

# Report to Council



**Date:** April 3, 2017

**File:** 1840-40

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Robert Parlane, Parks & Buildings Planning Manager

**Subject:** Public Art Program Work Plan

Report Prepared by: Don Ferguson, Planner Specialist (Interim)

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receive, for information, the report from the Parks & Building Planning Manager, dated April 3, 2017, with respect to Public Art Program Work Plan;

AND THAT Council endorse the Public Art Program Work Plan as presented in the report from the Parks & Building Planning Manager, dated April 3, 2017.

## **Purpose:**

To outline the proposed Public Art Program Work Plan for 2017-2018 for endorsement by Council.

## **Background:**

The Public Art Update was brought to Council on March 13, 2017.

The goal of the Public Art Program is to enhance and enrich our public spaces in culturally significant and engaging ways. Public art is an essential component of a vibrant and diverse community and is essential to instilling a sense of pride and community for all of Kelowna. More information can be found on the City of Kelowna website under Public Art.

## **Program Work 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.

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*.

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 digital or kinetic in nature. The theme would promote active lifestyles consistent with the City's Healthy Cities initiative.

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 2017 – 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 on the city of Kelowna website under Public Art or via the online app.

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 mid-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	17
Acquired through sculpture symposia	6
Donated or initiated by other City divisions and transferred to Collection	11
<b>Total installations in the Collection</b>	<b>67</b>

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

## **Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

There continues 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 Operating 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 percent 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.

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. Twenty-Seven Thousand (\$27,000) 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  
Financial Planning Manager

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

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

Submitted by: R. Parlane, Manager, Parks and Buildings Planning

**Approved for inclusion:**



Alan Newcombe, Infrastructure Divisional Director

Attachment A - 2017 Community Art Program Guidelines  
Attachment B – Temporary Art in Public Places: Kelowna Art Gallery Report  
Attachment C - Temporary Art in Public Places – Terms of Reference  
Attachment D - Public Art Program Presentation

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