

Art in Public Places Policy Revision



Image: City Hall illustration, Luke Ramsey, 2016

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the revised copy of the Art in Public Places Policy and Terms of Reference for the Art in Public Places Committee for Council consideration.



Recommendations:

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, 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



Review Process

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.

The review process included:

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



Image: Musical Railings, 2016, Monkey C Interactive



Key Findings



Image: Pendulum, 2018, Lindsay Delaronde.
Photo by: Peruzzo.

- Separate Policy and Operational Guidelines.
- Streamline the content within the document so it's easier to find information.
- Provide clarification around roles and responsibilities.
- Adjust the policy to allocate the annual maintenance fund into a reserve fund.
- Allocate annual funding for the Artist in Residence Program.
- Include an "Indigenous Knowledge Keeper" in the Terms of Reference for Art in Public Places Committee members.



Updating Planning Context



The 2010 version included many out of date references and did not include important strategic planning documents that have been developed in the last eight years.

In the revised copy, Department names have been updated and recent planning and policy documents are referenced.



Separation of Policy & Guidelines

Policy:

The Council approved **policy** is established to direct the integration of artwork into public spaces through a well-administered transparent process and appropriately-funded program.

The policy is scheduled to be updated every 5 years.

Guidelines:

Outline the step by step processes by which public art projects can best come to fruition.

This is a living document designed to be responsive to current working conditions and is intended to be updated as necessary.



Image: Carrying Books - Hands of Time, 2012, Crystal Przybille



Clarify Roles & Responsibilities

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.



Image: Commercial Alley, "Newtopia", 2017 Kai Choufour



Clarity: 1% Policy and Funding Mechanisms

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 be created 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.



Maintenance Planning & Funding

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.



Left: Unity Pole, Charles Elliott, 1999
Right: Removal of the Unity Pole by PW crew, 2017



Funding the AIR Program

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 the following motion:

“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.



Lindsay Delaronde, IAIR



Luke Ramsey, AIR



Honouring Indigenous Knowledge & Territory



“The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work ‘Hay swx qa”.

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.

Image: Bradley Dick’s Symposium Workshop “Sxwamalas Synopsis: Gift from our Ancestors”, October 25, 2018, RBC Museum



Conclusion

Our current Policy was working well but needed to be updated to reflect current practice and new planning documents. This revision provides a current, streamlined policy that is more user friendly to both public and civic stakeholders.

Staff are confident that this revision will ensure the appropriate development, management, and maintenance of all Public Art for the City of Victoria.



Recommendations

- 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.

