

NO: R089

COUNCIL DATE: June 5, 2023

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **June 1, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Public Art for the King George Bridge at Nicomekl**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Phyllis Atkins & Joan Williams to complete public artworks at the King George Bridge at Nicomekl, as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix “I” and “II” respectively.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to proceed with the implementation of Joan Williams’ and Phyllis Atkins’ artwork designs at the King George Bridge at Nicomekl.

## BACKGROUND

The City is working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (“MoTI”) to replace the aging single-lane Bailey Bridge and the two-lane timber trestle bridge on King George Boulevard where it crosses the Nicomekl River. The project team identified railing enhancements as the public art opportunity for this project, which will consist of 28 stainless steel artwork panels (14 on each side). The panels will be affixed to the bridge railings, separating the multi-use pathway and the road. Artwork designs will be laser-cut into these panels and then powder coated.

This project was part of a suite of public art opportunities created for artists from Katzie, Semiahmoo and Kwantlen First Nations. Through the selection process, as outlined below, it was recommended that this opportunity be shared by artists from Semiahmoo and Kwantlen First Nations.

## DISCUSSION

The process for commissioning and selecting preliminary designs was guided by recommendations from the Chiefs from Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations. In December of 2020, 10 artists from the three Nations were invited to create design proposals for multiple public art opportunities, including the King George Bridge project.

On January 18, 2021 a selection panel of nine Elders from Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations reviewed the design proposals. After a process of deliberation, the selection panel voted to recommend Phyllis Atkins and Joan Williams for the King George Bridge opportunity. The artwork location is attached as Appendix “III.” The artwork panels and colours layout is attached as Appendix “IV.”

### **Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Recommendation**

At the April 18, 2023 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting, staff shared the recommendation from the selection panel and proposed designs. The Committee was supportive of the proposed artworks and recommended staff prepare a Corporate Report for Council.

### **About the Artists and Artworks**

Appendix “V” provides more information about the artists and the artworks.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for this public art project draws from 1.25% of civic monies from the construction of the King George Bridge at Nicomekl, as per the Public Art Policy, and augmented by the capital construction budget of the bridge itself. Total public art costs for the project are \$150,000 which includes artist fees (\$16,000), design development, engineering, fabrication, installation, and maintenance.

### **CONCLUSION**

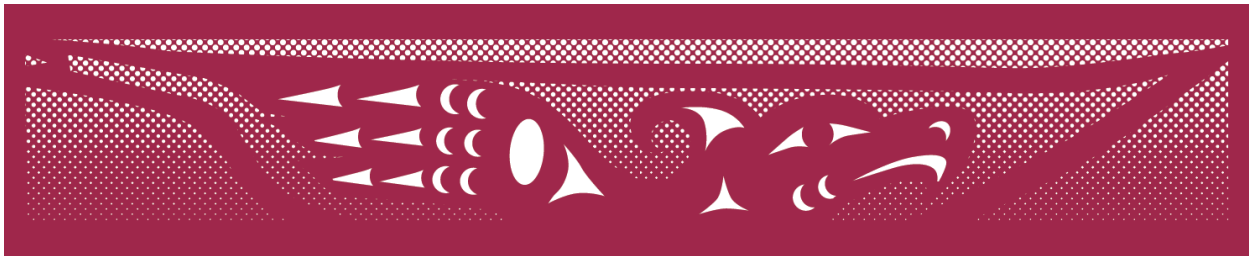
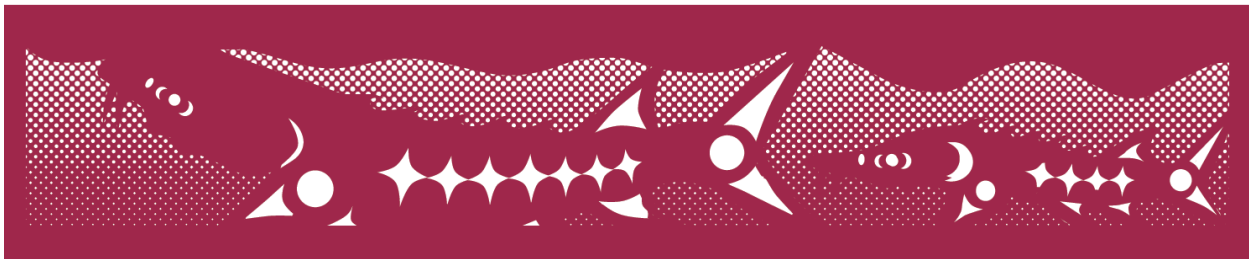
The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to proceed to contract Joan Williams and Phyllis Atkins to implement a public artwork at the King George Bridge at Nicomekl, as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix: “I”: Recommended public artwork by Phyllis Atkins  
Appendix: “II”: Recommended public artwork by Joan Williams  
Appendix: “III”: Proposed Artwork Location: King George Bridge at Nicomekl  
Appendix: “IV”: Artwork panel layout and colours  
Appendix: “V”: Information About the Artist and Artwork

APPENDIX "I"

Recommended public artwork by Phyllis Atkins

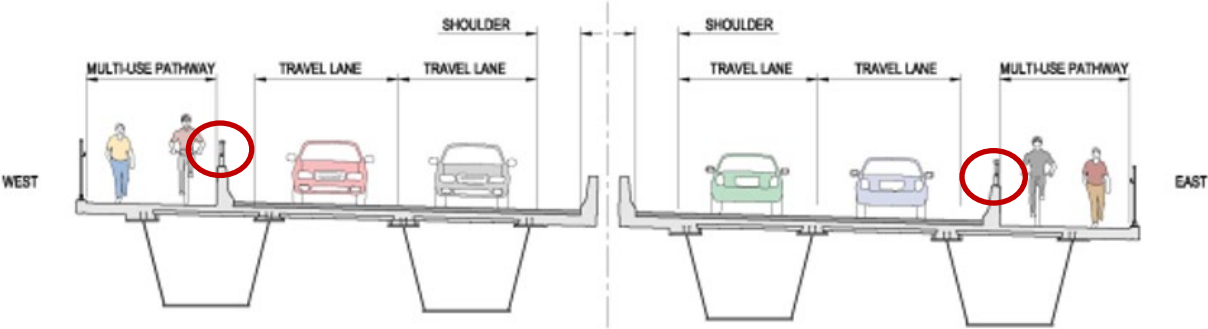


**APPENDIX "II"**

**Recommended public artwork by Joan Williams**



Proposed Artwork Location: King George Bridge at Nicomekl



## APPENDIX "IV"

### Artwork panel layout and colours



*Southbound Side: Joan Williams Colour Layout*



*Northbound Side: Phyllis Atkins Colour Layout*

### About the Artists and Artworks

Joan Williams is a member of Semiahmoo First Nation. She has been interested in art since she was a child and studied at the Art Institute of Vancouver. Her body of work is focused on weaving, drawing, and digital art. Joan’s design uses the repeating motif of connected hands. It is inspired by the canoe journeys of her youth, where many Nations were connected by the river, and the way canoes were passed hand over hand. The bridge, like the river, connects the Kwantlen and Semiahmoo communities and the hands remind us that relationships are based on human connections.

Phyllis Atkins is an artist from Kwantlen First Nation. Atkins has taken oil painting lessons from Barbara Boldt and hand-carved silver jewelry lessons by Master Carver Derek Wilson. In 2005, she and her husband Drew Atkins established their home-based business in Fort Langley, K’wy’i’y’e Spring Salmon Studio, where they create both traditional and contemporary Coast Salish art. Her design represents the different wildlife of the river eco-system with a wolf canoe and thunderbird canoe meeting in the middle to represent a meeting place of the two Nations.