

NO: R251

COUNCIL DATE: December 18, 2017

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **December 14, 2017**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Public Art Banner Opportunity 2018**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize staff to undertake a contract and work with the artist, Tony Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation, to create a design for public art banners for installation across the City of Surrey as generally described in this report.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is seek Council's support to contract Tony Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation to create a design for the public art banners to be installed on approximately 100 street poles near significant cultural destinations in the City.

## BACKGROUND

Every year the Public Art Program commissions a unique design to be featured on approximately 100 street poles near significant cultural destinations in the City, such as the Surrey Arts Centre, Newton Cultural Centre, Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre (Urban Screen venue), South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre, as well as the City Centre Library.

These public art street banners offer an opportunity for artists to share their creativity with our community and beautify our City. Artists commissioned in the past have included esteemed artists Robert Davidson, Gordon Smith, and Susan Point. The intention of the public art street banners is to enhance the experience of the streetscape for drivers, cyclists, transit riders and pedestrians.

This annual commission of a new design is supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee, and guided by the Public Art Policy and associated procedures. On the direction of the Public Art Advisory Committee, the commissioning process alternates each year between an open call and a directed call. Fabrication and installation of the banners is coordinated as part of the City's Town Centre Street Banner Program.

At its meeting on October 5, 2017, the Public Art Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that the 2018 Public Art Banners should be commissioned through a directed call to a local First Nations Artist.

## **DISCUSSION**

The recommendation of this report complies with the City's *Public Art Policy*. The implementation of the public art project is guided by the Public Art Master Plan.

The recommendation for the 2018 banners also contributes to realizing goals of the Surrey Indigenous Leadership Committee's Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project, entitled *All Our Relations, A Social Innovation Strategy*. Increasing First Nations art in public spaces supports the following recommendations in the document:

- Goal #10: *Indigenize Public Spaces*: Partner with the City of Surrey to increase Indigenous art in City Hall, city-owned buildings and public spaces.
- Goal #38: *Combat negative stereotypes and discrimination in the City*: Create opportunities for visual representations of reconciliation.

## **Call Process**

Public Art Staff for the City of Surrey followed the recommendation of the Public Art Advisory Committee by developing a directed call and selection process for the Public Art Banners Opportunity for First Nations artists. City staff welcomed eight artists recommended by Kwantlen, Katzie, and Semiahmoo First Nations. These artists attended an information session about the opportunity, and then created design proposals for a competition for this opportunity using supplied templates.

## **Selection Process**

On December 4, 2017, staff welcomed nine Elders from Katzie, Kwantlen and Semiahmoo First Nations to make recommendations regarding which design for the banners would proceed to fabrication.

Elders:

- Semiahmoo First Nation: Barbara Calder
- Kwantlen First Nation: Hazel Gludo and Verna Davies
- Katzie First Nation: Cookie Schwartz, Charles Moody, Diana Evans, Helen Johnson, Leslie Bailey and Harry Pierre

Public Art Advisory Committee Representative:

- Diane Purvey, Dean of Arts, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The selection process included the review of design proposals and interviews with eight artists. The panel unanimously voted to recommend to the Public Art Advisory Committee the artist Tony Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation, and his proposal "Heron" be commissioned for the Public Art Banners for the City of Surrey for 2018.

## **Public Art Advisory Committee Endorsement**

At its meeting on December 7, 2017 the Public Art Advisory Committee received the Selection Panel's unanimous recommendation, and in turn voted unanimously to recommend that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture prepare a report to Council recommending the selected artist, Tony Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation, for the Public Art Banner Opportunity commission, as supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

## **About the Artist and Artwork**

Tony Gabriel is an artist of the Kwantlen First Nation. His design concept sketch for the Public Art Banner Opportunity depicts a heron, which represents patience and is considered to be good luck by fishermen. (Appendix "I")

The final design of the artwork will be developed by the artist, in cooperation with the City Marketing and Design Team, to ensure production of an electronic file suitable for fabrication and a choice of specific colours and full colouring (i.e. no white) to withstand sun bleaching and to be vibrant within the City's street landscapes.

## **FUNDING**

The Public Art Banner Program is funded by the Civic Street Banner Program, within the Civic Beautification budget.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, it is expected that the artists will begin the next phases of the project to realize the final design in January 2018.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

This initiative will assist in meeting the following Desired Outcomes contained within the City's Sustainability 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 initiative 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".

The initiative supports the Community Theme of "Inclusion" identified in the City's Sustainability Charter:

- DO 7: “Surrey’s Urban Aboriginal community is thriving with high educational outcomes, meaningful employment and opportunities for cultural connections”.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council recommend staff proceed with the process to contract the recommended artist for the Public Art Banner Opportunity as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix “I” - Concept Design for Public Art Banners by Tony Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation

**Concept Design for Public Art Banners  
by Tony Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation**



Note: the intended final design of the public art banner colours will be predominantly blue and orange, and will finalized in consultation with the City.