



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

## **PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC)**

**January 3, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.  
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Stephen O'Shea	- Chair, Arts Professional Representative
Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Council Representative
Eryne Donahue	- Artist of Recognized Standing in New Westminster
Bruce Hemstock	- Urban Designer
Erin Jeffery	- Community Member
Kendra Johnston	- Community Member
Mariane Kazemir	- Community Member
Vesna Malkjovic	- Arts Professional Representative
Neal Michael	- Community Member

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

Peter Leblanc	- Non-Profit Representative
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#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Robert McCullough	- Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

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

*THAT the Revised Agenda for the Public Art Advisory Committee meeting scheduled January 3, 2019 be adopted noting that New Business Item 5.1 – New West 2018 Public Art Plan Draft will be addressed after 6.0 Reports and Information.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2018**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the September 20, 2018 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **3.1 Under the Parkade – Public Art Opportunity – Erika Mashig (tentative)**

As Ms. Mashig was unable to attend the meeting, no update was provided.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **5.1 New West 2018 Public Art Plan Draft – Committee**

Stephen O’Shea, Chair and Arts Professional Representative, recapped the May 7, 2018 Council meeting wherein Council made the following comments with respect to the Public Art Plan:

- The Committee needs to be mindful of the fact that perhaps there should be more of a local context to the Plan, including heritage;
- Overall, Council was encouraging and liked the Public Art Program; and
- The Committee can review this with the new Arts Coordinator.

Members made the following comments regarding the draft Public Art Plan:

- Page 2:
  - Jeffrey” should be spelled “Jeffery”;
  - Update names and create two sections: Contributing Committee and Public Art Advisory Committee;
  - Table of Contents: Project Identification – change the section or move into Planning Approach section
- Page 3:
  - The quote should be public art focussed;

- First Column, second paragraph – remove the extra space at the beginning of the paragraph;
- Second column, first paragraph – this paragraph should be more concise and state that “the City developed a mechanism” as opposed to “way”;
- Second column, second paragraph – Should read “graphic reference tool to *aid* in prioritizing” and “makes visible *a* pattern of distribution...”; and,
- Second column, third paragraph – confirmed with GIS Department if this was added to the Cultural Map. This sentence to be further reviewed; and,
- Second column, fourth paragraph – remove “administration”, add a period after “documents”, and start a new sentence. Remove “over time”;
- Page 4:
  - Replace “authentic” with “unique”; and,
  - Capitalization of the word “City” to be reviewed throughout the document;
- The Plan should be reviewed alongside the new Arts Strategy;
- Review consistency and flow with respect to how the City of New Westminster is referred to in the document as it goes from “the City” to “the City of New Westminster”, etc.);
- Replace art images throughout the document and map that are no longer relevant (i.e. the Telephone Salesman) and provide credit for all images;
- The Introduction and Contributing to the Urban Character Sections could be combined and written more concisely;
- Public Art Programs Characteristics is redundant;
- Pages 4 (Public Art: Contributing to the Urban Character) and page 8 (Public Art Program Characteristics) could be combined;
- The Objectives should be part of Contributing to the Urban Character aspect and be bold and important;
- Council liked the Plan but requested that it be made to be more specific to New Westminster, including the historical aspect of the City;
- The Plan should stand the test of time, speak to the essence of the City, and not being subscribed to the artist;
- Document layout to be reviewed, including the number of fonts being used;
- The list in the middle of page 4 came from the Public Arts Advisory Committee. Perhaps a statement should be added to better explain it;
- Page 11, prior to the six points, a paragraph could be added that includes language referring to site-specific calls that embrace values relevant to the community at the time. While we cannot predict future values, nor do we want to limit the list to the principles of 2019, it is an important piece to include. Additionally, another appendix could contain a sample of a call that the PAAC is particularly proud of, from past years. This may help Council visualize what a Public Art Program that is representative of the City could look like;
- Typology does not include *Existing* public artwork;
- The Public Art Strategic Framework document does not list *Existing* items and both the index and the list should be in alphabetic order;
- Addressing the various City neighbourhoods that express themselves distinctively may be a way to make the Plan unique to the City;

- Other city documents share what New Westminster is all about; it does not necessarily all have to be included in the Public Art Plan;
- The map and locations make the Plan specific to New Westminster; however, defining what the waterfront is, what a greenway is, etc., are other ways to make it distinctive to the City; and,
- The map should only show long-term artwork.

Responding to the ongoing conversation regarding ways to make the Plan unique to New Westminster and better introduce the City, Mr. McCullough advised that the Introduction should communicate to readers how the Public Art Plan came to be and where it is going. He suggested that the Introduction could include some of the following verbiage:

*This is us. This is our community. We are central in the lower mainland, we have always been central in the lower mainland. Since time immemorial we have been central to the lower mainland and all the people that were around here. What we find ourselves in today is a place of meetings, a place of cultural engagement, and this has been consistent since time immemorial as well. We have people who fiercely defend the identities of their neighbourhoods while at the same time defending the identity of New Westminster as a whole and people have found a place to come here and create a home for themselves. This is New Westminster and this is what our public art program should represent to the broader community. It's the pride of our City. Built into that is our culture, our heritage, our economy, our industry and all of those things have come to be because of who we are and they are unique to New Westminster.*

Mr. McCullough acknowledged that although a number of these things are consistent across the Lower Mainland, New Westminster has a unique story that can be built up in the Introduction.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCullough provided the following comments:

- Resources from the Public Art Reserve Fund may be utilized to engage a writer who will ensure that the Plan is easily comprehensible and work through comments received this evening. The expense may fall under the maintenance aspect of the Public Art Program;
- A local writer, who did a great job for the City on a beacon-based walking narrative, could possibly be hired to work on the Plan. Committee members also offered their assistance in securing someone to work on the document;
- Once the Plan has been modified, a graphic artist could ensure that the document can be viewed and printed anywhere; and,
- The City's GIS staff should be able to assist with the map aspect of the Plan.

## **5.2 Sapperton Public Art Piece “The Play” – Stephen O’Shea**

Mr. McCullough advised that the public art piece “The Play” was damaged when the fence it is mounted on was pushed over during a windstorm, noting that the Engineering Department will remove the artwork in mid-January. The temporary piece was supposed to be up until March/April of this year.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCullough provided the following comments:

- Capture Photography will be contacted to determine how to proceed within the scope of the City’s agreements with both Capture Photography and the artist (i.e. once taken down can the piece stay down, will the piece have to be destroyed or can it be preserved and displayed elsewhere, etc.);
- A storage site for the piece will be sought out if we are able to use it elsewhere in the future;
- The new Arts Coordinator could activate the inventory program that was development by an intern with the City but it has yet to be utilized. Concerns and comments about art installation sites could be easily added to this database for future reference;

Discussion ensued, with the Committee noting the following:

- A member stated that that piece should be kept if it can be taken down without damage, while another member expressed that there may not be value to storing something that may never be used again;
- There is concern that the Committee brought forward a project that has damaged a city asset; we need to be mindful of this in the future;
- As each location will have limitations, the PAAC can suggest public art materials to the Engineering Department who can determine if the locations are suitable; and,
- The art needs to be thought of as an element in the public realm and things may happen. Artists should be aware of this and factor the environment in when determining materials, etc.

## **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

### **6.1 Update on the Removal of the Telephone Salesman Art Installation – Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services**

Mr. McCullough advised members that scaffolding to facilitate removal of the Telephone Art Installation is anticipated to go up on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, with removal of the piece to commence sometime during the week. It was noted, however, that there has been ongoing postponement on the part of the contractor, with respect to the removal of the piece. Also, there are concerns that a layer or more of paint may come off the wall when the piece is removed; however, it is unknown how many layers of paint are on the wall under the artwork, how they will be affected, or if repairs will be required subsequent to the removal. If the

removal does not move forward as expected, consideration will be given to the possibility of the City's Engineering Department removing this unique and specialized artwork. Compensation for removal of the piece may come out of the PAAC budget.

## **6.2 Update on the Hiring of the City's New Art Coordinator – Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services**

Mr. McCullough informed Committee members that the Arts Strategy, which defines the City's goals moving forward, is proceeding as drafted.

With respect to the hiring of the City's New Art Coordinator, staff and the Human Resources Department are working diligently to secure the appropriate person for the position. In the meantime, the City is seeking a consultant who is familiar with the process, management, and maintenance of public art to assist during the interim, including making calls for art, managing calls, and managing projects afterwards. Other items the consultant will be expected to work on include the City's mural policy, taking the Public Art Plan back to Council, working with the artist on the Boundary Road piece, continued maintenance of the Floralume installation, etc.

With respect to the Queen's Park washroom, the engaged artist has worked with the museum in the past on a youth project that was supplemented by the BC Arts Council and is still installed in the Atrium Gallery at the Anvil Centre.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCullough provided the following comments:

- The City is continuing with the banner program with banner locations still needing to be identified. The interim consultant may be able to assist with this along with our communications department. March would be a good time to come back to the Committee for further discussion and suggestions of locations; and,
- With respect to the Public Art Fund, the conservative estimate as to what will be left in the fund after the books are closed on 2018 is 255K; however, that will depend on residual payments for projects in 2018 and possibly even 2017. Confirmation will be made at the March PAAC meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the Committee addressed *New Business Item 5.1 New West 2018 Public Art Plan Draft*.

## **7.0 NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. - Committee Room 2, City Hall

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Stephen O'Shea**  
**Chair**

Original Signed

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**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**