



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

Notice is hereby given of the following meeting:

**PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(PAAC)**

March 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192 and
the current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

AGENDA

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION:

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) (b) and 90(1) (k) of the Community Charter:

90(1) (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity; and,

90 (1) (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

1.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2020

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

No Items

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Sportsplex Public Art – Update

4.2 NWACC Public Art - Update

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Chair and Alternate Chair

5.2 Emerging Opportunity – Electrical Substation 886 Boyd Street

5.3 2021 Work Plan Review

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

No Items

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 7, 2021

8.0 ADJOURNMENT



**PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(PAAC)**

October 1, 2020

Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eryne Donahue

Councillor Mary Trentadue

Kathy Curry

Peter Leblanc

Janice Meehan

Stephen O'Shea

David Vivian

Craig West

- Chair/Artist of Recognized Standing
in New Westminster
- Council Representative
- Arts Professional Representative
- Arts Commission Representative
- Community Member
- Arts Professional Representative
- Arts Professional Representative
- Urban Designer

REGRETS:

Neal Michael

Autumn Sweet

- Community Member
- Urban Designer

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Ayotte

Rob McCullough

Sarah Joyce

Carilyn Cook

- Manager, Community Arts & Theatre
- Manager, Museum & Heritage Services
- Director/Curator, New Media Gallery
- Committee Clerk

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

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION:

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) (b) of the Community Charter:

90 (1) (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity.

CARRIED.

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

1.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Public Art Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for October 1, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

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 July 16, 2020

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the July 16, 2020 Public Art Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Sportsplex Public Art Project Update

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, advised that the Nathan Lee, the artist selected for the Sportsplex Public Art project, has been contracted and has begun working with the City's facilities and parks staff to review the site conditions to finalize placement, footings, lighting and logistics for installation, etc. The project has moved into design development and it is anticipated that the artwork will be installed in January 2021.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Wow Westminster Public Art Update

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, provided a summary of events regarding the September 13, 2020 New Westminster Pier Park fire which included the Wow Westminster public art installation. Mr. Ayotte advised that over the days following the fire, staff, in conjunction with the piece's original engineers and Biennale, provided as much information as possible to New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services regarding the installation in the hopes that it could be saved. Unfortunately, due to structural damage to the Pier the iconic art installation could not be salvaged. He shared that staff had been in touch with the artist who expressed a desire to be kept apprised of the City's next steps and noted that community members continue to express to staff and via social media what the sculpture meant to them and the community.

Councillor Trentadue shared that the installation was part of a long-running Biennale project comprised of the Blue Trees, the Urban Trees public furniture, and Wow Westminster. She stated that the installation sparked conversation in the community, bringing public art to the forefront and the installation became the focus of some of New Westminster's most iconic photos.

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museum & Heritage Services, advised that all of the City's Arts & Culture Managers were on hand to witness the dismantling of the installation and shared that he inquired about retaining a piece of the artwork such as corrugated siding and a welded joint, which demonstrated the tension between the unit, and which would be added to the museum collection if it is not incorporated into a commemorative art piece.

Sarah Joyce, Director/Curator, New Media Gallery, shared that witnessing the fire was upsetting and advised that the existing piece's materials should not be used in any other artwork unless it is created by the original artist.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following comments:

- A piece of the installation was saved for archival purposes; however, the remaining pieces were unsalvageable for any other use;
- The insurance aspect of the fire is currently being addressed and, currently, there is no information to share;
- The next steps will be long and involved, eventually addressing public art at the Park, in whatever iteration that may be;
- The Downtown Business Association offered support immediately after the fire and community support for future public art is also being seen by staff;
- Once the Pier Park is rebuilt and we know what kind of space we have to work with, staff could reach out to the artist with respect to a commemorative piece as he has offered to help in a future project; and,
- Information on the Biennale collection could be put on the website which will help keep the memory of the Wow Westminster installation alive.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It was the City's most significant public art piece due to the view corridor and placement.
- The installation was an inspirational public art piece as well as a great gathering place which the City was known for;
- The conceptual component of the piece should be shared with the public when it is commemorated;
- If advanced, a commemoration should be done under consultation with the original artist;
- More can be learned about the piece on the Biennale website, including information about the artist;
- Many people are using the Wow Westminster image on hats, pins, etc., and enquiring as to where funds can be donated to support ongoing arts in the City;
- Perhaps a portion of the installation could be used in the new iteration of the Park although it would not be as prominent as the original piece;
- The momentum of increased interest in public art brought on by the fire and subsequent dismantling of the Wow Westminster piece should be acted upon with respect to engaging in a dialogue with the community about public art, additional public art programming, etc.;

- This has highlighted the City’s need for a Public and Community Art Coordinator;
- As there seems to be a lot of interest in exploring the Biennale collection, perhaps an art walk or other event commemorating the artwork of the Wow New installation could be planned, when appropriate;
- The installation was proof of the vital importance of provocative art in the community that promotes conversation; and,
- Although saddened at the loss, the Committee can discuss how to bring more great pieces to the City as even though the flagship is gone, there are more opportunities for public art.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

November 5, 2020 – To be confirmed.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Eryne Donahue
Chair

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk



Memorandum

To: PAAC

Date: February 24, 2021

From: Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts & Theatre

File: DOC# 1777914

Re: **Emerging Opportunity - Electrical Substation, 886 Boyd Street**

Background

The City's Electrical Department will be building a new substation in Queensborough, with construction expected to begin in the summer 2021. As part of the construction, a metal screening (structural fence) will be incorporated into the site. It will be a public-facing location at 886 Boyd Street, opposite the Queensborough Landing shopping complex.



The Opportunity

Electrical Operations has reached out to Arts Services to explore the possibility of incorporating of an art work into this screening. The image is reproduced from a digital format directly into the metal structure by the fabricator using a pattern of 3-4 different sized drill holes and up to 15 different tones. Examples of completed works in other communities are provided below.



Funding

All fabrication and installation costs would be assumed by the main contract, and artist fees would be funded through the Public Art Reserve (subject to approval).

Process

Arts Services staff under the advisement of the PAAC would oversee the Selection Process through an artist call.

I look forward to having a discussion with the PAAC regarding this opportunity.