



## **PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, January 16, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Committee Room #2**  
**City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lynne Probyn	- Chair, Community Member
Jacqueline Dionne	- Arts Commission Representative
Ted Drabyk	- Community Member
Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Council Representative (arrived at 5:06 p.m.)
Eric Pattison	- Urban Designer
Eryne Donahue	- Community Member
Peter Lojewski	- Community Member
Mariane Kazemir	- Community Member

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Karen Campbell	- Urban Designer
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#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Biliana Velkova	- Arts Coordinator
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

The following item was added to the agenda:

- Item 3.1 Public Art Expressions in Europe

### **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **2.1 Adoption of the December 4, 2015 Minutes**

##### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the December 4, 2015 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **3.1 Public Art Expressions in Europe**

Ted Drabek, Community Member, discussed his trip to Europe and the public art projects he had experienced during his stay. Mr. Drabek explained that in England, local artists volunteer for public art projects and the work is often done for free.

The Committee suggested that this could be a good opportunity for community involvement and expressed an interest in further exploring the public art process in England.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Lunch Box Auction**

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, summarized an on-table handout regarding available funds and project restrictions for both the Olympic Torch Legacy and the Canada Day Lunch Box Auction.

Discussion ensued around the Olympic Torch Legacy Project, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A mosaic or mural could be a cost efficient approach for the project;
- A mosaic of the torch was suggested at the Queen's Park Arenex;
- Concerns were expressed regarding the public's reaction to a project based on an event that occurred in 2010. It was suggested that a more general sports mural tying into the Olympics be implemented;
- Installing a mural outdoors could limit the life of the piece;
- Because the downtown New Westminster area already has several mosaic art pieces, implementing this project in the Queensborough area could diversify the City's collection;
- It was suggested that the torch route be further researched and that the art piece be implemented in a site reflective of that route;
- Sending out a call for an artist or asking the public for volunteers were both suggested; and,
- Warmer weather would be required to implement a mural and the Committee could aim for an installation date in spring/summer, 2016.

Ms. Velkova confirmed that she would look into obtaining information on the route of the Olympic Torch and would report back to the Committee with a brief pricing memo for both the mural and the mosaic piece.

The Committee discussed the Canada Day Lunchbox Auction and provided the following comments:

- The funds for the Canada Day project have no restrictions other than the location requirement for the piece to be implemented in the Queens Park area;
- It was suggested that the project be volunteer based; and,
- The Bernie Legge Theatre in Queens Park could benefit from an outdoor public art piece.

Ms. Velkova suggested that the 150 Canada Day Mosaic project could be tied into the Canada Day Lunchbox Auction as both pieces would involve the community and the Queens park area. The Committee expressed an interest in partnering with the Arts Commission for this project.

Ms. Velkova suggested that Rob McCullough, Manager, Cultural Services, could provide a further update regarding this project at the next meeting.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee allocate \$12,406.25 from the Canada Day Lunch Box Auction to the 150 Mosaic project.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**4.2 Olympic Torch Legacy**

This item was discussed with item 4.1.

**4.3 Community Banners Public Art Projects Update**

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, provided a brief summary regarding the community banner public art project. With regard to the children's design of the banners on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Sapperton, Ms. Velkova provided the following information:

- The most effective way to recruit children for the project could be through the programing facilities at Anvil Centre;
- Banners would contain 20 different designs created by 20 kids;
- The program would be 6-7 weeks long, and free for all participants;
- In order to better include a variety of children, the program would be divided into two different age groups;
- Participants would be accepted on a first come first serve basis; and,
- A draft copy of the Active Living Guide posting for the program was provided.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Annually allocating a certain amount of the Public Art Fund towards projects involving kids was suggested;

- Sending the Active Living Guide posting to art teachers in the community could help target kids with a strong interest in the arts;
- Limiting enrollment to 20 kids could be a challenge. If the program is successful, it was suggested that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) fund another project with the capacity to involve more children;
- The goal for the project is to provide dialogue regarding public art and enrich the community;
- “Art in the Streets” was suggested as a brand for the project;
- The library could be another area of interest for the banner public art project. It was suggested that a theme relating to the “raise a reader” program be implemented if further funding is provided in the future; and,
- A debriefing session after the implementation of the banners was suggested.

Ms. Velkova furthered the discussion to include the artist call for the banners on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. An on-table handout regarding the call for local artists was provided and summarized.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It was debated if it would be best to hire one artist or two for the project;
- Using two artists would require similar designs and themes and could increase costs;
- A single artist could implement up to three designs for the banners;
- The call for 6<sup>th</sup> Street would be for 32 double banners (64 designs in total); and,
- The call would be directed to New Westminster residents only.

The Committee agreed that directing the call towards a single artist would be more visually appealing for the banners on 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **4.4 Themes for the Community Banners Public Art Project**

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, initiated a discussion with regard to possible themes for the artist call for the banners on 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- A seasonal theme could be implemented;
- Streetcars and trains (transportation) could be tied into New Westminster and the Canadian Pacific Railway train;
- A multicultural theme could be developed using alphabets or flags from around the world;
- Fabrics of the world could be an interesting theme considering the ethnic diversity on 12<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Historical maps could create a unique pattern with the idea of anchoring the community on paper;

- The geography of the hills and streams of New Westminster could be visually appealing and has historical importance for the area;
- A design incorporating the incline and decent of the hill on 6<sup>th</sup> Street would be specific to the area and could bring in a large variety of applicants; and,
- Recognizing industries along the river that have disappeared over the years, together with the log booms on the river was suggested as a possible theme.

The Committee agreed to include street cars and trains, maps, material culture of the world, streams and hills and industrial heritage as possible themes for the call for artists.

Regarding the creation of a logo for the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), Ms. Velkova advised that the Communications department has indicated that the Committee could move forward with the idea.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Using the iconic New Westminster crown with the acronym PAAC was suggested;
- The phrase “Art in the Streets” could be relevant to this project, and could be appropriate for most public art projects;
- The logo could not only encompass PAAC but other arts services in New Westminster; and,
- It was enquired if an artist call to create the logo would be required.

Ms. Velkova showed the Committee a design from a local girl used in the Paint the Town Program. The Committee indicated an interest in incorporating the design into their logo. Ms. Velkova advised that she would attempt to contact the artist’s mother and would provide PAAC with an update on at the next meeting.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Use for Banner Material Post Installation**

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, summarized a handout illustrating possible uses for the banner material post installation. The Committee suggested that using the banners fabric to wrap trees in the New Westminster area could be an interesting idea. Ms. Velkova advised that she would find additional information regarding the banner fabric to see if it could be repainted.

## **6.0 REPORTS**

### **6.1 Identifying Community Public Art Opportunities Workshop**

Jacqueline Dionne, Arts Commission Representative, initiated a discussion with regard to how the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) could make New Westminster more available and welcoming to existing artists in the city. Ms. Dionne explained that the Arts Commission had created a sub-committee to identify how the Commission can better serve local artists in the community.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following suggestions:

- Courtyard spaces such as the one outside of the Provincial Court or the boardwalk in Westminster Pier Park could be used for impromptu music or theatre performances;
- The Anvil Center could be viewed as a more high scale environment and some artists may not fully understand what the services that are offered;
- The idea of bringing public art back to a more grass roots feel was suggested;
- East Vancouver has a Moon Festival Harvest Fair which aims to activate park space by involving a variety of artistic groups, such as visual artists, dancers, and actors;
- Totem Pole carvers at Pier Park in the spring and summer could attract visitors and encourage community participation;
- It was suggested that PAAC could place a call which would animate public spaces;
- Vibe could act as a vehicle for animating the Anvil Centre;
- The Cultural map is currently not being utilized to its full potential and could contribute to helping artists feel more included in their community;
- PAAC could reach out to the art program at Douglas College to promote awareness of the Art in the Streets project;
- It was suggested that the City could lease the “pocket” park located off of Columbia Street as an ongoing pop-up spot for artists and performers;
- Leasing a private area or park could create issues with cost and liability and may require an amendment to broaden the busking law;
- It was suggested that PAAC investigate the historical background of the park to see if this space could be utilized by the City;
- Rather than dictating the space, it was suggested that the park be open for ‘festival oriented art’; and,
- Activating the River Market through local artists has been discussed in the past, and could be an opportunity for local artists to interact with the community.

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, provided the following information to the committee regarding art opportunities for local artists:

- Anvil Centre is looking into launching a residents program allowing artists to utilize the Anvil space for projects. Once completed, the artist would then engage the community through a presentation to incorporate them into their art experience;
- The City has an opportunity to obtain a traveling kiosk that could be used to bring art into the community. The price to move the kiosk is \$600.00; however, there is a possibility that the Engineering department could bring this kiosk to New Westminster at a minimal cost. The kiosk would be a good opportunity to create art

- experiences at festivals in the community. Ms. Velkova advised that should would review upcoming festivals to see where this idea could be implanted; and,
- The Vibe is currently branching out with a Complaints Choir performance on February 25, 2016. The event has received a lot of community involvement.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

## **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**8.1 February 4, 2015 at 5 p.m. in Committee Room #2**

## **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Certified Correct,

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**LYNNE PROBYN**  
**CHAIR**

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**DEBBIE JOHNSTONE**  
**COMMITTEE CLERK**