



**Special Regular Meeting of the
PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(PAAC)**

**June 6, 2019 - 4:00 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephen O'Shea	- Chair, Arts Professional Representative
Eryne Donahue	- Alternate Chair Artist of Recognized Standing in New Westminister
Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Council Representative
Kendra Johnston	- Community Member
Janice Meehan	- Community Member
Neal Michael	- Community Member
David Vivian	- Arts Professional Representative

GUESTS;

Paul Fast	- Architect, Principal, HCMA
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MEMBER REGRETS:

Bruce Hemstock	- Urban Designer
Peter Leblanc	- Non-Profit Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson	- Director, Parks and Recreation
Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
Tobi May	- Project Manager, Civic Buildings & Properties
Carolyn Armanini	- Planner 1, Office of the CAO
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

As Stephen O'Shea, Chair, had not arrived, Eryne Donahue, Alternate Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Public Art Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for June 6, 2019 be adopted with the addition of Item 4.3 – 22nd Street Station TransLink Public Art Update by Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

There were no items.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 New Westminster Aquatic & Community Centre – Dean Gibson, Director, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Gibson introduced Paul Fast, architect and principal at HCMA. He advised that the City is looking forward to the public art elements of this project and how they will show pride and reflect who we are as a community, as well as the evolution of the City as it relates to Indigenous peoples. He shared that Council is resolute in its intent to work towards reconciliation to repair and develop the City's relations with Indigenous populations, noting that this can partly be achieved through art.

Procedural note: Mr. O'Shea arrived at 4:09 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

Mr. Fast commenced with the presentation, advising Committee members that on-site public art opportunity areas include the lobby, plaza paving, plaza feature, plantings, and interpretive and precast paneling patterns.

In response to a question, staff informed members that currently the project is at the design development stage adding that, from a time perspective, there is more flexibility with respect to the outdoor space versus the indoor space. As construction documents will be worked on sometime after July, the public art aspect of the project needs to be address now.

In response to questions, Mr. Fast advised:

- There is potential for frit patterns to be added to some of the glass; however, it would have to be dealt with carefully as it affects privacy, there is a thermal component, etc.; and,
- Outdoor space will be addressed towards the end of the project.

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services, requested input from the Committee with respect to the following items:

Themes: Through a series of workshops, etc., parameters and themes were addressed with the Indigenous community, noting that suggestions for the space included but were not limited to: language, storytelling, the natural environment, etc., as well as the need to ensure that the environment is welcoming to the Indigenous community and promoting of opportunities for cross-culture inclusion with everyone feeling welcome to all programming at the centre. In addition, art installations should reflect the diversity of the urban Indigenous communities by way of artwork in the flooring and/or windows, a hanging canoe in the lobby or pool acknowledging the connection to the water and, possibly, a community mural by an Indigenous artist.

Discussion ensued and the Committee provided the following comments:

- As the facility is so large, it would be meaningful to have public art interwoven throughout the entire building and site; and,
- A member shared that it would be nice to see stories and language reflected in the building in some way with the incorporation of traditional names, etc., in a theme that could be played out across the site, while another member disagreed with the site having a prescribed theme;

Artist Selection Process/Jury: Forming a good, authoritative understanding of what we should be looking for in an artist(s).

In response to questions, Mr. McCullough advised that as a number of nations, some more prominent than others, have declared interest in New Westminster and, to ensure a non-biased panel, the Spirit of the Children Society, that is not beholden to a specific nation, could be considered for the jury.

Discussion ensued and the Committee provided the following comments:

- With the challenging timeline, the Castlemain Group should be requested to advise the City on how to conduct a jury selection that would respect the

- Indigenous relationships the City currently has as well as those that the City is hoping to build;
- Jurors should include a diversity of First Nations, community leaders, and those who are committed in their work to build community;
 - In the process of evaluation, the City has the opportunity to do some ground-breaking work and should reach out to the Canada Council for the Arts for guidance and the embedded assessment tool; and,
 - The jury should visit the site so they gain an understanding of the project.

Expression of Interest Call: This Art Call is a unique, reconciliatory act towards the Indigenous community and is not something that the City has done before. Once the Call goes out, it will be a reflection of the City and a message to the Indigenous nations, other municipalities, and the community.

The Call could be issued in three ways including 1. Working directly with the land-based nations that claim New Westminster lands; 2. Issue an open Call, specifying First Nations artists and doing all we can to draw awareness to the Call; or, 3. Generate a shortlist of artists and invite those selected. Staff recommends an open Call as it would be the most straightforward.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology may be a useful resource for advice or direction;
- A reserve of funds will be maintained to cover any unexpected overages to the project(s); and,
- Language referring to water could be included in the Call with respect to the Glenbrook Ravine and storm water aspect of the site.

Discussion ensued and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Due to time constraints, it may be prudent to invite specific artists to participate;
- The Call should go out to a variety of artists so we can have diverse artwork throughout the site;
- The City must remain cognizant of the importance of the First Nations Protocol that governs the relationships of the guest nations when issuing the Call (i.e. does the City want to give favour to the Qayqayt First Nation, etc.);
- The Call could inform that the City will engage in a sensitive, de-colonizing, self-determinating role of collaborative assessment in order to proceed to the selection of artist(s);
- The Call should address all of the diverse ways of expression that are outlined in the City's Public Art Policy;

- Option 2 appears to be the most inclusive as the City does not have relations with all First Nations that lay claim to New Westminster and we do not want to inadvertently leave anyone out;
- An open Call may be the best option given the challenging timeline that would inhibit the Committee from doing the proper research that would be required for a closed Call;
- Language around sustainability and proven materials to be used (how long they last, how they wear, etc.) should be included;
- The project could facilitate a number of Calls including the installation of an Indigenous garden; and,
- There is an opportunity for this call to have submissions of programming with public art components.

Mr. McCullough thanked everyone for their input adding that a draft of the Call would be sent Committee members for review in the next week.

4.2 Arts Strategy Update (tentative)
– Carolyn Armanini, Planner 1, Office of the CAO

This item was not addressed and will be moved to the next meeting.

4.3 22nd Street SkyTrain
– Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services

Mr. McCullough reminded Committee members that two and half years ago the Committee provided \$5,000 for an art installation at the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station. The artwork, which is currently being installed, is titled, “Wander: Toward the Lightness of Being” and makes visible, the lives of phytoplankton which are the crucial starting link to our food chain. It is the life around us that we do not see. The installation will include 22 icons and 12 haikus located throughout the site. Further information will be forthcoming with respect to the unveiling of installation.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. – Committee Room 2, City Hall

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed

Stephen O’Shea
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk