



**Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of October 12, 2017**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 12, 2017
From: Jocelyn Jenkyns, Acting City Manager
Subject: Update: Artist in Residence Program

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the extension for one year of the Artist in Residence to December 31, 2018.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Artist in Residence program embeds an artist in the City's planning process, providing a unique creative and collaborative approach to enhance the value and aesthetic appeal of upcoming capital projects in Victoria, while broadening the community's involvement in the arts.

In 2016, the City of Victoria launched an Artist in Residence Program. Luke Ramsey was selected to be the initial Artist in Residence, a position which provided him with the opportunity to work collaboratively with City staff to identify and develop a creative artwork for one or more capital projects over a one-year period.

Luke works 20 hours per week for a total fee of \$42,000 over his one year term which commenced on November 1, 2016. Additionally, Luke has access to a project budget of up to \$30,000 for project expenses. This position is funded through the City's Art in Public Places Reserve Fund.

The Artist in Residence position has modified the City's public art workflow thereby increasing the efficiency to manage projects as well as improved engagement with citizens and the arts community. The benefits have included:

- streamlined project management,
- lower administrative expenses,
- faster project turnaround,
- inclusion of creative elements in capital infrastructure projects such as the Vic West Skate Park and the Johnson Street Bridge project,
- utilized art to engage vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens,
- participated in the City's reconciliation journey, and
- supported local artists and businesses through collaborative art projects.

The key intent behind the program was to keep art in mind by having an artist's perspective at the table during the City's project meetings, community engagement, and planning sessions. The Art in Public Places Committee City staff and the many stakeholders engaged are pleased with the contributions from the Artist in Residence program to date and there is unanimous support for

continuing the program. There are several projects scheduled to continue into 2018 that would benefit from having Luke remain on the project team and in some cases take on a key role in development and delivery.

Staff recommend that Council consider the approval of a one year extension of Luke's position to conclude December 31, 2018.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Artist in Residence program including a summary of work completed to date.



Image: *Mother Protector Hawk and Home*, 2017, Luke Ramsey with Jill Stanton and Kristofer Ray, Dallas Road Turret

BACKGROUND

In preparation for the creation of this program staff completed extensive best practice research and held discussions with other municipal administrators who have lead similar programs regarding lessons learned and advice.

History of Municipal Artists in Residence:

Mierle alderman Ukeles, is commonly considered the first municipal Artist in Residence. In 1977 Mierle requested to work with the City of New York's sanitation department to create her project titled *Touch Sanitation*. *Touch Sanitation* took almost a year to complete and saw Ukeles meet over 8500 employees of the New York Sanitation Department, shaking hands with each of them and saying, "Thank you for keeping New York City alive". She documented her activities on a map, meticulously recording her conversations with the workers. Ukeles documented the workers' private stories in an attempt to change some of the negative words used in the public sphere of society, using her art as an agent of change to challenge conventional stereotypes.

The majority of municipal artist in residence positions in Canada offer an artist a dedicated studio space within a municipal building along with an artist fee and or material stipend (Edmonton, Fredericton, and Fort McMurray for example). In these cases the artists is tasked with producing a body of work and add an artistic presence into a City space.

Other Canadian cities such as Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg offer site and project specific residencies that embed an artist within a specific community organization or a capital infrastructure project. For example, the City of Vancouver's Artist in Communities program hosts artist residencies each year in participating community centres to support artists working in neighbourhoods and encourage a wide variety of interactions between artists and residents.

The City of Victoria's residency program borrowed ideas from many different residencies to create a unique opportunity. Staff and the Art in Public Places Committee chose to embed an artist into the day-to-day operations at the City, and left room for the artist to develop their own projects and themes. Luke worked collaboratively with City staff in multiple departments, to research current and upcoming projects and to develop an art plan for the year. The key intent was to assist City staff to keep art in mind by having an artist's perspective at the table during project meetings, community engagement, and planning sessions.

Luke Ramsey Artist in Residence



Image: Summer Banner Project - Luke Ramsey and students from Ecole Shoreline Community Middle School students in front of their final banners.

Luke Ramsey, an illustrator, designer, muralist and painter was selected from 40 submissions to a Request for Expressions of Interest.

The opportunity was open to artists and artist teams who are residents of the Capital Region and Gulf Islands. He was one of five artist/groups shortlisted, based on his artistic merit, professional experience and understanding of the new program.

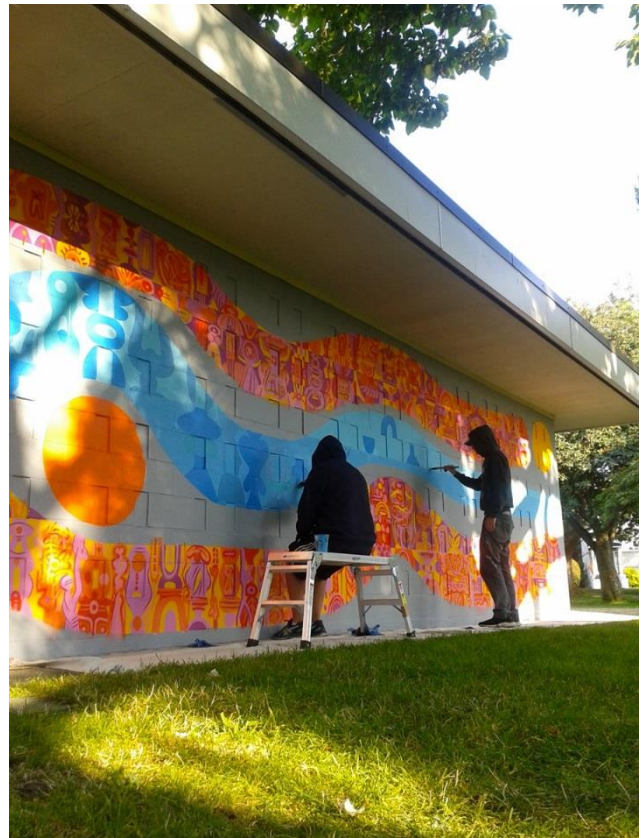
The Art in Public Places selection panel noted that Ramsey's work in the realm of public art, his aesthetic approach, and his experience leading workshops and community-based projects made him an excellent fit for the position.

Luke spent the first six months of his residency researching and networking with various City departments. He attended team and interdepartmental project meetings to offer an artist's perspective. After the research phase, Luke presented the Art in Public Places Committee with his Art Plan, which outlined his projects, timelines and budgets for the remainder of his residency.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

By working closely with City staff and engaging the community, Luke researched and identified opportunities to collaborate and provide a unique creative approach to enhance the value and aesthetic appeal of upcoming capital projects. As a result, Luke has:

- engaged more than fifteen artists through paid opportunities,
- joined two interdepartmental working groups,
- worked directly with five departments on thirteen projects,
- has created 10 unique artworks,
- has executed four new mural works that enhance and beautify city infrastructure,
- contributed \$16,125.00 of his project budget to artists via artist fees for collaborative work
- contributed \$9,268.00 of his project budget back into the local economy through project expenses to local businesses.



Left Image: Parks Mural Project in progress, Gonzales Beach Park collaboration with Meghan Hidebrand
 Right Image: Parks Mural Project in progress, Hollywood Park collaboration with Andrew Dick

For a more detailed breakdown of Luke's activities please see Appendix A.

During the June 2017 Art in Public Places Committee meeting, staff and Committee discussed 2018 public art projects including the Artist in Residence program. There was unanimous support for continuing the program. The Art in Public Places Committee recommended that the position be a two year term, and recommended extending Luke's term for one more year. An extension would maximise the momentum gained over the last year to continue the relationships Luke has established with the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department, Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department and Public Works and Engineering Department including his involvement on the Johnson Street Bridge project.

Luke has been very successful in engaging with internal and external stakeholders and is receiving requests for his time, expertise and perspective. There are several projects scheduled to continue into 2018 that would benefit from having Luke remain on the project team and in some cases take on a key role in development and delivery.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 – Extend the Artist In Residence for 1 year

Option 2 – Do not Extend the Artist is Residence

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan

Objective 10: Nurture our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital

- Support for arts and culture is increased, inclusive and strategic.

Objective 2: Engage and Empower the Community

- More youth are engaged in City programs, civic issues, and the broader community.

Impacts to Financial Plan

Funding to extend Luke Ramsey's position for one year and continue the Artist in Residence program has been allocated as part of the 2018 Financial Plan for Council consideration. The total budget request from the Public Art Reserve Fund in 2018 is \$72,000 which includes \$42,000 artist fee and \$30,000 project expense budget.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Section 8: Placemaking

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

Section 14: Economy

14 (A) Victoria generates economic growth through innovation, entrepreneurship and business formation, and attracts and retains sustainable enterprise well-suited to the region.

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

Section 16: Arts and Culture

16 (A) Victoria is a place where artists are able to thrive and where people from all walks of life enjoy formal and informal opportunities to create and enjoy the arts, culture and entertainment activities

16.13 Encourage and enable community-led public art programs with support from City staff and professional artists.

Accessibility Impacts

A member of the Accessibility Working Group attended an Art in Public Places meeting to discuss accessibility as it relates to public art. Luke Ramsey was impacted by that meeting and made a concerted effort to consider the "AWG Definition and explanation of accessibility related terms" document when planning his projects. Luke did consider the potential barriers and ensured that all of his art works are physically accessible in the public realm.

CONCLUSION

The feedback on the Artist in Residence Program from both internal and external stakeholders is overwhelmingly positive. The Art in Public Places Committee City staff and the many stakeholders engaged are pleased with the contributions from the Artist in Residence program to date and there is unanimous support for continuing the program. By continuing to support the Artist in Residency program Victoria positions itself as a City that embraces and supports artists and values artist's unique perspective.

Respectfully submitted,



Connor Tice
Arts, Culture and Events Liaison

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: Oct 6, 2017

List of Attachments

Appendix A: Luke Ramsey's Residency Activities