



## **Governance and Priorities Committee Report**

### **For the Meeting of May 22, 2014**

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** May 16, 2014  
**From:** Julie MacDougall, Assistant Director  
**Subject:** Art in Public Places Program - Parkade Considerations

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#### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the Art on Parkades public art project which is to enhance, invest and beautify city-owned parkades through an Expressions of Interest process for new public art on the Bastion Square, Centennial Square and Johnson Street parkades.

The Art in Public Places Program promotes the creation of new contemporary projects in the public domain. The Program seeks to be open, fair, transparent and accountable at all stages of the commissioning process. The Downtown Core Area Plan and Official Community Plan as well as input from both the Art in Public Places Committee and the Public Art Internal Staff Team determine the scope and direction for new public art commissions in the City.

The Art on Parkades project will focus on three city-owned parkades, integrating art on the façades and internal areas such as stairwells and elevator areas. This project is responsive to recent Council and citizen commentary on improving the parking experience in City parkades.

The objectives of the project will be:

- To create a sense of welcome, safety and invitation to park in city-owned parkades
- To enhance city-owned parking facilities and the overall attractiveness of the city
- To develop a sense of place, community pride and identity through the creation of new works.
- To create art that inspires people and is an expression of the time

The total cost of the Art on Parkades project will not exceed \$135,000 inclusive of all costs associated with planning, design, fabrication, installation and project management expenses. Public Art is funded from the Public Places reserve fund and the funding for this year's project has been approved in the City of Vitoria 2014 Financial Plan. The balance of the reserve fund is \$301,564 and will be used to support future public art commissions.

Recommendations:

1. That Council receive this report for information.


Respectfully submitted



Nichola Reddington  
Community Recreation & Culture Coordinator



*for* Julie MacDougall  
Assistant Director



Dwayne Kalynchuk  
Director

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

May 16, 2014

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the Art on Parkades public art project which is to enhance, invest and beautify city-owned parkades through an Expressions of Interest for new public art on the Bastion Square, Centennial Square and Johnson Street parkades.

## **Background**

Art in its many forms has the power to energize public spaces, and transform where we work, live and play. Artworks in public places increase the liveability and artistic richness of our city by making art a part of our environment and creating a legacy for future generations.

The Art on Parkades project will focus on three parkades, integrating art on the external façade and internal surfaces, including stairwells and elevator areas. A hanging system for artwork will be created for the Bastion Square, Johnson Street and Centennial Square parkades for public art installations which could include but not limited to murals, 2D digital work, temporary projections, and mosaics. The infrastructure, sizing and placement of the artwork would be determined by the Art in Public Places Committee and the Public Art Internal Staff Team.

The Official Community Plan and the Downtown Core Area Plan provide guidance for defining new public art projects with input from the Art in Public Places Committee and the Public Art Internal Staff Team. The Art in Public Places Committee is an advisory committee to staff and Council on public art matters. The five-member Committee, chaired by Jon Tupper Executive Director of the Greater Victoria Art Gallery, are experienced and trained in aspects of public and visual arts. Committee appointments are made by Council through the standard Public Advisory Committee selection process which occurs every 18 months.

There was a desire from both Committees to integrate public art with an existing city initiative or project. The delay in the Johnson Street Bridge public art project provided an opportunity to investigate new projects for consideration. The Parking Review initiatives to improve parking experience downtown was determined a good fit for supporting the Parking Review objectives and feasible for integrating public art on city-owned infrastructure.

A two-stage competition through the Expressions of Interest procurement process will be undertaken. In this type of competition artists are asked to submit resume, digital images and a conceptual approach to the project. The Selection Panel establishes a short-list for consideration. Short-listed artists are then asked to submit detailed proposals for a specific work with budget and construction details. The Selection Panel examines these proposals and selects a winner. A Council report to ratify the decision is the final step before the contracting and fabrication phases begin.

The total cost of the Art on Parkades project will not exceed \$135,000 inclusive of all costs associated with planning, design, fabrication, installation and project management expenses. The Public Places Reserve Fund has the funds to support the project. As per the Public Art Policy, the Reserve Fund receives \$135,000 annually to create new work and \$15,000 is set aside in operating budgets to maintain existing public art installations.

The previous project supported under the Public Places Reserve Fund was the 'Hands of Time' project commissioned in 2012 to commemorate the City of Victoria's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation. The \$100,000 project includes twelve bronze sculptures of life-size hands engaged in activities that symbolize the Capital City's history and identity. Currently the City has 67



artworks and 6 totem poles in the outdoor public art program throughout the City. The total appraised value of the collection is \$4,124,000.00 CAD (Four million, one hundred and twenty-four thousand Canadian Dollars). The public art collection was appraised by Shawne MacIntyre, a member of the International Society of Appraisers and condition reported by Nadine Powers Fine Art Conservation, an accredited conservator, in December 2014.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Art in Public Places Committee**

The Committee will work with Culture staff who are responsible for the implementation of the specific project. In this capacity, the committee shall:

- establish the criteria for the project
- establish the timeline for the competition and the completion of the artwork
- determine the type of competition
- determine the process for the artist selection
- suggest artists to sit on the Selection Panel
- assign one of their members to the Selection Panel

### **Selection Panel**

A Selection Panel will be established once the terms of reference for the project is completed. The Panel shall be composed of people knowledgeable in the visual arts and public art. The Selection Panel for a particular project will be responsible for the review and assessment of all competition entries and for selecting the winner. Culture staff will coordinate the review and selection process.

### **Arts and Culture Coordinator**

The Arts and Culture Coordinator provides project management for the entire process for the inception, planning, fabrication and installation of an Art in Public Places artwork.

### **Public Art Internal Staff Team (PAIST)**

This team is comprised of representatives from city departments: Parks, Recreation and Culture, Engineering and Public Works, and Planning and Development. Culture division staff will chair the team. The staff team, with input from the Art in Public Places Committee, will assess risk management issues of proposed projects and will provide feedback to the Selection Panel on any concerns throughout the two stage process. The following staff representatives have been identified to participate on the staff team for this project:

- Ismo Husu, Manager Parking Services, Engineering
- Chaz Whipp, Manager of Facilities, Engineering
- Michael Hill, Downtown Coordinator, Engineering
- Chris Gower, Planner, Planning Department

### **Civic Engagement and Communications Department**

City staff will develop a communications plan for the project which shall be consistent with existing city communications policies.

### **Proposed Timeline:**

- Draft and Circulate Request for Expressions of Interest Document: June 2014
- Expressions of Interest/Call to Artist Announced: July 2014
- Stage One Selection Phase: September 2014

- Stage Two Selection Phase:
- Report to Council/Finalist Announced:
- Contract Phase:
- Fabrication and Installation Phase:
- Unveiling(s):

Sept - January 2015  
 February 2015  
 March 2015  
 April - October 2015  
 October 2015

Recommendation:

1. That Council receive this report for information.