

NO: R218

COUNCIL DATE: October 23, 2017

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: October 17, 2017**

FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture **FILE: 8000-30**

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Fraser Heights Recreation Centre Public Art Project

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize staff to undertake a contract and work with the artist, Casto Solano, towards the creation and installation of an iconic sculpture outside of Fraser Heights Recreation Centre as generally described in this report.

BACKGROUND

The Public Art Advisory Committee at its meeting on September 1, 2016 supported a motion to commission a new artwork for Fraser Heights Recreation Centre. Fraser Heights' residents, who participated in the public art planning consultation meetings, recommended the values of community, diversity and nature to inspire artists in their artwork concept development. The location near the Recreation Centre was recommended by residents and supported by the Fraser Heights Community Association. Given the visibility potential, an artwork located here will serve as a landmark for the Fraser Heights neighbourhood, greeting those travelling by car from the Trans-Canada Highway as well as from neighbouring Surrey areas. This location will also welcome everyone participating in programs at the Fraser Heights Recreation Centre. The location for the public art is on a grassed patch of land near the entrance to the facility.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report complies with the City's Public Art Policy. Funding for this project resulted from equal contributions received by the City under the Private Development Public Art Program and City funding drawn from the percentage for public art contributed from the construction budget for the Fraser Heights Recreation Centre expansion. The Public Art Master Plan identifies Fraser Heights as a priority site for the development of a public art feature to enhance the neighbourhood and fulfill plans for public art in the Guildford area.

DISCUSSION

Selection Process

Fraser Heights residents and representatives of Fraser Heights Community Association were consulted for recommendations on the themes for the artwork, nominations of local representatives for the selection panel, and to finalize the location options for this public art project outside the Fraser Heights Recreation Centre (see Appendix “I” for details). An open call was posted on BC Bid, the City’s Opportunities for Business webpage, the City’s Public Art Opportunities for Artists web page, Creative City of Canada Network webpage, BC Alliance for Arts and Culture webpage, and through the City’s public art e-newsletter. A selection panel to evaluate the submissions was convened and included the following:

Selection Panel Members

- Bill Pechet, Art Expert and Professor of Architecture at UBC;
- Andy Kuo, Art Teacher at Pacific Academy and Fraser Heights Resident;
- Norma Nickel, Art Teacher at Fraser Heights Secondary School;
- Paul Oraziatti, Executive Director of Cloverdale BIA and Fraser Heights Resident; and
- Mitchell Redekop, Realtor and Fraser Heights Resident.

Four members of the selection panel are residents and people who work in Fraser Heights. They are diverse in age, gender, and background. Given their roles in the community, they are members who interact with local youth and newcomers to the neighbourhood on a regular basis.

Non-Voting Panel Members/Advisors

- Amanda Willis, Public Art Advisory Committee Representative;
- Liane Davison, Manager of Visual and Community Art (Panel Chair); and
- Hossam Meawad, Public Art Intern.

On July 23, 2017, EOI submissions from artists were reviewed by the Artist Selection Panel, (the “Panel”). As a result of this process, the Panel unanimously voted to shortlist five artists to develop a competitive proposal:

- Ruth Beer;
- Illarion Gallant;
- Hooman Mehdizadehjafari;
- Casto Solano; and
- Michael Szabo.

On July 27, 2017, an information meeting and site visit was conducted by staff for the shortlisted artists to review the two location options for the artwork beside the Recreation Centre, experience the community context and values, and review the City’s expectations.

On August 26, 2017, submissions from shortlisted artists and presentations of competition proposals were reviewed by the Artist Selection Panel. As a result of this process, the Panel unanimously voted to recommend to the Public Art Advisory Committee the artist, Casto Solano, for this commission.

On September 26, 2017, City staff met with President Ed MacIntosh and Directors Michelle Lu and Marcie Kroeker of the Fraser Heights Community Association to deliver an update on the Fraser Heights public art project. After being presented with the material provided by the artist, these directors of the Fraser Heights Community Association requested assurance that the sculpture will meet all safety and structural requirements of the BC Building Code. The Fraser Heights Community Association respects the unanimous recommendation made by the Selection Panel and expressed general support for the winning proposal.

Public Art Advisory Committee Endorsement

At its meeting on October 5, 2017, the Public Art Advisory Committee unanimously recommend that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture prepare a report to Council recommending the selected artist, Casto Solano, for the Fraser Heights public art commission.

About the Artist

Casto Solano has a background in industrial engineering and has been creating artworks for public spaces for over thirty years. The artist approaches each project as a unique opportunity to improve the daily lives of the diverse people who make up the communities they live in: to inspire and provoke reflection, insight and understanding. Casto's intention is to fuse science and nature; urban architecture and art; and to bring light, warmth and contemplation to people and to their surroundings.

Casto specialises in durable artworks that are designed to last for generations. His main materials of use are marine grade stainless steel, corten steel, bronze and titanium, into which he may incorporate other hardwearing elements such as tempered glass or natural stone. His sculptures are intended to age gracefully into their housing spaces and form organic, symbiotic parts of their surroundings. The artist believes that since artworks must coexist in public spaces with multitudinous architectural and natural structures and forms, as well as with pedestrian and vehicular traffic, they must be visible and iconic whilst not interfering with visual transits.

About the Concept and Materials

The working title for the proposed sculpture is "On the Living River". See Appendix "II" for images.

Casto was mainly inspired by the Fraser River and the golden ratio, a mathematical ratio commonly found in nature that is also universally experienced as aesthetically pleasing. The artist perceives the recreation centre as a place where cooperation, tolerance and understanding are nurtured and as a place where cultural training, care, ecology, sport and leisure coexist and bring people together. He perceives the Fraser River like the tail of a meteor, brimming with life, coming down and plunging deep into the earth. The artist envisions creating a sculpture that is a ribbon of stainless steel symbolizing in its shining mirror surface, crystalline waters that reflects the life forms and colours around it; that senses and collects our thoughts and faces; that changes with the hour and weather to form a living part of its environment.

Casto describes the sculpture as a path between the earth and the stars that tells people the story of Surrey and of its citizens.

This sculpture will be fabricated using marine grade AISI 316L stainless steel and will have a height of approximately eight meters. The structure will be lightweight, strong, and capable of lasting for generations in even a marine environment, suffering minimum degradation and requiring almost no maintenance. It will be designed to be flexible and self-supporting and engineered to be resistant even to hurricane force winds and will be reinforced with an internal support structure.

The artwork will be subject to a technical review to ensure it will be robust to endure for a minimum of 50 years and to be graffiti resistant. The artwork will be reviewed by multiple registered professional engineers to ensure public safety and technical feasibility. As with all public art sculptures, the artwork will require a building permit. City staff will work with the artist to ensure that the artwork's concept and metaphor are conveyed to the public.

FUNDING AND SCHEDULE

Total funding for the Fraser Heights public art project is \$112,500 and draws from both civic monies from the expansion of Fraser Heights Recreation Centre as well as contributions to the private development public art fund for Guildford. Of this budget, \$90,000 is assigned to the artist contract for this project, inclusive of all costs and taxes excluding costs for foundation, signage, and lighting. The total budget includes funding for these other costs.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, it is expected that the artist will begin on this project in winter 2017 and conclude with the final design and installation of an artwork by summer 2018.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The public art mural will assist in meeting the following desired outcomes contained within the Charter Sub-themes of "Neighbourhoods and Urban Design:

- DO 1: Surrey is compromised with distinct, diverse and compact town centres with an engaging public realm;
- DO 8: The built environment enhances quality of life, happiness and well-being; and
- DO 15: All new buildings, public places and outdoor spaces are welcoming, safe and universally accessible.

The public art mural supports the Community Theme of "Education and Culture identified in the City's Sustainability Charter:

- DO 7: An enviable and vibrant arts and heritage sector contributes to Surrey's citizen engagement, enrichment, economy, community livability and civic pride; and
- DO 10: Surrey celebrates, protects and promotes its natural and built heritage sites.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council recommend staff proceed with the process to contract the recommended artist for the Fraser Heights public art project as generally described in this report.

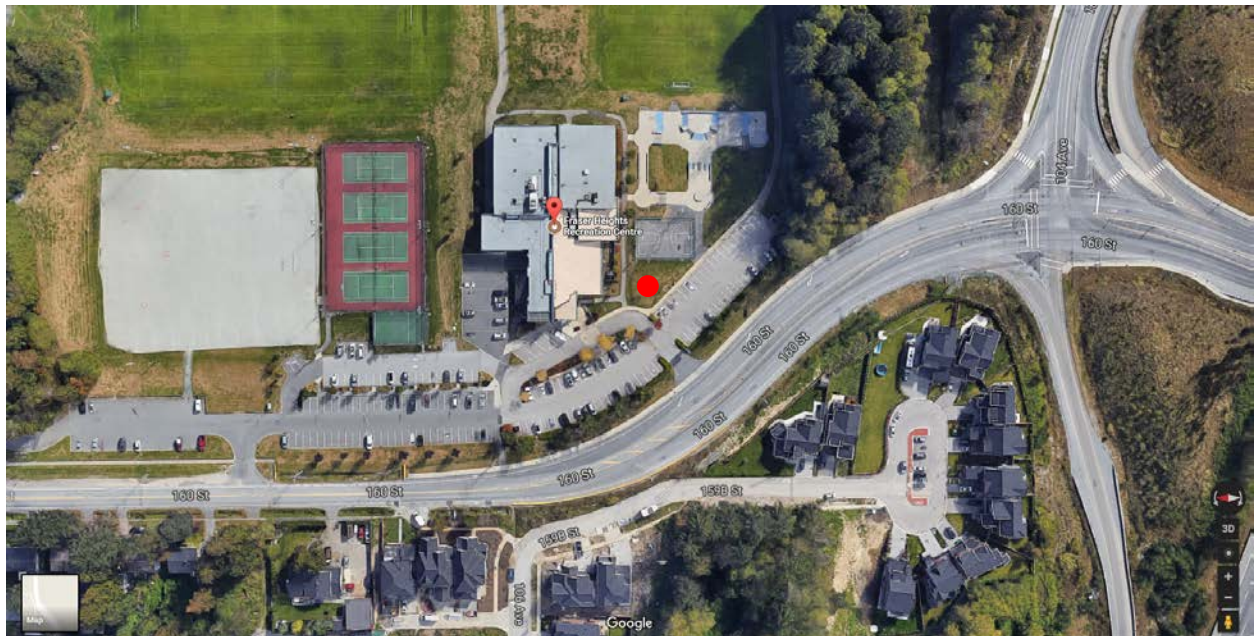
Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" - Artwork Location

Appendix "II" - Rendering of Competition Concept by Casto Solano

APPENDIX "I"

Artwork Location beside the Fraser Heights Recreation Centre



APPENDIX "II"

Day and Night Rendering of Competition Concept by Casto Solano

