



**Committee of the Whole Report  
For the Meeting of January 4, 2018**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole  
**From:** Jocelyn Jenkyns, Acting City Manager  
**Subject:** Indigenous Artist in Residence Position

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**Date:** December 29, 2017

**RECOMMENDATION**

To extend Lindsay Delaronde's term to December 31 2018 as the Indigenous Artist in Residence on a project to project basis and allocate \$61,500 from the Art in Public Places Reserve Fund.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

With direction from City Council the Indigenous Artist in Residence position was created to honour the City's Year of Reconciliation in 2017. The intent of the position was to add an Indigenous artistic presence to the City of Victoria and provide the opportunity for a local artist to develop artistic works, engage the community and staff to produce a range of artistic works, which included performances, workshops and a public forum. Lindsay Delaronde was selected from six applications and began her term on March 1, 2017.

Lindsay works 20 hours per week for a total fee of \$42,000 over a one year term which concludes on March 1, 2018. Additionally, Lindsay 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 Indigenous Artist in Residence position has improved the City's engagement with vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens, created opportunities for the public to participate in the City's reconciliation journey, and supported local artists and businesses through collaborative art projects.

The Art in Public Places Committee as well as staff and many stakeholders are pleased with the contributions from Lindsay to date and there is unanimous support for extending her term until December 31, 2018.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Indigenous Artist in Residence position including a summary of work completed to date, and to seek funding to extend her term to December 31, 2018.

## BACKGROUND

Staff completed extensive best practice research and held discussions with other municipal administrators who have lead similar programs regarding lessons learned and advice. Staff also held discussions with local Indigenous artists, curators and scholars to inform the intent and shape of this project.

### Lindsay Delaronde Indigenous Artist in Residence



Lindsay Delaronde is a multidisciplinary Iroquois Mohawk artist. Delaronde is a professional multi-disciplinary visual artist who works in print-making, painting, drawing, video and performance.

Her submission was selected from six applications the City received in response to a Request for Expressions of Interest. She was one of two artists shortlisted, based on her artistic merit, professional experience and understanding of the new program.

This opportunity was open to First Nations, Inuit and Métis artists and artist teams working in any artistic discipline who reside in the Capital Region and Gulf Islands.

The selection committee was impressed with Lindsay's unique set of skills and experience which includes a strong social art practice, community engagement, workshop facilitation and Indigenous Communities Counselling.

The same day that Lindsay received news of her appoint as the Indigenous Artist in Residence, she also suffered the tragic loss of her partner Geoffrey Goodson, who passed away from the fentanyl crisis. She began her residency in a state of grief and was determined to transform her grieving process into artworks that reflected healing, community and the power of the body and performance.

The first photo concept Lindsay created explored grief through performance. This initial photographic study was followed by personal research and multiple public performances about grief, grieving, the body and the landscape. Over the course of the first three months her concentration began to transform into community focused projects. Her community work was focussed on honouring Indigenous worldviews in relation to the importance of community, unity and coming together to heal.

Lindsay used the concept of 'performance as a medicine' for healing into all her projects and in November she utilized it as a basis for a one day *Indigenous Performance Art Symposium*. The symposium was hosted at the BC Royal Museum with an aim of bringing Indigenous facilitators together to host workshops with a focus on performance, culture and knowledge sharing.

Her residency will culminate in February with the presentation of *Pendulum – An Indigenous Performance Showcase*, in partnership with the Belfry Theatre. This is a community-focused project, honouring Indigenous worldviews in relation to the importance of reconciliation and community healing. *Pendulum* will feature a blend of traditional and contemporary performances by Indigenous artists and groups from across Canada. It aims to bring new life into the context of theatre and decolonizes the theatre space, where Indigenous peoples are often excluded.

### Approach to the Residency:



As a strong advocate for Indigenous voices, stories, culture and histories, Lindsay worked closely with local artists, organizations and communities to facilitate community engagement built on shared values; respect, integrity, honesty, empathy and acceptance.

Lindsay applies her arts practice through several platforms that incorporates contemporary interrogations through implications of cultural, political and social work. In her role as the Indigenous Artist in Residence she developed community-based initiatives to address social justice and historical trauma while making a significant commitment to contributing to diverse communities.

Lindsay's interest is to activate site specific performances throughout the city of Victoria, to deliver cultural relevant art-based programs to marginalized populations and to challenge the stereotypes of Indigenous art forms to push mainstream society to develop a larger context for Indigenous art.

The inclusion of cultural knowledge and spirituality is the foundation for all artworks to be created. During the time of her residency her goal is to utilize art, creativity into group work to heal and transform trauma and to decolonize for the purpose of reconciliation.

### ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The goal of the Indigenous Artist in Residency is to facilitate workshops and create public performances with local Indigenous and non-Indigenous people that express reconciliation by incorporating dance, song, culture, language and history.

Since March 2017, Lindsay has

- directly engaged forty-three members of the public to participate in her work,
- completed nine projects,
- preformed three public works,
- contributed to four City projects,

- provided paid opportunities to eleven artists as collaborators,
- engaged five organizations as collaborators or partners and,
- facilitated a series of three, three hour workshops with Mayor and Council to explore reconciliation through moccasin making.

For a more detailed breakdown of Lindsay's 2017 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 and Indigenous Artist in Residency position. There was unanimous support from the Art in Public Places Committee to extend the Indigenous Artist in Residence position to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and build upon the success of Lindsay's projects with the community and City in 2018. The recently adopted Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan supports the continuation of Indigenous roles and opportunities at the City and aligns with the objective "to ensure indigenous voices and stories are shared and reflected in planning".

Lindsay would like to build on her knowledge of Indigenous methodologies and philosophies by actively engaging in the City's journey of reconciliation with First Peoples. This important work remains a priority for the City of Victoria and the Indigenous Artist in Residence is uniquely positioned to utilize art as a vehicle to actively engage in the Witness Reconciliation Program in partnership with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, the City Council and the Senior Leadership team.

For 2018, four community projects; ACHoRD, Art as Ceremony, the Indigenous Symposium and the Indigenous Performance Showcase would be expanded and would build upon the successes in 2017. These projects have scratched the surface on the communities' interest in Indigenous culture, stories and traditions.

Partnering organizations have expressed interested in supporting these projects for a second presentation including the Belfry Theatre, BC Royal Museum and Dance Victoria. Lindsay has also expressed a desire to actively participate in the City's Witness Reconciliation Program and support City wide reconciliation projects and initiatives.

For a detailed breakdown of Lindsay's proposed 2018 activities please see Appendix B.

## **OPTIONS & IMPACTS**

Option 1 – (Recommended) to extend Lindsay Delaronde's term to December 31 2018 as the Indigenous Artist in Residence on a project to project basis and allocate \$61,500 from the Art in Public Places Reserve Fund.

Option 2 – Do not extend the position beyond March 1 2018.

### *Accessibility Impact Statement*

We strive to ensure these projects are accessible to a wide audience and review each project from an accessibility lens including the use of buildings that are physically accessible and performance venues for the hearing impaired.

### *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*

Direction to staff was to create a one year position tied to the Year of Reconciliation. As a result funding to extend Lindsay's position for one year has not been allocated under the Art in Public Places funding and is not included in the 2018 Financial Plan.

The total reallocation request is for \$61,500.00. The total includes \$31,500 artist fee for nine months and up to \$30,000.00 project expense budget.

### *Official Community Plan Consistency Statement*

#### Section 8: Placemaking

8 (L) That heritage and cultural values are identified, celebrated, and retained through community engagement.

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

8.38 Continue to animate street life through festivals, celebrations and special events

#### 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 (C) That cultural diversity and cultural heritage are celebrated and sustained.

16 (D) That the arts are accessible to a broad diversity of people and groups.

16 (F) That art in public places is supported and enabled as a public good and an expression of community identity.

16 (G) that creativity and cultural development are fostered through public dialogue and lifelong learning.

16.6 Encourage broad access to arts and culture facilities, events and activities for people of all ages, incomes, backgrounds and lifestyles.

16.7 Encourage education, training and informal learning opportunities in the arts, design and culture.

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

## CONCLUSION

The feedback on the Indigenous Artist in Residence position received from both internal and external stakeholders is overwhelmingly positive. The Art in Public Places Committee and the many stakeholders engaged are pleased with the development of the program and the contributions Lindsay has made over the past year. There is unanimous support for extending Lindsay's position for nine months to allow her to build on the new relationships she has created in her first year.

By continuing to support Lindsay to develop arts programming rooted in Indigenous methodologies, Victoria positions itself as a City that supports Indigenous artists and values Indigenous philosophies.

Respectfully submitted,



Connor Tice  
Arts, Culture and Events Liaison



**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:**

**Date:** December 29, 2017

## List of Attachments

Appendix A: 2017 Residency Activities  
Appendix B: Proposed 2018 Residency Activities