



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

### **For the Meeting of May 10, 2018**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole  
**From:** Jocelyn Jenkyns, Acting City Manager  
**Subject:** Art in Public Place Policy Revision

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**Date:** May 2, 2018

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- Approve the revised Art in Public Places Policy.
- As part of the 2019 financial planning process, consider allocating an additional \$75,000 into the Culture operating budget for the annual Artist in Residence Program starting in 2019.
- Starting in 2019, transfer the existing \$15,000 annual operating budget for public art maintenance to the Art in Public Places Reserve.
- Approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Art in Public Places Committee.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The current Art in Public Places Policy (adopted in 2010) includes direction to review and revise the policy every five years in an effort to ensure that the policy remains in step with best practice. Over the course of the past year, staff have coordinated a review and developed a revised policy for Council consideration. The review process included:

- Research into best practice,
- Engagement with public art administrators across the country,
- A workshop and review with the Public Art Inter-departmental Staff Team and the Art in Public Places Committee,
- Gathering feedback on the Art in Public Places Program through the Create Victoria Culture Cafes last March
- Review by the Accessibility Working Group.

Based on the implementation of the policy over the last 5 years and the policy review process, it is clear that the current policy is serving the City well, however, there is always room for improvement. Staff recommend the following adjustments suggested by staff and stakeholders:

- Separate policy and operational guidelines.
- Streamline the content within the document so it's easier to find information.
- Provide clarification around roles and responsibilities.
- As part of the annual budget and financial planning process, consider allocating additional annual funding into the Culture Operating Budget for the Artist in Residence Program.

- Include an “Indigenous Knowledge Keeper” in the Terms of Reference for Art in Public Places Committee members.

The revised policy addresses these key suggestions and clarifications.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present a revised Art in Public Places Policy and Terms of Reference for the Art in Public Places Committee for Council consideration.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Victoria's Art in Public Places was adopted by Council in 1993. The initial version of the policy articulates the intention of the City to create new works of art for the enhancement of public spaces, and offers a rationale for public art projects and defines the terms, responsibilities, and procedures to be used in realizing this goal.

After the Art in Public Places Policy had been in place for 17 years within the corporate strategic plan of 2007-2009, Council directed the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department to “review and expand the public art policy”. The result was a new Art in Public Places Policy adopted by Council in August of 2010. The revised policy included a direction to commit \$150,000 annually to public art, 10% of which is dedicated to maintenance of existing works and the remaining may be used or held in a reserve fund to support larger projects. Additionally, the new policy directed that exceptional, significant civic construction projects may allocate up to 1% of their overall construction budget for the creation of public art.

The 2010 policy also outlined the inclusion of an inter-departmental staff team to help determine the sites for artwork in consultation with a five member Art in Public Places Committee. Revised Terms of Reference for a more robust Committee and Selection Panels were put in place. The policy included direction to review and revise the policy every five years in an effort to ensure that the policy remains in step with best practice.

In December 2017, the Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan was adopted by Council. Create Victoria directs staff to review the revised public art policy in 2018.

## **ISSUES & ANALYSIS**

Since the policy was adopted in 2010, the City has coordinated a number of successful public art projects and programs including:

- Glass Half Full by Tyler Hodgins and poem by Linda Rogers in Harrison Yacht Pond.
- Crystal Pool Murals in partnership with the Vancouver School of Art.
- Hands of Time by Crystal Przybille (12 bronze sculptures celebrating the City's sesquicentennial in 2012).
- Annual Art Symposium since 2011.
- 5 temporary art installations in Commercial Alley since 2014.
- Art on Parkades (3 public art projects on City parkades).
- Dr Sun Yet Sen statue donation .
- Lebanese Immigrant statue donation.
- Two Artist in Resident positions delivered five mural projects, six public performances, improved the City's engagement with vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens, created opportunities for the public to participate in the City's reconciliation journey, and added art into more than thirteen

civic projects and supported five Departments.

These projects have been successful based on clear guidelines for process and selection for public art, clear roles and responsibilities, and expansion of the Art in Public Places Committee from two to five individuals appointed every two years.

Prior to 2016, staff commitment to public art program was .5FTE. In 2015, the Arts, Culture and Events Team was formed and through a human resources review and reorganization we were able to increase staff time to .8FTE to the public art program. This has greatly affected our ability to grow the program by working with other City departments on integrated public art projects, manage public art requests from the community, support two artists in residence and maintain the public art collection.

This year staff are on pace to delivery 16 new works, 2 temporary outdoor displays of over 20 art works, new public performances, and animation of alleyways as directed in Visual Victoria Urban Realm Plan. Staff are on schedule to fully utilize our annual maintenance budget, increase staff support by joining four internal working groups, and improve community engagement through the development of a Mural Toolkit for artists and private businesses.

Staff are also receiving more requests to support Private Developers integrating art into new developments as well as community members who would like to animate public space through pop up exhibitions and community art projects through the My Great Neighbourhood grant program.

### **Art in Public Places Maintenance Reserve Fund**

The scope and complexity of maintenance and remediation required varies greatly for each artwork in the collection. In 2014, a Conservation and Condition Report was commissioned, it outlined that several works would benefit from immediate conservation. It stated that ‘the problems that are faced by these works are likely to destroy or seriously damage the work in the very near future’. Of the 62 pieces that were evaluated 37% was listed as being in the two worst states of repair (29% were listed in as being in ‘fair’ condition, and another 8% was listed as ‘poor’). While staff have been able to improve the deliverables in other areas of the Art in Public Places program staff still see a manpower issue around maintenance and conservation. To date, staff schedule maintenance projects each year, however, it is difficult to address some of the works that are in need of significant attention due to the current funding mechanism.

Currently, the annual budget for maintenance is \$15,000. The current funding mechanism is not in a reserve fund which requires staff to undertake smaller conservation projects within this funding allotment. Staff recommend that this maintenance budget be placed into the Art in Public Places Reserve Fund to allow staff to plan strategically, for standard annual preventative maintenance (such as coatings and cleanings) as well as larger more complex maintenance and deaccession projects that often require larger budgets and multi-year planning. Through the annual budgeting process, staff could include both standard preventative maintenance and larger conservation or deaccessioning projects.

### **Update Planning Context**

The 2010 version included many out of date references and lacked references to important strategic planning documents that have been developed in the last eight years. In the revised draft Department names have been updated and recent planning and policy documents are referenced this includes:

- Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan

- Downtown Public Realm Plan & Streetscape Standards
- 2015-2018 Corporate Strategic Plan
- Official Community Plan
- Neighbourhood Plans



Staff have utilized the Neighbourhood Plans to help guide our planning process and support implementation of the Neighbourhood Plans. These updated Neighbourhood Plans provide extensive feedback from in-depth community engagement.

The integration of public art across the organization as resulted in a more integrated approach with planning capital projects with inclusion of public art early in the process. The consideration of other departments to include public art has increased and knowledge and awareness of the value of having an artist at the table through the artist in residence program and the value of planning for art within other departments.

Encouraging art in the capital planning and budget discussions can be improved. Since 2010, the up to 1% policy is rarely triggered for capital projects. This funding mechanism has only been triggered twice, both related to the Johnson Street Bridge project.

### **Capital Project' and a Percent for Art**

In discussions with the Art in Public Places Inter-departmental Staff Team many concerns were raised regarding the 'Percent for Art' Language.

*“that with exceptional, significant civic construction projects the City may allocate up to 1% of their overall construction budget for the creation of public art.”*

In consultation with other Departments, staff recommend specific operational guidelines to support application of the up to 1% policy as well as training and procedures around this policy to ensure successful application of public art integrated within a capital project.

### **Territorial Acknowledgement & Indigenous Knowledge Keepers**

On January 1, 2017 at the City of Victoria's annual New Year's Day Levee, and in the presence of local First Nations, City Council proclaimed 2017 a Year of Reconciliation. Since this time the Art in Public Places Committee and program staff have been exploring ways in which we can consider and incorporate reconciliation into the policy, program and projects. Through art in public places the City has the opportunity to support arts programming that is rooted in Indigenous methodologies, philosophies and can be inclusive of Indigenous artistic presences.

Three ways that this is reflected in the revision are:

- We have started all documents with a territorial acknowledgement.
  - The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work 'Hay swx qa'.
- We have referenced the direction included in the Create Victoria Art and Culture Master Plan and Policy
  - "The Arts and Culture Master Plan, Create Victoria states that reflecting Indigenous heritage in everyday encounters in the public realm, through artistic interventions, presence and traditional storytelling, is essential to valuing and honouring both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. It is our intention to consider this when developing public art projects'.
- As well as adding an 'Indigenous Knowledge Keeper' to the list of subject matter experts that can make up the Art in Public Place Committee.

## **Separate Policy and Operational Guidelines**

Separating policy from operational guidelines helps to provide clarity to both staff and Council regarding the distinct purposes of each document.

The Council approved policy is established to direct the integration of artwork into public spaces and capital projects in the City of Victoria, through a well-administered transparent process and appropriately-funded public art program.

The guidelines outline the step by step processes by which public art projects can best come to fruition. It is a living document that is designed to be responsive to current working conditions and is intended to be updated as necessary. The guidelines are designed to ensure that the principles of the policy are incorporated into the implementation process.

## **Streamlining Content**

In the 2010 version topics such as funding and responsibilities were spread throughout the document rather than gathered under thematic headings. For the revision, staff grouped content together and provided thematic headings.

## **OPTIONS AND IMPACTS**

### **Option 1 (Recommended)**

Staff recommend that Council approve the revised Art in Public Place Policy and the revised Terms of Reference for the Art in Public Places Committee.

### **Option 2**

Direct staff to make further refinements to the policy and Terms of Reference based on feedback from Council.

### *Accessibility Impact Statement*

In February of 2017, the Chair of the Accessibility Working Group attended an Art in Public Places Committee meeting. The representative provided advice on considering the needs of those with disabilities to experience art. It was requested that a disability lenses be applied to all future projects. A specific suggestion was to incorporate multi-sensory access, such as sound. This feedback has been considered and incorporated into the revised policy. The Accessibility Working Group also reviewed the current policy and guidelines and provided feedback on how the language in these documents could be more inclusive.

Specific reference is included under the 'Guiding Principals' on page 4, d) *Ensure that accessibility (in terms of both physical and sensory interaction) of projects is considered at the first stage of project conception through to delivery.*

The Public Art Guidelines also reflect this direction on page 2. "It is also the intention to apply a accessibility lens to all projects to ensure that consideration is given to how the public is able to interact with the art (physically, visually, audibly etc.) to ensure that our collection includes works that incorporate multi-sensory access and have a goal to view art from a perspective that is not just about what the public can see with their eyes but what they perceive in their mind".

#### *Strategic Plan 2015-2018*

On January 18, 2018 Council accepted the proposed changes to the amended 2015-2018 Strategic Plan to bring it into alignment with the 2018 budget, which included a motion for staff to "Work with the Art in Public Places Committee to establish a permanent Artist in Residence Program to be implemented in 2019" under Objective 10: Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital.

#### *Impacts to 2015 – 2018 Financial Plan - Need help here*

An increase of \$75,000 to the Culture Operating budget is proposed for Council's consideration during the 2019 financial planning process to fund the ongoing administration and delivery of the Artist in Residence program and will be requested as supplementary budget request.

To address fluctuating maintenance requirements, staff recommend the \$15,000 annual maintenance funding for public art be placed into the Art in Public Places Reserve Fund. Each year, staff will include within the draft financial plan, for Council's consideration, the amount required for the annual maintenance in that year.

#### *Official Community Plan Consistency Statement*

The proposed Art in Public Places Policy is consistent with the direction in OCP Chapter 8: Placemaking – Urban Design and Heritage, Chapter 14: Economy, and Chapter 16: Arts and Culture.

8.25 Enhance local area distinctiveness through design of the public realm with features that contribute to a sense of place, such as landscaping, street furniture, pedestrian-scale lighting, or art in public places.

8.26 Enhance the place character of historic districts by celebrating heritage in urban design features such as landscaping, street furniture, lighting, art in public places, or banners.

8.31 Animate the pedestrian realm in the Urban Core, Town Centres, Urban Villages and employment districts through urban design considerations, such as local gateways, sidewalk cafés, landscaping, street furniture and art in public places as generally consistent with the Urban Place Designations in this plan.

8.36 Develop and maintain a Heritage Interpretation Plan with policies on permanent and temporary public realm improvements such as art in public places, murals, mosaics, installations, banners and plaques.

14.2 Continue to enhance the Urban Core through public realm improvements for pedestrian comfort and enjoyment, such as plantings, lighting, street furniture and art in public places

16.12 Secure and maintain art in public places through:

- 16.12.1 Civic funding;
- 16.12.2 Voluntary provision by private sector; and,
- 16.12.3 Community initiatives.
- 16.13 Encourage and enable community-led public art programs with support from City staff and professional artists.

## CONCLUSION

This proposed Public Art Policy will replace the 2010 version and provide additional direction and clarification to Council, Committee and staff. This will ensure the appropriate development, management, and maintenance of all Public Art for the City of Victoria.

This revision was guided by input from the arts community, the Interdepartmental Public Art Staff Team, the Art in Public Places Committee as well as research and analysis into current national best practice. Based on research and feedback, it is clear that the public art policy is serving the City well and required few changes. The main intent of the revision was to update any out of date copy, streamline the content and make the policy more user friendly to both public and civic stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,



Connor Tice  
Arts, Culture and Events Liaison



**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:**

**Date:** May 3, 2018

## List of Attachments

- Appendix A: Revised Art in Public Places Policy
- Appendix B: Revised Terms of Reference for the Art in Public Places Committee