



Planning and Land Use Committee Report

For the Meeting of July 9, 2015

To: Planning and Land Use Committee **Date:** July 3, 2015
From: Jocelyn Jenkyns, Deputy City Manager
Subject: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Statue Donation and Site Approval

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction for the installation of a Dr. Sun Yat-Sen base and statue in Capital Regional District Square located at the intersection of Government and Fisgard Streets.

The Sun Yat-Sen Foundation for Peace and Education has created 100 bronze statue memorials to be erected in locations throughout the world that have both historic and symbolic connections to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and his travels leading to the Xinhai Revolution in 1911. Created by renowned Chinese sculpture Coa Chong En, the donated statue depicts Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in western-styled clothes to symbolize his many visits to North America leading up to the 1911 Xinhai Revolution in China.

Victoria shares a cultural and historic connection with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen through his visits in Victoria to raise funds for the revolution. As home to the oldest Chinatown in Canada, Victoria has a long history with the Chinese community. Many business and benevolent associations within the Chinese community add to Victoria's vibrancy and economic development. Enhancements to Chinatown honour the long history of the local Chinese community.

All associated costs for site preparation and installation of the base and statue will be paid by the local organizing committee and undertaken by City staff. The cost estimate for installation is \$16,950. The Foundation for Peace and Education is seeking approval to install the donated statue on City property within the Chinatown District. The total donation for the base and statue is \$20,000.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Accept donation of the statue and base and approve installation in Capital Regional District Square.
2. Accept the recommendation of the Art in Public Places Committee to reduce the height of the base to 7 feet and review of the interpretative text by a historian.

3. Direct staff to work with The Sun Yat-Sen Foundation for Peace and Education and local organizing committee to install and unveil the statue.

Respectfully submitted

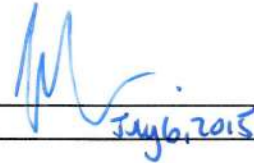


Nichola Reddington
Arts & Culture Coordinator

Jocelyn Jenkyns
Deputy City Manager

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:


July 6, 2015

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction for the donation and installation of a Dr. Sun Yat-Sen statue and base in Capital Regional District Square.

Background

The Sun Yat-Sen Foundation for Peace and Education has created 100 bronze statue memorials to be erected in locations throughout the world that have both historic and symbolic connections to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and his travels leading to the Xinhai Revolution in 1911.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen is regarded as a central figure of the democratic revolution in China, and leader of the 1911 Xinhai Revolution, which overthrew the Manchu rule of China. Leading up to the Revolution, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen made three visits to British Columbia and Canada in 1897, 1910, and 1911, seeking political and financial support. On this visits, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen travelled through Victoria to visit with the Chinese-Canadian communities of Vancouver, Burnaby, and New Westminster.

The Foundation contracted Chinese sculptor Cao Chong En to create the bronze statue of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen attired in western-styled clothes that he wore as he conducted his tour of North America in 1911. The bronze statue measures 230cm (7.5 feet) in height, on a granite faced stepped concrete base, 170cm (5.5 feet) in height. In total the memorial would stand 400cm (13 feet tall). The granite base would include carved granite tablets with an inscription outlining the contributions of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. The total weight of the statue including the base is 5,000 pounds. The inscription will encompass four sides of the base with the text to be agreed upon.

The Foundation has proposed a memorial project in Canada with the intent that the statue will enhance the historical and cultural connection with Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and pioneering Chinese-Canadians whose financial support contributed to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's success in advancing the Chinese Revolution.



Recommended Site

The following criterion was used to assess potential sites within the Chinatown district: on city property, ease of maintenance, accessibility, maintaining a safe corridor for pedestrians and vehicles along Fisgard Street, crime prevention, and the use and character of the immediate area.

Locations around Chinatown were assessed by staff and one location was identified for Council consideration based on the criterion. The installation will not interfere with underground utilities, however, pruning of the trees will be necessary around the statue. The following location is supported by the Foundation and organizing committee.



CRD Square at Government Street and Fisgard Street.



Financial Impact

The Sun Yat-Sen Foundation for Peace and Education and the Canada Pacific Ocean Media Group Corporation will each donate \$10,000CAD to cover costs for the statue and base for a total cost of \$20,000CAD.

The Foundation has requested that the City, in return for accepting this gift, would assist with project management coordination, including identifying an appropriate location, site preparation and installation and working cooperatively to undertake an unveiling ceremony. The local Chinese community will fundraise the necessary funds for the site preparation, installation and unveiling ceremony. The cost estimated cost for site preparation and installation is \$16,950.00 to excavate the area, install the granite and replace brickwork.

Issues & Analysis

The Art in Public Places Committee whose responsibility it is to review and make recommendations to Council on public art matters has reviewed the proposal.

The Art in Public Places Policy outlines criteria for acceptance of donations. The factors for consideration include:

- The artistic merit of the work
- The ability of the City to care for the work.
- The type of work being offered
- The significance of the subject
- Availability of an appropriate site
- Suitability of subject for public display
- Public safety and vandalism
- Municipal liability

Based on these guidelines for assessment, the Art in Public Places Committee recommends approving the donation on the basis that the base is reduced to less than 7 feet to fit the scale and mass of the statue in relation to the site that has been selected. The total recommended height is 10 feet. The Committee also recommends that the text on the plaque be reviewed by a historian prior to installation and approval.

Recommendation

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3. Direct staff to work with The Sun Yat-Sen Foundation for Peace and Education and local organizing committee to install and unveil the statue.