



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the Meeting of August 20, 2015.

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** August 7, 2015
From: Jocelyn Jenkyns, Deputy City Manager
Subject: Johnson Street Art on Parkades Selection

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the decision of the selection panel naming Susan Point and Thomas Cannell winners of the Johnson Street Art on Parkades competition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the winners of the Johnson Street Art on Parkades competition.

The Call for Artists was developed through the Art in Public Places Committee in accordance with the Art in Public Places Policy. The competition requested artists from across Canada to submit ideas to beautify and enliven the Johnson Street parkade. The three stage competition inspired proposals from 110 artists. Following a criteria through the entire process a winner was unanimously chosen by the Selection Panel.

To formally conclude the process of selection and in keeping with the guidelines in the policy, Council is required to ratify the decision of the Selection panel. The Selection Panel has chosen to award Susan Point and Thomas Cannell the Johnson Street Art on Parkades competition.

The artwork "Woven Together" is a contemporary First Nations artwork using traditional design elements. Powder coated aluminium elements mounted on the external façade depicts circular forms that represent the cycle of life as well as many traditional elements in Coast Salish life. Inspired by these traditional forms, the artists focused on the present and the future of Victoria's diverse community.

The value of the competition is \$125,000 inclusive of all costs of design, supplies, insurance, engineering, fabrication, delivery, installation, administration, travel, contingency and applicable taxes and fees. Funding has been allocated through the 2015 budgeting process.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the winners of the Johnson Street Art on Parkades competition.

BACKGROUND

An Expressions of Interest document was publicly announced in February for public artwork(s) to beautify, enliven and activate the exterior spaces within and around the parkade complex located on Johnson Street. This project is in response to recent Council and citizen commentary on the need for improving the parking experience in City parkades.

The objectives of the project are:

- To enhance the appearance of the city-owned parking facility and add to the overall attractiveness of the city.
- To develop a sense of place, community pride and identity through the creation of new art works.
- To create a contemporary art installation that inspires residents and visitors.
- To contribute to a sense of welcome, safety and invitation to park in city-owned parkades.

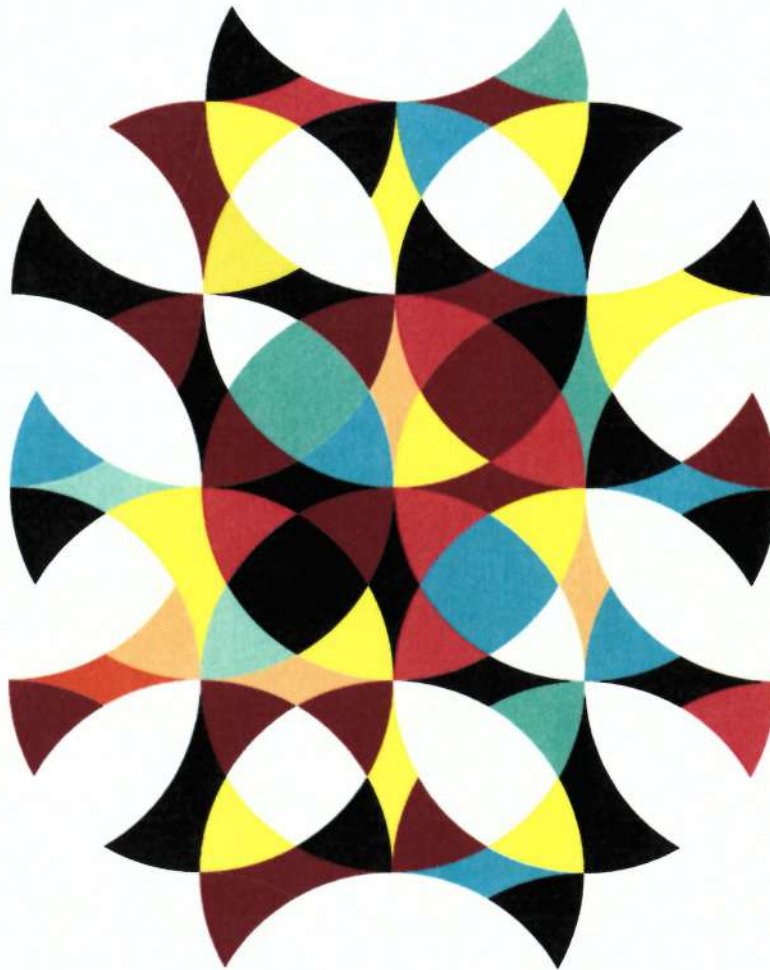
A three stage competition attracted 110 artists from across Canada. The Selection Panel of seven individuals was comprised of visual art professionals including visual art instructors, urban design professional, artists, business owner and one member from the Victoria Youth Council.

Throughout the selection process, the following criteria was applied to assist the Selection Panel in adjudicating the submissions:

- Artistic quality and merit of the work
- Quality, innovation and creativity of the proposed artwork(s)
- Quality control measures used to prevent injury or damage
- Demonstrated understanding of public space
- Sustainable design, procurement, and fabrication
- Demonstrated feasibility in terms of budget, timeline, safety, maintenance and site
- Suitability and effectiveness of the design for viewing conditions in a parkade environment
- Durability, maintenance and safety requirements
- Evidence of an ability to complete the project as proposed
- Compliance with the guidelines as outlined in the competition brief

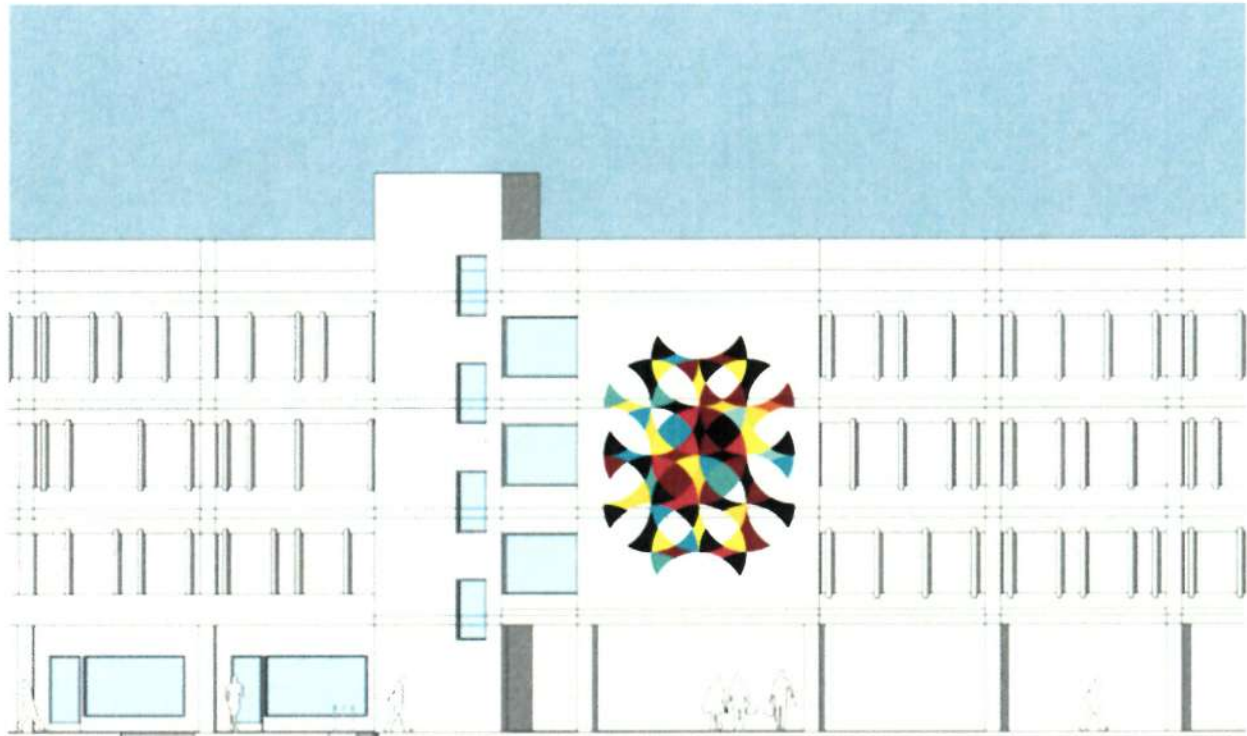
Using a scoring matrix, as well as discussion, the selection panel chose the submission "Woven Together" by Susan Point and Thomas Cannell. The artwork "Woven Together" is a contemporary First Nations artwork using traditional design elements.

As described in their submission "The cycles of life are depicted in Salish art using circular forms. Here not only do these circles represent the cycle of life but also represent wheels of cars and other forms of transportation. Inspired by these traditional forms, we have focused on the present and the future of Victoria's diverse community, always in flux, yet full of new kinds of connections."



The central circle (spindle whorl) in the centre of this artwork is made up of four eye motifs, which represents all the unique and cultural backgrounds, also creating butterfly images within.

Susan Point and Thomas Cannell are professional artists with over forty years' experience. Susan Point has completed public art commissions throughout the world including a commission by the Government of Canada at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C and "Flight" commissioned by the Vancouver International Airport. She holds an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria and is an appointed officer of the Order of Canada. Her son, Thomas Cannell, has collaborated on several large scale public art competitions throughout Canada.



OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 (Recommended)

That Council approve the Selection Panel's decision and award the competition to Susan Point and Thomas Cannell. There would be no further impacts to the City.

Option 2

That Council choose not to approve the Selection Panel's decision and request staff to hold another competition. This would delay the project and incur some additional budget expenditure to administer another competition.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

The recommendation aligns with the following objectives in the Official Community Plan:

SECTION 8: PLACEMAKING

8.37 Support a wide range of opportunities for permanent and temporary art in public and public-private spaces

SECTION 16: ARTS AND CULTURE

16.11 Secure and maintain art in public places through:

16.11.1 Civic funding;

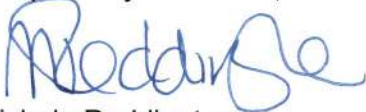
16.11.2 Voluntary provision by private sector; and,

16.11.3 Community initiatives.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the number of applicants, rigorous selection process and expertise of the Selection Panel, staff recommend Council award the Johnson Street Art on Parkades competition to Susan Point and Thomas Cannell. The artist team are highly regarded artists in Canada and have a proven track record for completing complex public art competitions.

Respectfully submitted,




Nichola Reddington
Arts & Culture Coordinator



Jocelyn Jenkyns
Deputy City Manager

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:


August 11, 2015