

Report to Council



Date: March 7, 2017
File: 1840-40
To: City Manager
From: P. McCormick, Planner Specialist, Public Art
Subject: Public Art Program Update

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information, the Report from the Planner Specialist dated March 7, 2017, on the City of Kelowna Public Art Program;

AND THAT Council endorse the Public Art Program as set out in the report of the Planner Specialist, dated March 7, 2017;

AND THAT Council directs staff to report back to an afternoon meeting of Council with the Public Art Program Work Plan for 2017-2018;

Purpose:

To update Council on the status of the Public Art Program and to receive Council direction with regard to future initiatives.

Background:

Council recognizes that the aesthetic quality and sense of place of Kelowna's public realm can be enhanced through works of art and that provision of such works can increase community identity as well as awareness and appreciation of the arts.

The City of Kelowna has therefore established a Public Art Program to acquire art for public engagement. The Public Art Program had its inception in 1997 and since then, annual funding in support of the Program has been allocated by Council.

The goal of the Public Art Program is to help create culturally-enriched public spaces. More specifically, public art is a key component in the provision of public spaces that foster a sense of place and an emotional attachment to Kelowna's urban environment.

More information on the City of Kelowna Public Art Program can be found at:

<https://www.kelowna.ca/our-community/arts-culture-heritage/public-art>

Current Projects

- Library Parkade Addition

Susan Zoccola, an artist from Seattle, WA was engaged in 2013 to design, fabricate, and deliver seven screens for the addition to the Library Parkade. Because the technical aspects of the concept were challenging and required further investigation, the City broke the project into two phases. The first phase was to do a mock-up to explore constructability. The second phase would begin when the artist and the City were satisfied that the project could be constructed within the budget. As the first phase proceeded, it became clear that the budget was going to be insufficient to provide a work that was consistent with the aesthetics outlined in the artist's proposal.

Moreover, construction of the addition was delayed and in the interim, the value of the Canadian dollar vis a vis its US counterpart fell significantly. The change in the exchange rate pushed the anticipated cost of the project well beyond the budget. Given the circumstances, the artist was paid for time and materials and the artist and the City mutually agreed to not proceed with the second phase of the project.

The City subsequently approached the runner-up in the Request for Proposals. The runner-up proposal, for seven screens that are an expression of the topography and underlying geological formations of the Okanagan Valley (please refer to Slide 2 in the accompanying PowerPoint presentation) was a collaboration between two artists from Vancouver, Ron Hart and Michael Fugeta. A contract has been signed and fabrication of the artwork is underway. Installation is expected in May 2017.

- Karis Supportive Housing Project

In December 2014, Council endorsed the terms of an agreement of a partnership with Davara Holdings Ltd. for the installation of an artwork on the site of the Karis Supportive Housing residence at 550 Rowcliffe Avenue (Slide 3):

http://apps.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs/Council/Meetings/Council%20Meetings%202014/2014-12-15/Regular%20PM/Agenda%20Package%20-%20Regular%20PM%20Council%20Meeting_Dec15_2014.pdf

(Council Item 5.3). As per the terms of the project, the City will contribute up to \$30,000 from the Public Art Program.

A Request for Qualifications was issued in 2015 and four artists were shortlisted. Submissions were evaluated by a panel consisting of three members of the City's Public Art Evaluation Roster and two representatives of Davara Holdings Ltd. A Request for Proposals closed in November 2016.

The objective of the project was to create a work of art that reflects upon the lives of the residents of the Karis Supportive Housing building, and serves as a source of inspiration and hope for women whose lives are in transition and recovery from addiction-related circumstances. *The Panel felt that among the submissions, the one by David Jacob Harder of Wells, BC. best satisfied the evaluation criteria.*

The panel enthusiastically recommended the artist's concept for its strong symbolism, its energy, and its potential to evoke a strong emotional response from viewers. A contract with the artist is pending and installation is expected to be in summer 2017.

- Police Services Building

A free-standing, three-dimensional artwork will be installed in the entry plaza to the new Police Services Building (Slide 4). \$30,000 of the \$150,000 budget will come from the Public Art Program. The remainder of the funding will come from the building construction budget. The goal of the artwork will be to celebrate the tradition of the RCMP as a Canadian institution and to commemorate its role in providing order and security to Canadian communities.

A Request for Expression of Interest closed in November, 2016. A panel comprised of three members of the Public Art Program's Evaluation Roster and two representatives of the RCMP met in November 2016. The Evaluation Panel recommended that none of the submissions be short listed as none sufficiently met the evaluation criteria. Staff are reviewing the proposal call to identify opportunities to improve the quality of submissions. Once that investigation is complete, a Request for Qualifications will be re-issued.

Recent Activity

- Community Art Program

The Community Art Program is a sub-program within the Public Art Program. It engages local artists with Kelowna non-profit organizations in the collaborative creation of temporary or permanent works of art. The goals of the program are to encourage the creation of publicly accessible, permanent or temporary artworks, foster community pride and identity, and reflect the diversity, needs, and ambitions of the community. Grants up to a total of \$15,000 annually are available to qualifying proponents.

In 2015, two projects received funding under the Community Art Program. \$1,900.00 was awarded for the second phase of *Gaudi in the Garden*, located at the St. Paul Street Community Garden (Slide 5). Using donated materials of porcelain, glass, and tile, the first phase of the project helped transformed an urban space for the enjoyment of the immediate neighbourhood and the broader community.

As with the first phase, the project was led by Cool Arts Society, a local not-for-profit organization that gives individuals with developmental disabilities an opportunity to express themselves, socialize with other members of the community, and develop fine motor and conceptual thinking skills through art-based workshops (<http://www.coolarts.ca/>). Other participants were from the Central Okanagan Community Garden Society.

The project included a series of preliminary design sessions directed by local artist Wanda Lock. Cool Arts participants, households in the immediate vicinity of the project site, and members of the public were invited to participate.

The second grant was awarded to UBCO for *Bee Central: A Community Art Pollinator Project* (Slide 6). \$10,000.00 was awarded. Bee Central was a series of four events that took place at the Brent's Grist Mill Heritage Park. The events were all participatory projects meant to highlight the plight of pollinators species. The events were free of charge, family-oriented, and open to the public.

Each event, hosted by a local artist, engaged the attendees in discussions about pollination and the plight of bees (<https://vimeo.com/148918158>). Rhonda Neufeld created a swarm of mechanically-activated, collaged and decorated paper bees, UBC Okanagan professor Samuel Roy-Bois built a

community sculpture, UBC Okanagan student Megan Hunter presented a performance entitled *Murmurations*, and local environmental artist Lori Mairs supervised bee home and insect hotel building. None of the projects resulted in permanent installations and were documented as per the terms of the grant.

- *Running Man*

The artwork on the transit island, *Running Man* (Slide 7), was removed to accommodate renovations to the island. It was removed in 2015 by a qualified contractor and minor damage was repaired. A new foundation was designed and the artwork was installed in April 2016 in the Queensway Avenue/Water Street roundabout.

- *Pride Mural*

The Pride Mural was created by local artist Scott Tobin in 2009 in conjunction with the Kelowna Rainbow Coalition, with funding from the Community Art Program. It was painted on the south wall of the building at 1476 Water Street (Slide 8). The building was demolished in 2015 to make way for a new hotel on the site.

- *In the Family*

This work, located in City Park near the public washroom, has been added to the Public Art collection. It was carved from a cottonwood tree that was cut down in City Park due to its deteriorating condition (Slide 9). The base of the tree was stable. However, at the request of Civic Operations (Parks Services), a local artist was approached. Randy Duff subsequently sculpted a family of black bears entitled *In the Family*. Funding was from the Civic Operations' budget.

Program Plan 2017 - 2018

In November 2012, City Council endorsed changes to the Public Art Program. Among the changes was a commitment to undertake a strategic planning process. As endorsed by Council, that process was initiated.

A key component in shaping the planning process was public engagement. To this end, representatives of pertinent stakeholder organizations as well as members of the public-at-large attended a workshop on October 24, 2015. Comments were also solicited through online engagement. The process helped to underline the objectives and delivery of the City's Public Art Program, as well as to receive input on future directions.

From the public engagement process, the following key points were identified:

- a) There is a high-level of support for the Program and the collection generally.
- b) There is on-going support for traditional formats, i.e., three-dimensional, stand-alone pieces, murals, etc.
- c) However, participants are also eager to see other types of work including interactive, digital/electronic, and participatory artworks in permanent and temporary formats.

- d) There is a strong desire to see a better geographic distribution of artworks throughout Kelowna including parks, walking trails, sports fields, etc.
- e) There is a strong desire for more art that is integrated with utility infrastructure, e.g., crosswalks, manhole covers, roundabouts, etc.
- f) Participants would like to see the Program continue to emphasize local themes.
- g) The Program would benefit from promotion and dissemination of information on the Collection.

The public art opportunities set out below were identified with the aim of fulfilling the directions proposed through the public consultation as well as the overall goals of the Program, consistent with the resources available.

- Community Art Program

Heading into 2017, revisions to the program are proposed. To qualify for funding, applicants formerly had to be a BC-registered non-profit organization. According to the revised guidelines, funding would continue to be available to non-profit organizations working with a local artist(s) on projects that meet the terms of the Program. However, under the revised terms, local artists could independently apply for funding.

The purpose of the change would be to broaden the base of potential applicants while strengthening the “grassroots” nature of the Program. Essentially, it would allow local artists to initiate ideas that engage members of the community. An additional proposed change is to eliminate the requirement for grant applications to be submitted by a specific date. Under the revised terms, applications could be submitted anytime during the year. The revised guidelines document is included as Attachment A.

- Temporary Art in Public Spaces

Terms for a program whereby artworks would be on display for a limited time in high-profile locations was presented to Council in June 2015

(http://apps.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs/Council%5CMeetings%5CCouncil%20Meetings%202015%5C2015-06-22%5CRegular%20PM/Agenda%20Package%20-%20Regular%20PM%20Council%20Meeting_Jun22_2015.pdf?t=010210160; Council Item 5.4).

As per directions from Council, City staff, in conjunction with the Kelowna Art Gallery (KAG), subsequently initiated a pilot project entitled *Fossils from the Future*

(<http://kelownaartgallery.com/futurefossils/the-project/>).

The project concluded in 2016 and a report (Attachment B) has been submitted by KAG. Staff feel that the terms of the project have been met and are recommending that Temporary Art in Public Spaces become an ongoing initiative. A Terms of Reference for the program is included as Attachment C.

- Infrastructure-Related Projects

Competitions to create an inventory of crosswalk and manhole covers designs could be initiated as a way to disperse infrastructure-related public art throughout Kelowna. Both initiatives have precedents in other Canadian municipalities (slides 13 and 14).

The designs would be kept on file and used as new manhole covers and crosswalks are implemented. Funding for, and administration of the competitions would be from the Public Art Program. Funding for the infrastructure would be from the budgets for installation of the respective components.

The process to solicit designs would be high-profile initiatives to engage the public, possibly allowing all individuals, regardless of their degree of artistic training, to submit designs, and/or allowing the public to determine the preferred designs through an online voting process. Public engagement in conjunction with these public art initiatives would furthermore highlight sustainability-related themes such as water conservation (manhole covers) and walkability and pedestrian safety (crosswalks). A competition for manhole covers would be initiated in 2017. A competition for crosswalk designs would be undertaken in 2018.

Funding for the designs would be from the Annual Allocation in the amount of \$5,000 per initiative. In the case of the manhole covers, based on preliminary investigation, up to \$15,000 could also be required to fabricate the winning designs to test and assure the technical/performance characteristics prior to production for permanent installation.

Additionally, the relocation of *Running Man* in 2016 significantly enhanced the visibility and public awareness of the artwork (Slide 15). As such, other roundabout locations are deemed to be good opportunities to geographically disperse the collection in high-profile locations.

Projects that could be undertaken in this regard include artworks for roundabouts at the Doyle Ave./Water St., Casorso Rd./Benvoulin Rd., and the Valley Rd./Cross Rd. intersections. As per the recent re-location of *Running Man*, a three-dimensional artwork could be placed in the centre of each roundabout. Submissions would be solicited through an open-competition process.

An artwork for the recently-completed roundabout at the Valley Rd./Cross Rd. intersection has been identified as a project for 2018. A preliminary budget of \$125,000 has been identified and a funding source will be determined in next year's Report to Council. Artworks for subsequent roundabouts beyond 2018 could be implemented, pending Council approval.

The City's Integrated Transportation Division is preparing policy guidelines regarding the location and construction of roundabouts, and opportunities for public art will be considered in the context of this work.

- Boyce-Gyro Park

This artwork would be located on the east side of the park, beside the active transportation corridor (ATC) along Lakeshore Road (Slides 16 and 17).

The artwork would be three-dimensional in form and function as a landmark feature along the route. Although the precise nature of the work would be determined through a proposal call process to engage a professional artist, it is anticipated the work would be kinetic in nature, meaning that there would be an electronic/digital component by which it could be animated.

It is further anticipated that the work could be programmed using a mobile app, or that it could incorporate other forms of interactive technology, e.g., a sensor to respond to motion along the ATC. The theme would promote active lifestyles consistent with the City's Healthy Cities initiative. The

installation could be a prototype for similar works at other locations within the City's active transportation network.

A preliminary budget of \$150,000 has been identified. Funding could come from the annual allocation, the Public Art Reserve, grants, the capital budget for the Park upgrades, or a combination thereof. It is expected that the project will be initiated in late 2017 with installation in 2018. Staff will return to Council with more information and a request for funding from the Public Art Reserve once the parameters of the project are more precisely determined.

Other Program-related Tasks 2017 - 2018

- Conservation Assessment

The City's Public Art Collection has significant monetary value. As such, professional expertise is engaged to ensure the value of the collection is maintained. A conservation assessment by a professional conservator was completed in 2006. Another assessment is timely especially given that the collection has grown in the interim. It is anticipated that the assessment would be carried out over two summers beginning in 2017. The estimate to complete the work is \$5,000 per year.

The above projects are the key projects anticipated for 2016 – 2018. Other projects of a lesser scale that fulfill the Program's mandate, and help to achieve outcomes consistent with the information gleaned from the public engagement process would be undertaken pending availability of staff resources.

- Maintenance

Maintenance of the Public Art collection is carried out on an ongoing basis by the City's Building Services staff. The maintenance is done according to the instructions provided by artists at the time that ownership of artworks is transferred to the City. No significant repairs were required in 2015. Minor repairs due to exposure to the elements were made to *Running Man* when it was removed from the Queensway transit island in 2015.

- Promotion

The City's Public Art Collection as well as several other publicly-accessible artworks not owned by the City can be viewed online in the [Public Art Brochure](#). The brochure was last updated in 2014. The City also maintains a web app (<http://www.kelowna.ca/public-art/#>) that profiles the Public Art Collection as well as other publicly-accessible artworks not owned by the City.

Each artwork in the app includes a link to the website. As only a limited amount of information can be included on the app, the website will continue to provide supplemental information on artists and their respective artworks. The City website was recently re-designed and in conjunction with that project, the information on the Public Art Collection has been enhanced and updated.

- Local Artist Roster

In 2013, a roster was established for local artists interested in being notified about City-initiated Public Art projects. The intention of the Roster is to eliminate the need for local artists to monitor the City website for notices of proposal calls. Once a proposal call is initiated, the artists on the Roster are notified by e-mail. They can then go to the City website to download the proposal call document.

There are 11 names on the Roster. The names are principally in response to an advertisement in 2013 to solicit local artists. The City will advertise in early 2017 for applications from artists who wish to be added to the Local Artist Roster.

Public Art Collection Summary

There are currently 62 permanent artworks in the Collection. Under the Community Public Art Program, there have also been 5 temporary projects that have been documented for posterity.

Of the permanent artworks:

Grandfathered into the Collection	7
With Funding from the Public Art Program	26
With Funding from the Community Art Program	12
Acquired through sculpture symposia	6
Donated or initiated by other City divisions and transferred to Collection	12
Total installations in the Collection	62

Of the 38 permanent installations that have received funding from the Program, 25 have been created by local artists¹. This number represents 66% of the total commissions (PowerPoint Image 14).

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

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

- 1) Annual Allocation
Public Art has been funded each year from an 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 at a minimum of \$100,000, 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, 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 Fund
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.

¹ Kelowna-based artists as well as other artists from within the Okanagan Valley.

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. About \$20,000 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.

The Community Art Program and Temporary Art in Public Places would be funded from the annual allocation for public art.

Personnel Implications

Staff responsibility for the Public Art Program rests with Infrastructure Planning and Cultural Services.

Existing Policy:

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

Internal Circulation:

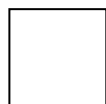
Cultural Services Manager
Building Services Manager

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
External Agency/Public Comments:
Communications Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by: P. McCormick, Planner Specialist

Approved for inclusion:



Alan Newcombe, Infrastructure Divisional Director

- Attachment A - 2017 Community Art Program Guidelines
- Attachment B - Temporary Art in Public Places - Report from Kelowna Art Gallery
- Attachment C - Temporary Art in Public Places – Terms of Reference
- Attachment D - Public Art Program Presentation
- Attachment E - Art Gallery Presentation Slides
- Attachment F – Appendix – Memorandum of Understanding

cc: Deputy City Manager
Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
Parks & Buildings Planning Manager
Building Services Manager
Cultural Services Manager