

NO: R132

COUNCIL DATE: July 8, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 3, 2024**

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

FILE: **0550-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommended Public Art Mural at Surrey Nature Centre**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Anais Lera to complete a public art mural design at Surrey Nature Centre, 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 Anais Lera’s mural design at the Surrey Nature Centre.

BACKGROUND

The Surrey Nature Centre invites all age groups to embark on an immersive journey into nature. This unique facility, situated within Green Timbers Urban Forest, offers a diverse range of programs and activities, encouraging exploration, learning, and connection with the natural world.

The north façade of the Surrey Nature Centre building will be enhanced with a mural that is inspired by the forest eco-system present in Green Timbers Urban Forest. See Appendix “II”. The new mural will turn the Surrey Nature Centre into a vibrant landmark and will welcome guests to the facility and to the park at large.

DISCUSSION

The artist and design were determined through an open artist call and a two-stage community selection process. The call was distributed through City of Surrey media outlets and other online channels.

On May 4, 2024, staff convened a community selection panel to review all expressions of interest submitted for the project. At that time, six artists were shortlisted who subsequently submitted detailed concept proposals for the mural. On June 15, 2024, the community selection panel reconvened to review the submitted concept proposals. Selection panelists were comprised of

three Surrey residents, including an artist and a representative from the Green Timbers Heritage Society. The selection panel reviewed 44 expressions of interest and six concept proposals. After a process of deliberation, the selection panel voted unanimously to recommend one design by Anais Lera. See Appendix “I”.

About The Artist & Artwork

Anais Lera is an illustrator, painter, and muralist originally from Southern France and is currently living in Vancouver. Anais is a very experienced muralist that has participated in the Vancouver Mural Festival, Squamish Mural Festival, and BUMP Mural Festival in Calgary.

The mural design is inspired by the eco-system found on the forest floor, which is rich in life and the place where many plant and animal species interact. The artist has represented native plant, amphibian, insect, mushroom and tree species for their role in Surrey’s forest eco-system and their distinct, recognizable shapes. It is a dynamic, playful mural that will play a placemaking role for the Surrey Nature Centre. The mural can also be used as an educational tool by Surrey Nature Centre staff. The project will be completed this summer.

FUNDING

Funding for this public art project draws from the Public Art Reserve Fund. Total project costs are \$25,000 including artist fees, design development, site preparation, and mural installation.

CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council authorize staff to proceed to engage Anais Lera to implement a public art mural at the Surrey Nature Centre, as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix: “I”: Recommended public artwork by Anais Lera
Appendix: “II”: Proposed Artwork Location: Surrey Nature Centre

APPENDIX "I"

Recommended Public Artwork by Anais Lera



APPENDIX "II"

Surrey Nature Centre – North Façade

