

NO: R115

COUNCIL DATE: July 10, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 6, 2023**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommended Public Art Mural at Blackie Spit Park**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Roxanne Charles to complete a public art mural design at Blackie Spit Park, as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix "I".

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to proceed with the implementation of Roxanne Charles' mural design at Blackie Spit Park.

BACKGROUND

Blackie Spit Park is located in the Crescent Beach neighbourhood of Surrey and is a popular destination for residents and tourists alike. Part of Blackie Spit Park is an environmentally sensitive area that showcases a coastal sand dune ecosystem and is an important site for migratory birds. Blackie Spit and Crescent Beach are also culturally significant sites for Semiahmoo First Nation.

In 2022, an existing washroom facility was expanded to accommodate the increased usage by park visitors (see Appendix "II"). This expanded facility will serve as the site of the mural. The existing mural at the facility will be decommissioned.

DISCUSSION

This project was a directed call to Semiahmoo artists, given the significance of the site to Semiahmoo First Nation. Roxanne Charles was selected to lead a group of Semiahmoo Youth through a workshop to help inform the mural design. The artist and youth group also coordinated a walking tour with the City's Environmental Stewardship team to discuss the unique ecology of Blackie Spit as part of the project.

Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Recommendation

At the June 20, 2023 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting, staff shared the recommended design. The Committee was supportive of the proposed mural and recommended staff prepare a Corporate Report for Council.

About the Artist and Artwork

Appendix “III” provides more information about the artist and the artwork.

FUNDING

Funding for this public art mural draws from 1.25% of civic monies from the expansion of the washroom facility and is augmented by public art reserve funds for South Surrey. Total project costs are \$15,000 including artist fees (\$5,000), design development, mural installation, and maintenance.

CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council authorize staff to proceed to engage Roxanne Charles to implement a mural design at Blackie Spit Park, as generally described in this report.



Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

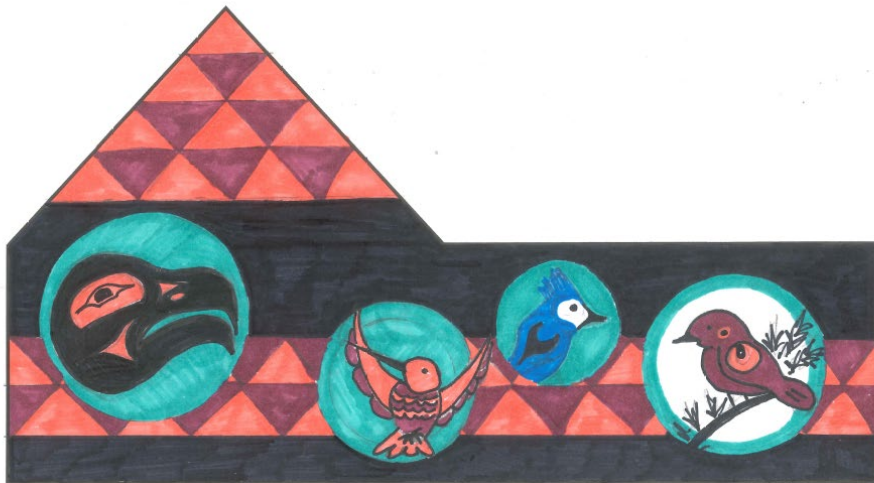
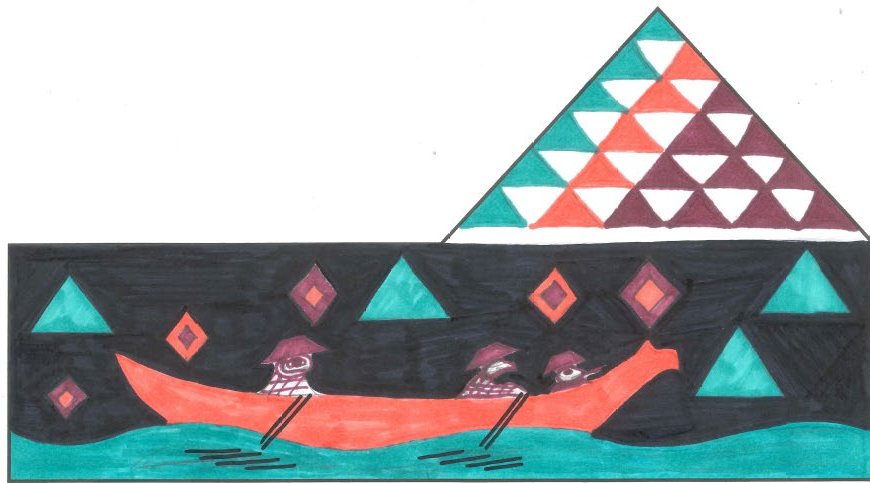
Appendix: “I” – Recommended public artwork by Roxanne Charles

Appendix: “II” – Proposed Artwork Location: Blackie Spit Park Washroom

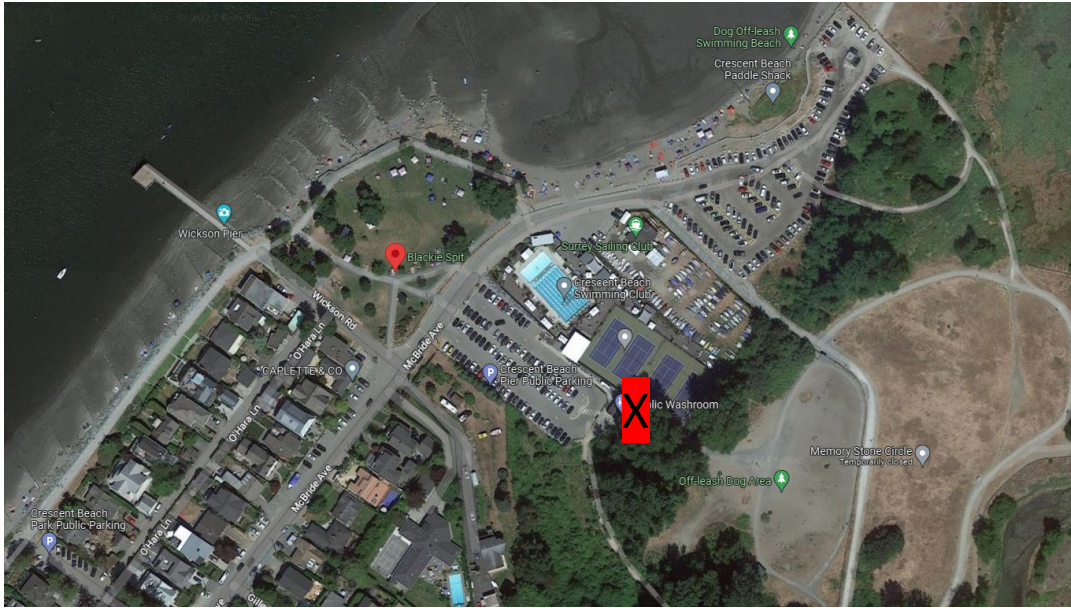
Appendix: “III” - Information About the Artist and Artwork

APPENDIX "I"

Concept Drawing of Recommended mural design by Roxanne Charles



Blackie Spit Park Washroom – Site Map & Photo





About The Artist & Artwork

Roxanne Charles is a mixed media artist, curator, storyteller and cultural historian from Semiahmoo First Nation. As an artist she works with a wide range of media employing traditional Semiahma forms of knowledge such as visual representation, oral history and ceremony. She has two undergraduate degrees from KPU and an MFA from SFU. Her work is in the collection of the Surrey Art Gallery.

Titled *Tlálh Schache* or ‘Saltwater Relatives,’ the artwork honours the deep relationship and connection that Se’mya’me people have to this beautiful coast. This work celebrates the strength of the wild birds who carry with them many teachings and lessons in life, as well as the interconnectivity to the tidal rhythm around them.