was an equal partnership between Davara Holdings Ltd. and the City of Kelowna, with each party contributing \$30,000. The City's funding portion came from the Public Art Reserve upon entering an agreement in mid-2016. The project budget was established at \$50,000 with the remaining \$10,000 to cover costs for project administration and maintenance for the life of the artwork. The artist was selected in early 2017, and installation of the piece completed in 2018.



"The sculpture forms the centerpiece within the garden area of Karis House and facing out towards Rowcliffe Park, with immediate public access, through a Statutory Right of Way from the adjacent park site. The artwork captures the process of growth, empowerment and healing as symbolized through the figure's evolution as it stretches upwards from the confines of its base toward the sky. The artist's vision is to bring about the revival cues of triumph, inspiration and determination, against all odds, for those who view it".

Kelowna Police Services Building (KPSB), Make Studio (estimated completion, early 2020)

Following the evaluation by Ciara McKeown this public art commission was re-issued in April, 2018, and received responses from 72 artists. The selection panel was comprised of volunteers from the City's Public Art Evaluation Roster, RCMP/Police services representatives, and City staff. Five artists were shortlisted by the panel to prepare and present concept design proposals. The value of the project is \$150,000 with funding (\$120,000) from the KPSB capital project budget and (\$30,000) from the Public Art Reserve. The panel's final selection was Make Studio's proposal for a vertical structure composed of



interlocking, slender, engineered wood elements. The artwork incorporates a number of key place making features such as landmark, shelter and procession - engaging with the public as they move through the plaza space.

This artwork was seen by the panel as a strong response to the site's context with a nod to the area's future development – which includes the KPSB – as well as

recognition of the area's past and current timber and milling operations. The artist was commissioned in December 2018, and is currently in the design development stage. Fabrication of the artwork is anticipated to start in June, 2019, with installation and completion in early 2020.

Kelowna Community Health Services Centre, Studio F Minus (estimated completion, Summer 2020)



This public art piece is an equal partnership between Bentall Kennedy Canada LLP and the City of Kelowna, with each party contributing \$60,000. The City's funding portion came from the Public Art Reserve upon entering an agreement in May, 2018. The project budget was established at \$75,000 for the artwork and artist fees, with the remaining funds used for

registering a Statutory Right of Way for public access on private property, project contingencies, artwork maintenance and project management fees. The artwork commission followed the same two stage selection process as KPSB. The selection panel comprised citizen volunteers as well as representatives from Bentall Kennedy, Interior Health and City staff. The panel's final selection was Studio F Minus' proposal for their artwork entitled 'Flower' based on its story telling potential as it relates to Interior Health and the services it provides. This artwork was seen by the panel as creating a strong allegory for the symbiotic relationship between a flower's root system and the vitality of its bloom; and between Interior Health's staff and their clients. The inverting of the flower form makes this relationship more apparent by provoking the viewer to respond to the artwork's unique orientation and placement next the building's main entry. Stage 2 selection has just concluded and staff will be finalizing and executing the Artist Contract agreement shortly. Detailed Design is anticipated to be completed through the Summer, with installation in Summer, 2020.

Boyce-Gyro Beach Park, Interactive Digital Artwork (estimated completion, Sept. 2020)

This public art commission is seen as an opportunity to increase public awareness and acknowledge Kelowna citizens' active lifestyle and commitment to healthy alternative modes of movement. The value of the project is \$150,000 with funding from the 2017 Boyce-Gyro Park Parking Lot and Improvements capital project budget. The artwork is to be located at the north end of the park. The location was chosen for its adjacency to two cycling routes, its high visibility from Lakeshore Road, and the large gatherings of people that use the park on a regular basis.



The City's intent for this public art piece is an artistic and creative exploration of the emotive aspects of cycling such as: celebration, motivation, sustainability and community. The artwork is envisioned to have major digital and/or interactive component(s) incorporated into its design, drawing on data

from cycle counters from the city-wide Eco-Counter network. The Stage 1 artist call-out for their expressions of interest has recently closed and the selection panel is currently in the process of shortlisting artists who will be invited to prepare Concept Design proposals. The final artist selection is anticipated in September, with detailed design completed by the end of 2019. Fabrication will start in early 2020, with installation and final completion anticipated in late 2020.

Chief S^wknc'ut Sculpture, Crystal Przybille (estimated installation, June 2019)

In 2012, the Westbank First Nation (WFN) initiated discussions with staff for the location of bronze sculpture of Chief S^wknc'ut (pronounced "Sook-in-shoot") in a prominent location along Kelowna's downtown waterfront. The intent of the artwork is to foster close relationships between the two communities and to communicate the history of First Nations and European settlement in Kelowna. To communicate this story, close proximity to pedestrians and tourism attractions were identified as high criteria for site selection. WFN wishes to have the sculpture located on City owned property with WFN retaining ownership of the artwork; the terms and conditions of which will be outlined in a License of Occupation Agreement.

Crystal Przybille (pronounced "Sha-bill") was commissioned by WFN to produce the life-sized sculpture of Chief S^wknc'ut and the work is currently at a foundry being cast in bronze. The sculpture is anticipated to be ready for installation in June, 2019. Crystal Przybille was also the artist for the Father Pandosy sculpture located at the Benvoulin historic site. Father Pandosy was a contemporary of Chief S^wknc'ut. Staff are also proposing to partner with WFN to prepare a cycling route linking these two pieces, celebrating local historic sites and contemporary accounts.

In 2018, the City and WFN staff conducted a walking tour of Kelowna's downtown waterfront to look at a number of possible locations for the artwork. In addition, City staff presented to WFN's Public Art Committee these locations, as well as the details of a City Park Master Plan prepared as part of a recent Federal/Provincial government grant application for *Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure*. Three favoured locations for the artwork were identified: City Park's western tip (at the north end of Hot Sands Beach); on the walkway adjacent to the Kelowna Visitor Centre; and small walkway loop between Rotary Marsh and Tugboat Beach. WFN's preferred current location is the site adjacent to the Kelowna



Visitor Centre, with which staff concurs. This report is looking for Council's endorsement for this location. Should the City Park grant location be successful, both parties concur the statue should be relocated to a long-term location at the western tip of City Park.

Pending Council's approval of this location, staff will prepare a License of Occupation Agreement and will engage with a structural engineer to design the footing and sculpture base required to accept the artwork, as well as to provide a cost estimate associated with the work. The budget for engineering services and installation of the statuary base is anticipated to be nominal to the value of the artwork and is to be funded from the Public Art operating budget.

City Entry Sign Public Art, Ron Hart (estimated completion early 2020)

The recent widening of Highway 97 at the intersection with Sexsmith Road has resulted in the loss of the landscaped island that once held the City's north entrance sign. This transportation improvement project, as well as expanding development northward, has necessitated the replacement of the aging sign and locate the City's welcome marker closer to its northern boundary limit. Staff issued a Council Memo on December 11, 2018, detailing the selection of the preferred location; south of Ellison Lake and prior to the Kelowna International Airport along the southbound approach.

Staff engaged with an artist, Ted Fullerton, to design the new City Sign. He is a very experienced public artist, and his past sculpture work emphasizes the human figure in relationship to nature. In directing the artist, Staff requested that each of the figures engaging with the letters be inspired by one of the core principles that make up Imagine Kelowna; Connected, Responsible, Smarter, Collaborative. The intent of incorporating public art and the vision of Kelowna into the City Sign is to build upon the theme of a community as a collective of individual aspirations, interests, beliefs and values. In this way the sign becomes more than a corporate identity. Rather, it makes the social connection between people, their city and land - making the sign evocative to Kelowna. In addition, the composition should be iconic and create a unique landmark identifying the northern gateway into the City. A detailed explanation is provided in the artist's design brief that is attached.



Subject to Council approval of the project budget, detailed design work would commence immediately, with fabrication occurring through the summer of 2019 and installation anticipated for early 2020.

The budget for the City Sign Public Art has been established at \$250,000, and includes \$100,000 of Provincial funding allocated from the Highway 97 project. A Capital Request has been included in 2019 Final Budget for Council consideration to transfer \$150,000 from the Public Art Reserve to fund the balance.

Community Art Program

The Community Art Program is a component of the City of Kelowna's Public Art Program and supports projects that engage practicing artists with residents in a collaborative, collective, creative process which results in a temporary or permanent work of art. It is as much about process as it is about the artistic product or outcome. It is a way for the community to creatively address and express its needs and aspirations. Some of the identifying characteristics of Community Art are:

- It addresses community concerns and/or reflects community identity;
- It provides a participatory creative experience which is accessible to a broad range of people;
- It is a way for artists to apply their skills in community development and building cultural and social sustainability; and
- It has a goal to connect people through the creative process.

Community Art Program guidelines and application form are available on City's website. Grants are available for up to 50% of the total project cost, to a maximum of \$10,000, and require matching support from other sources which is equal to or more than the amount provided by the City. Matching

contributions may be cash or in kind and must be identified, even if not confirmed, in the application. Intake for grant applications are received year round and evaluated based on the guideline's criteria and available funding. At present, there are two in-progress community art projects:

- Okanagan Chinese Canadian Association Cultural Heritage Mural Project at Kelowna's Gospel Mission. This project was approved in late 2017. Artist Charles Chau has recently taken over as the lead artist on this project. The group is currently working on detailed design and work planning. On-site painting will most likely occur between April and June 2019 and an opening celebration is anticipated in the summer of 2019.

Rotary Centre for the Arts 'A Walk in Moccasins Project' (Original Theatre Production and Youth Empowerment Initiative). This project was approved in late 2018, and is still being developed. This project will collaborate with local youth, traditional knowledge holders and theatre professionals on planning and creating an original theatre production inspired by Sylix/Okanagan creation stories. We are expecting additional details about the project timelines as additional funders are secured for the project.

Unsolicited Donation of Public Artwork Policy

The City of Kelowna continues to receive requests to accept privately owned or commissioned artworks to be located on City owned land, or to be included as part of the City's public art collection. There are limited funds available to preserve and conserve these works of art. Also, there is a limited number of suitable City sites on which to locate these artworks, and some pieces are of limited artistic merit. In 2012, a moratorium on accepting private donations of public art was implemented, with exceptions being brought to Council for donations of pieces of significant merit.

The development of an *Unsolicited Donation of Public Artwork Policy* would set-out the criteria and procedures required by the City to accept gifts and donations of artwork to be included as part of the City's public art collection. The proposed objectives of the policy would be:

- To encourage and ensure that the City acquires public art that meets a high standard of artistic merit, and is appropriate and meaningful to the community;
- To provide an efficient procedure for reviewing proposed gifts of artwork to ensure both suitability and durability for placement in public places;
- To acquire artworks that contribute to and enhance the City's public art collection;
- To acquire artworks that contribute to and enhance the location in which they are placed.

Staff are recommending a Council Policy be drafted for Council consideration at a future meeting.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations

There continues to be four funding sources for the Public Art Program:

- 1) Annual Public Art operating budget

Public Art has been funded each year from an allocation from general taxation as part of the Annual Capital Budget. In 2019 this was increased to \$135,000. Council policy (Objective 9.1, OCP 2030 Policy 2) states that the Annual Allocation should be funded to a maximum of 1% of the City's annual capital budget from taxation.

2) Component of Council-approved Capital Projects

As part of the process to strategically identify public art projects, a notable direction is to deliver public art principally as a component of future civic infrastructure. Artworks that are a component of larger infrastructure projects, e.g., parks, roundabouts, streetscapes, buildings, utility projects, etc. are included within the overall project cost as part of the Annual Capital Budget. It is intended that these projects be identified well in advance for Council consideration as part of the Program Plan.

3) Public Art Reserve

The Public Art Reserve provides support for special one-time expenditures and/or used to supplement larger budget projects identified in the Program Plan. Unspent funding from the Annual Allocation is put into the Public Art Reserve at year end.

4) Maintenance Budget

The fourth funding source is the annual budget that funds maintenance of the collection. Funding for maintenance comes from the Building Department's Services Repair (operating) budget. \$7,000 is available each year for maintenance of public art within the overall Service Repair budget. The account is replenished at the beginning of each year.

Internal Circulation:

Divisional Director, Strategic Investments
Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Building Services Manager
Community Communications Manager
Cultural Services Manager
Financial Planning Manager
Legislative Coordinator
Utility Planning Manager

Existing Policy:

The information in this report is submitted pursuant to Cultural Policy 274, the City of Kelowna Cultural Plan (2011), Chapter 9 of the Official Community Plan, principles and goals of Imagine Kelowna (2018)

Personnel Implications:

Staff responsibility for the Public Art Program rests within Parks & Buildings Planning, Building Services for maintenance, and Cultural Services for the Community Art Program.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Alternate Recommendation.
Communications Comments;
External Agency/Public Comments;
Financial/Budgetary Considerations;

Legal/Statutory Authority;
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements;

Submitted by: Robert Parlane, Parks & Buildings Manager

Approved for inclusion: Derek Edstrom, Divisional Director, Strategic Investments

Attachment A – Public Art Program Presentation.
Attachment B – Ted Fullerton Concept Design Proposal.

cc: S. Fleming, City Clerk
J. Creron, Deputy City Manager
J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
G. Davidson, Divisional Director, Financial Services
A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure