

# Report to Council



**Date:** November 23, 2020  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** 2020 Public Art Program Update  
**Department:** Parks & Buildings Planning

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information the Report from Parks & Buildings Planning, dated November 23, 2020, regarding recent updates to the City of Kelowna's Public Art Program.

## **Purpose:**

To update Council on the Public Art Program.

## **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'.

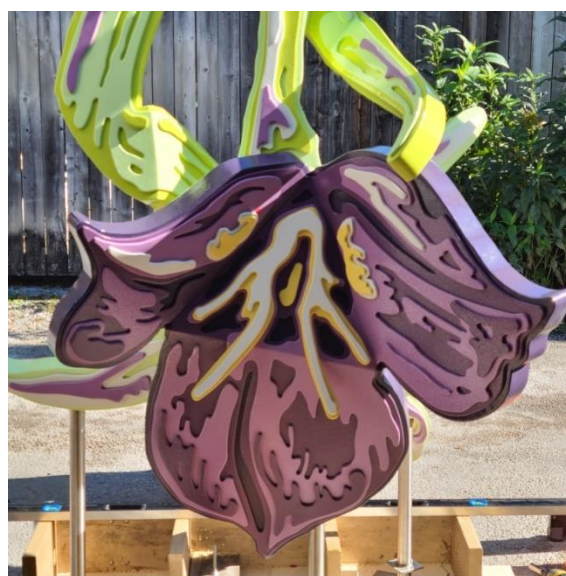
## **Current Public Art Commissions:**

### *Flower. Artist, Studio F Minus.*

Commissioned and developed in early 2019 and to be completed in the fall of 2020, Flower is a 3.8m (13ft.) tall metal sculpture located at the main entrance of Interior Health's Community Health Services Centre at the corner of Ellis Street and Doyle Avenue. The commission was an equal partnership between the City of Kelowna and Bentall Green Oak, the building owner, to acknowledge Interior Health's goal to bring several health and patient care services together at this one location, as well as their larger vision of "every person matters". This artwork's positive message on the important role

healthcare workers play within our community is timely given the ongoing and historical significance of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Artist's statement for this piece reads:

*"The health of the flower is, like the health of a human being, dependent on all its systems. As doctors, medical practitioners and patients alike recognize our health as the product of a holistic system, it is incumbent that we all look deeper - that we try to recognize the unseen systems and structures that feed our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. We turned the flower upside-down, placing the essential root structure at the top. It's a way to preserve the elegance and beauty of the flower, while also highlighting the unseen systems that make it possible. This interpretation of a Kelowna's own beautiful Mariposa Lily, is presented in full bloom, with its roots celebrated at the top of the sculpture is a metaphor for a contemporary approach to healthcare, a celebration of the people who underpin our healthcare system, and a traditional gesture of hope and optimism for everyone entering the building."*



KCHSC Public Art  
Flower, Studio F Minus (ready for transit).

A short video will be prepared as part of a larger videography initiative to provide the public with a better understanding of the artist's story behind the artwork. The video will also serve to publicly promote the artwork, as a formal unveiling was not possible at this time due to COVID-19 protocols.

Lodestar. Artist, Make Studio.

Commissioned in 2018, fabrication is ongoing for a slender timbers sculpture entitled *Lodestar* that will be located at the plaza space in front of the Kelowna Police Services building. The title “Lodestar” refers to a source of inspiration. The artist’s inception was to create a 7.5m (25ft) tall artwork that will serve as a landmark for a new emerging neighbourhood. The vertical nature of the artwork is inspired by Kelowna’s ongoing growth and prosperity, due in part to the area’s industrial uses and to the area’s current transformation into a vibrant work-live neighbourhood. Installation of this public artwork is anticipated for spring of 2021. The Artist’s statement for this piece reads:

*“Well designed public spaces can help to create safe and healthy communities with a sense of place and identity. Lodestar provides three common urban markers typically seen in vibrant public spaces - the Tower as landmark; the Colonnade as enclosure to define space; and the Canopy to provide comfort and safety.”*



KPSB Public Art  
*Lodestar*, Make Studio.

Horizon. Artist, Studio F Minus.

Commissioned in 2019, the development of the proposal’s design has been approved and fabrication has just begun on an interactive digital artwork entitled [Horizon](#). Located at the north lawn of Boyce-Gyro Beach Park, the artwork is approximately 1.5m (5ft) high, 12m (38ft) long and consists of a series of glass panels with different reflective and transmissive properties that will be activated by different modes of movement. [One mode](#) of movement is determined by cycling, with the transparency and reflectiveness of the artwork modified (based on frequency of use) by data collected from 38 [EcoCounter](#) stations located through-out the city. The [second mode](#) of movement is more immediate, activated by an individual, through a series of sensors and by a changing spectrum of color in relation to the angle of view of someone passing by the artwork. Fabrication has started and installation is anticipated for summer of 2021.



Boyce-Gyro Beach Park Public Art. *Horizon*, Studio F Minus.



### Chief Swk'ncut Monument, Crystal Przybille

A life-sized bronze monument of Chief Swk'ncut, commissioned by Westbank First Nation (WFN), was installed adjacent to the downtown's Kelowna Tourism building in June 2019. Installation was completed in time for that year's National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations. The remaining work to complete is the fabrication and installation of two descriptive plaques for the artwork reflecting the history of Chief Swk'ncut and the time in which he lived, as written by WFN.

### **Future Public Art Commissions:**

#### City Entry Sign Public Art

A new public artwork is intended to serve as Kelowna's northern gateway and new city entrance sign to replace the sign removed at the intersection of Hwy 97 and Sexsmith. First presented as a concept, Staff convened a meeting with members of the Public Art Roster for a presentation by the artist to provide additional information back to Council. Staff are presenting this feedback and additional information as part of a separate report to Council. Pending Council approval of the concept, work is anticipated to commence in 2021, with completion estimated for 2022.

#### Pandosy Waterfront Park Public Art

Included within the Pandosy Waterfront Park's capital project budget is a \$250,000 allowance for a new original public artwork. The park was purposely planned as a regional destination for paddling enthusiasts of all ages and abilities and will offer visitors a remarkable, urban water-based, tourism experience. While no specific theme for the artwork has been determined, the park's water-oriented use will figure prominently in the framing of this public art opportunity. Detailed design of the park is currently in progress and multiple locations for the artwork are being considered - including a potential location within Okanagan Lake near a proposed public pier. Commissioning, through a two-stage artist call out, will begin in January 2021. Final selection of the artist and artwork is expected for the summer of 2021, with completion anticipated for 2023.



### Public Art Program Initiatives:

#### 2020 Uptown Rutland Mural Festival

The Public Art Program made a financial contribution to the Uptown Rutland Business Association (URBA) that was used towards their 2020 mural festival. The goal was to maintain the momentum and success of the earlier festival in terms of the quantity and level of artist participation. An agreement was prepared based on a contribution amount determined by the number of completed murals. A maximum contribution of \$20,000 was provided based on the creation of 6 new original murals. A similar financial contribution is anticipated for 2021.



Lonesome Dove, Kathy Ager. 145 Asher Road, Rutland.



Valleyview Mandela, Kristin Grant.  
158 Valleyview Road, Rutland.

#### Gold, Silver & Lead, Jed Lind

The Public Art Program has committed a \$20,000 financial contribution to the Kelowna Art Gallery (KAG) towards their acquisition of an existing public artwork entitled Gold, Silver & Lead, by artist Jed Lind. The artwork was expected to be installed within 2020, however, shipping and artist supervision of the installation has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Installation is tentatively scheduled for spring of 2021.



Gold, Silver & Lead, Jed Lind

#### *Bernard Avenue 400 – 500 Block Closure Public Art*

The recent temporary closure of Bernard Avenue, while successful, presented challenges for businesses to animate and fully utilize the roadway between the 400 to 500 block. Opportunities to incorporate temporary public art into this block, as part of any future closure, will be explored in conjunction with other City and local business initiatives to help program the block and enhance the vibrancy of this space.

#### *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. The criteria to apply for grant funding relies heavily on community outreach and involvement. Funding was postponed for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns to maintain appropriate social distancing protocols. It is hoped that the Community Art Program will be able to accept proposals for 2021.

#### *Temporary Art in Public Spaces*

The goal of this initiative is to broaden the scope and appeal of the Public Art Program. Funding is made available for art organizations, such as the Kelowna Art Gallery, to curate public art at a highly visible, publicly accessible, City-owned property and maintained for a minimum of 6 months and maximum of 12 months. Funding is awarded based on the merit of a proposal provided to the City's public art coordinator and deemed appropriate in meeting the goals and objectives of:

- Helping to animate Kelowna's public spaces through a constantly changing, continuing variety of installations that will add a dynamic element to Kelowna's urban environment;
- Enhancing the Public Art Program's profile by providing opportunities for emerging and established local artists, and established national and international artists to feature work through temporary projects;
- Promoting the appreciation of contemporary arts practices; and
- Fostering a sense of community through the sharing of common experiences focused on public art.

#### *Public Art Video Series*

The goal of the initiative is to build a library of videos for selected works from the City's collection that will be shared with the public to increase their understanding of the public art process and knowledge about the artist and their work. These videos will feature past works as well as current commissions. The format will vary depending on the artwork featured and when it was created. Each video is intended to include an interview with the artist to make it more meaningful and authentic to the piece. It is anticipated that 3 to 4 videos will be produced each year for those major pieces in the collection.

#### *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. To

address these, staff will prepare an Unsolicited Donation of Public Artwork Policy that will be brought forward to Council for approval early in 2021.

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 a \$132,900 allocation from general taxation as part of the Annual Capital Budget. 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.

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. Funding 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:**

Building Services  
Cultural Services  
Parks Services  
Infrastructure  
Communications  
Finance

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority;  
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements;  
External Agency/Public Comments.

**Submitted by:** D.James, Planner Specialist, Parks & Buildings Planning for  
R. Parlane, Manager, Parks & Buildings Planning.

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

Attachment A – Presentation.

cc: Deputy City Manager