



**PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(PAAC)**

**May 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M139**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Eryne Donahue

- Chair/Artist of Recognized Standing  
in New Westminster

Councillor Mary Trentadue

- Council Representative

Kathy Curry

- Arts Professional Representative

Peter Leblanc

- Arts Commission Representative

Janice Meehan

- Community Member

Neal Michael

- Community Member

Stephen O'Shea

- Arts Professional Representative

Autumn Sweet

- Urban Designer

David Vivian

- Arts Professional Representative

Craig West

- Urban Designer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jacque Killawee

- City Clerk

Todd Ayotte

- Manager, Community Arts & Theatre

Tobi May

- Project Manager, Civic Buildings & Properties

Carilyn Cook

- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

**1.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1 MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Agenda for the Public Art Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for May 7, 2020 be adopted as circulated.*

**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**

There were no items.

### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Council Directive from the April 27, 2020 Council Meeting: Discussion Regarding Temporary Murals by Local Artists on Boarded Storefronts**

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts & Theatre, provided a presentation regarding a motion from Council on the possibility of implementing temporary murals in response to boarded storefronts and increased graffiti and tagging during the pandemic. The presentation included information on the murals developed by the Gastown Business Improvement Association in response to a significant number of boarded storefronts in that neighbourhood.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following comments:

- Boarded storefronts are not seen as a growing issue in New Westminster, with only one instance noted to date in the downtown area;
- Since it is expected that the City's business community will start opening up over the next few weeks, the timing may not be right for this;
- The public art reserve is not intended to fund temporary projects on private property;
- Other funding sources such as the Vancouver Neighbourhood Small Grants may be an appropriate way to support a program like this;
- A larger scale mural program similar to the Mural Festival that takes place in Vancouver is something PAAC could consider, in partnership with the Arts Council and the local business community;
- Implementing a program like this would take extensive planning and lead time and we should not stray from the established processes;
- Graffiti and street art is seen in other communities as a vital form of urban creative expression, and a response to street art and graffiti should be addressed in the Public Art Policy; and,
- PAAC should revisit this idea in the future, and consider establishing a working committee to develop recommendations, working alongside the local business community and other not for profit arts partners.

In response to a Committee member's query regarding staff resources that would be required to pursue this initiative, Mr. Ayotte confirmed that staff resources are challenging at this time, given the priority of addressing essential services during

the pandemic. At this point, a number of active and planned public art projects have been put on hold temporarily. Additionally, he noted that Vancouver is considering expanding their program outside of the City and possibly partner with other municipalities, which New Westminster could take advantage of, but that additional planning would have to go into the program if the Committee were to be involved.

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, will add this item to a future agenda, and Mr. Ayotte will invite someone from the City of Vancouver to attend the meeting to provide more information on their program.

In response to Council's request that the Public Art Advisory Committee investigate the possibility of the City hiring local artists to develop works of art on buildings which have been covered by panels, the Committee passed the following resolution:

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee advises Council that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and an uptake in graffiti in New Westminster, there is no need to pursue a mural project in the near term; however, the Committee is interested in exploring this concept in more detail, including fostering partnerships with organizations that could deliver a project of this magnitude.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

There were no items.

**7.0 NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.

**8.0 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter, members of the public be excluded from the Closed Meeting of Committee immediately following the Regular Meeting of Committee on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items to be considered relate to matters listed under Sections 90(1) (a) of the Community Charter:*

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Eryne Donahue**  
**Chair**

Original Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**