

NO: R116

COUNCIL DATE: May 28, 2018

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **May 24, 2018**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **8000-30**  
SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Clayton Community Centre Public Art Design**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to work with the artist team Studio Morison, comprised of artists Heather Peak and Ivan Morison, to realize the public sculpture “The Moment” at the new Clayton Community Centre as generally described in this report.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the design proposed for a public artwork at the new Clayton Community Centre, and to obtain Council approval for staff to retain Studio Morison to complete this public art project.

## BACKGROUND

The Public Art Advisory Committee (the “PAAC”) recommended that a public artwork be commissioned as part of the new Clayton Community Centre. Following a standard public art process, staff convened a community consultation meeting to receive residents input, and convened a panel with both residents and expert advisors to select an artist team to conduct research to develop a public art design concept. At the Regular Council meeting on December 14, 2017, Council approved a recommendation from The PAAC (see Appendix “I” Corporate Report R252; 2017) to authorize staff to retain the recommended artist, the artist team Studio Morison, comprised of artists Heather Peak and Ivan Morison, to undertake research to develop a design concept for a permanent sculpture for the Clayton Community Centre public art project. Studio Morison undertook this research January through April in 2018.

## DISCUSSION

Studio Morison engaged nearly 300 residents and stakeholders in Clayton to develop their proposed design concept for a permanent public artwork. On April 25, a stakeholder committee of the Clayton Community Centre reviewed the artists design proposal (Appendix “II”: Preliminary Design) and unanimously recommended *The Moment* be submitted for support by PAAC, and to proceed to Council.

This committee included:

- Jim Adams, Vice Chair, Public Art Advisory Committee;
- Christina Teixeira, City of Surrey Public Library;
- Todd Ayotte, City of Surrey Cultural Division Coordinator;
- Kelsey Swanson, City of Surrey Cloverdale Manager;
- Melissa Higgs, HCMA Architect;
- Scott Groves, City of Surrey Manager Civic Facilities;
- Ariel Vernon, Hapa Collaborative, Landscape Architect; and
- Aiden Callison, HCMA, Architect.

### **Public Art Advisory Committee Endorsement**

At its meeting on May 3, 2018 the PAAC voted unanimously to recommend that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture prepare a report to Council recommending the selected artists, Studio Morison, and their preliminary design, *The Moment*, be approved to proceed to the Schematic Design Phase.

### **About the Artists**

Studio Morison is an artist collaboration (Heather Peak and Ivan Morison) based in the UK. They are highly respected within the international art community for their ambitious collaborative practice over the past fifteen years that combines the practices of art, architecture and theatre. They have exhibited widely and have been commissioned to create original public art projects internationally including in the UK, Europe, Australia, Canada, and the USA. Their projects have included creative design for a library, a public greenhouse, a creative landscape for a school, multiple public sculptures, pavilions, as well as creative content for civic plazas and a skate park.

### **About the Artwork**

The title for the proposed artwork is *The Moment*, inspired by the Margaret Atwood poem of the same name (Appendix "III"). The artwork's design and function is directly informed by an extensive community engagement process. The artists met with local residents during their everyday activities (at the dog park, the racing track, and the casino) and at community events (a seniors lunch, a parents and tots drop-in). They also collaborated with Clayton Heights Secondary to which held "the Impossible Rainbow Dinner" as a culminating event for the whole community. In all, they engaged with over 300 residents and stakeholders.

Throughout the engagement process, the artists became aware of the desire for a gathering space that was beautiful and iconic, but also a form the community could respond to creatively. One resident at the dinner wrote to the Morisons, "Please make something to bring us together like this." The sculpture *The Moment* is in direct response to this feedback.

*The Moment* is an impressively scaled, beautiful and original form that will attract curiosity and inspire creativity. It is a robust sculpture with a whimsical colour and tilt. It consists of geometric, technical lines, as well as swooping, organic, joyful lines that indicate a playful energy and movement, all coloured a bright raspberry to stand out against the trees and sky, particularly on a grey day. The form itself invites the question: *what is it?* From each angle a different interpretation emerges: a net, a web, a flower turning its head to the sun, a make-believe creature waiting for a friend to play with, a castle tower leaning down to listen to the people below it. It is an outline to “colour within” – and it invites the community to fill it with their own creativity.

*The Moment* is a direct response to resident’s comments such as: “There is value in being with yourself, exploring your senses, letting imagination create the form, rather than the form dictating the activity.” The Clayton community will be invited through the Clayton Community Centre’s programming to creatively engage with the piece through temporary interventions. *The Moment* could be covered with canvas to provide a summer reading space, strung with lights and garlands for an open mic music evening, or transformed with LED lights into a glowing lantern. Studio Morison will ensure that the sculpture is made to be functional and is engineered for these and many other possibilities.

Studio Morison will also provide maintenance and usage guidelines to ensure the safe and effective use of the piece, and suggest programming options to inaugurate the community’s engagement starting from the opening of the building. The artwork will be engineered and is planned to be fabricated in Canada.

Subject to Council approval, it is expected that the artist will begin the next phases of the project and deliver the Schematic Design in late June 2018. The schematic design will be presented to Council for approval, before proceeding to the next phase of the project (Final Design Phase) and the realization of the artwork (Fabrication and Installation Phase).

### **Policy Considerations**

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, which identifies this location as a priority for public art investment.

### **FUNDING**

Total funding for the Clayton Community Centre Public Art project, including all artist fees, engineering, fabrication, and installation is \$300,000 and draws on 1.25% of the Clayton Community Centre’s construction budget.

### **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The public art at Clayton Community Centre will support the objectives of the City’s Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to the themes of Built Environment & Neighbourhoods and Education & Culture and assist in meeting the following Desired Outcomes (DO):

#### Built Environments & Neighbourhoods:

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

#### Education & Culture:

- Arts & Heritage: DO 7: “An enviable and vibrant arts and heritage sector contributes to Surrey’s citizen engagement, enrichment, economy, community livability and civic pride”; and
- Arts & Heritage: 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 artist team Studio Morison, comprised of artists Heather Peak and Ivan Morison, to realize the public sculpture “The Moment” at the new Clayton Community Centre as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix “I” – Corporate Report R252;2017  
Appendix “II” – Preliminary Design  
Appendix “III” – The Moment by Margaret Atwood

# CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **R252**

COUNCIL DATE: **December 18, 2017**

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 14, 2017**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Clayton Community Centre Public Art Project**

---

## 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 team Studio Morison, comprised of artists Heather Peak and Ivan Morison, towards the creation and installation of public artwork at the new Clayton Community Centre as generally described in this report.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the public art opportunity for the new Clayton Community Centre and to obtain Council approval for staff to retain an artist to undertake the first phase of research and development for a final proposal for this public art project.

## BACKGROUND

The Public Art Advisory Committee (the "PAAC") recommended the commissioning of new artwork as part of the construction of the new Clayton Community Centre (the "Centre"). The Open House regarding this planned facility held in February 2017 included a presentation on public art and an opportunity to contribute comments. At that Open House residents expressed a desire for a Centre that will include flexible spaces to inspire community creativity and connection, and for programming that includes participatory community art opportunities for residents. The feedback from residents, and especially their values and aspirations, were applied to the call and informed the criteria for the selection process for this public art opportunity.

## DISCUSSION

### Selection Process

In October of 2017, 12 pre-qualified artists were invited to submit an Expression of Interest portfolio package including: Holly Schmidt; Vanessa Kwan; Devon Knowles; Helen Reed & Hannah Jickling; Derya Akay ; Justin Langlois ; Kathy Slade ; Althea Thauberger; Heather Peak and Ivan Morison; Bill Pechet; Buster Simpson; and Don and Cora Li-Leger. A Selection Panel was convened to evaluate the submissions including the following:

#### Selection Panel Members

- Myfanwy MacLeod, Artist (Art Expert)
- TJ Grewal, Clayton Community Representative (long-time young adult resident of Clayton)
- Beth Barlow, Clayton Community Representative (long-time senior resident of Clayton)
- Esther Volpe, Clayton Community Representative (teacher at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary School, which serves the Clayton neighborhood)
- Jayden Williams, Clayton Community Representative (student at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary School and resident of neighborhood)
- Ariel Vernon and Joseph Fry, Hapa Collaborative, Landscape Architect
- Aiden Callison, HCMA, Architect

#### Non-Voting Panel Members/Advisors

- Jim Adams, Public Art Advisory Committee representative
- Christina Teixeira, City of Surrey Public Library
- Kristen Andrews, Deputy Chief Librarian, City of Surrey Public Library
- Tanya Thiessen, City of Surrey Public Library
- Todd Ayotte, City of Surrey Cultural Division Coordinator
- Kelsey Swanson, City of Surrey Cloverdale Manager
- Melissa Higgs, HCMA Architect
- Ted Urich, Parks Planning Manager
- Scott Groves, Manager Civic Facilities

On October 30, 2017, the Panel unanimously voted to shortlist five artists and artist teams to develop a competition proposal:

- Heather and Ivan Morrison (Studio Morison)
- Bill Pechet
- Vanessa Kwan
- Kathy Slade
- Don and Cora Li-Leger

On November 6, 2017, an information meeting was held for the artists to review the architectural plans for the Centre; community context and values; and expectations. The design team of Hapa Collaborative (landscape architect) and HCMA (architect) presented feedback from community consultations and themes and concepts for the Centre. Members from the design team and City of Surrey staff conducted short meetings with all artists to answer specific questions.

On December 5, 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 artists, Studio Morison, to proceed to the next phase of the competition: The Research and Design Phase.

In the Research and Design Phase, the artists, in consultation with public art staff, the design team, and community members, will develop a final design plan for permanent public artwork(s). This plan will be submitted for the approval of PAAC and Council in May 2018. Upon approval, the artists will proceed to the final Fabrication and Installation Phase of the project.

### **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 artists, Studio Morison, for the Clayton Community Centre Public Art Research and Design Phase commission, as supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

### **About the Artists**

Studio Morison is an artist collaboration (Heather Peak and Ivan Morison) based in Herefordshire and North Wales, UK. They established their ambitious collaborative practice over the past fifteen years that transcends divisions between art, architecture and theatre. On a societal level Studio Morison is working to re-establish aspects of civic life, and on a human level it looks to bring meaning, beauty, and purpose into everyday life.

Heather Peak and Ivan Morison have created public artwork and exhibited widely across the UK, Europe, Australia, Canada, and the USA. Their Studio is currently working to deliver a new library, a public glasshouse, a landscape for a school, several public sculptures, pavilions, and civic spaces, a skate park, and a library in a forest. They are also currently developing an affordable and sustainable model for artist housing, shaping an artists' commercial product collective, writing a book about how artists and creatives get un-stuck, and devising an exhibition for children.

### **About the Concept**

The working title for the proposed artwork is *The Moment*, and is based on a Margaret Atwood poem of the same name. The artist's concept will be to develop and design a unique, functional, permanent and sustainable sculptural pavilion to be installed outside of the Clayton Community Centre facility, informed by a process of community engagement activities (see Appendix "I"). These sculptural pavilions are constructed of sustainable materials, long lasting with unique designs.

The artist writes:

*"It is a universal desire to want to own one's home and land. The sense of achievement and safety this brings is enormous, and yet is now universally not possible for many. I sense this desire strongly in Clayton. Margaret Atwood's poem, The Moment, captures the dichotomy in this aspiration beautifully and asks of us to question ownership. This is especially*

*pertinent in relation to the concept of the commons, the idea at the heart of the Clayton Community Centre...The idea for The Moment begins with the notion of a belvedere (usually placed for a scenic view), a pavilion (a decorative building in a park), a bandstand (a circular structure with stage) and an agora (gathering place for athletic, artistic, spiritual, and political life of a town). We propose to make a sculpture that is also a civic structure. Inspirational, iconic and beautiful; The Moment will set a powerful concept for the future of the community centre, and create strong visual identity for the centre."*

## **Policy Considerations**

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, which identifies this location as a priority for public art investment.

## **FUNDING**

The artwork will be funded in two phases. In phase I the artist will be contracted for the Research and Design phase of this public art project for a fee of \$10,000 inclusive of all costs and taxes. Payment schedules will be based on deliverables for this phase to be outlined and agreed upon by the City and selected artist.

Subject to Council approval, it is expected that the artist will begin the next phases of the project in January 2018 and deliver the final Design Plan in May, 2018. This plan, which will describe in detail the form and design of the sculptural pavilion, will then be presented to Council for approval, before proceeding to the next phase of the project and the realization of the artwork.

Total funding for the Clayton Community Centre Public Art project, including the \$10,000 fee for research and design is \$300,000 and draws on 1.25% of the Clayton Community Centre's construction budget.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The public art at Clayton Community Centre 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 also 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 artists for the Clayton Community Centre public art project as generally described in this report.



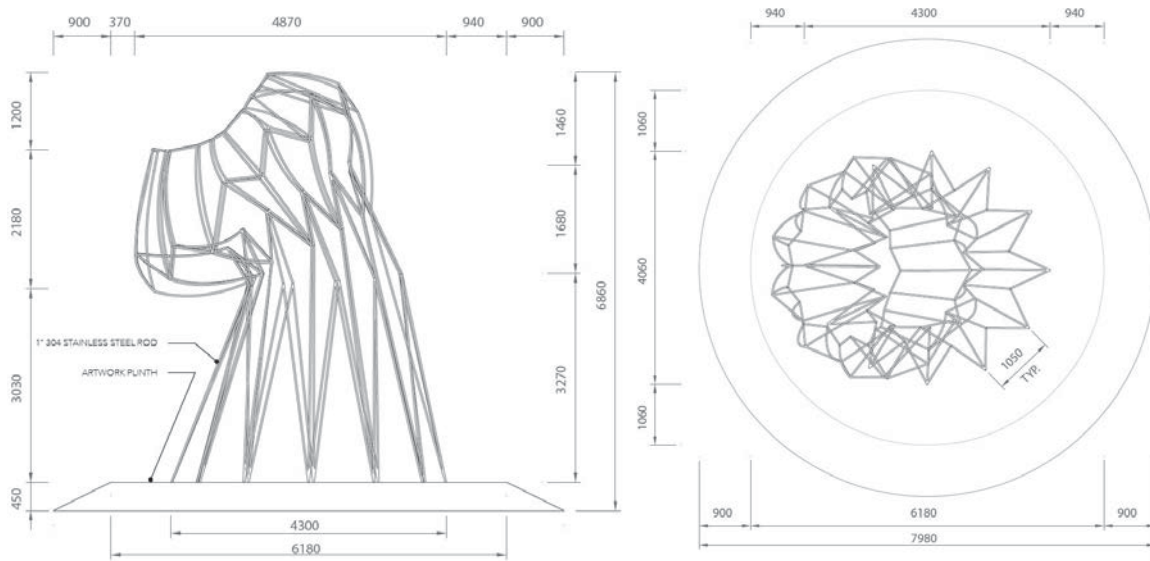
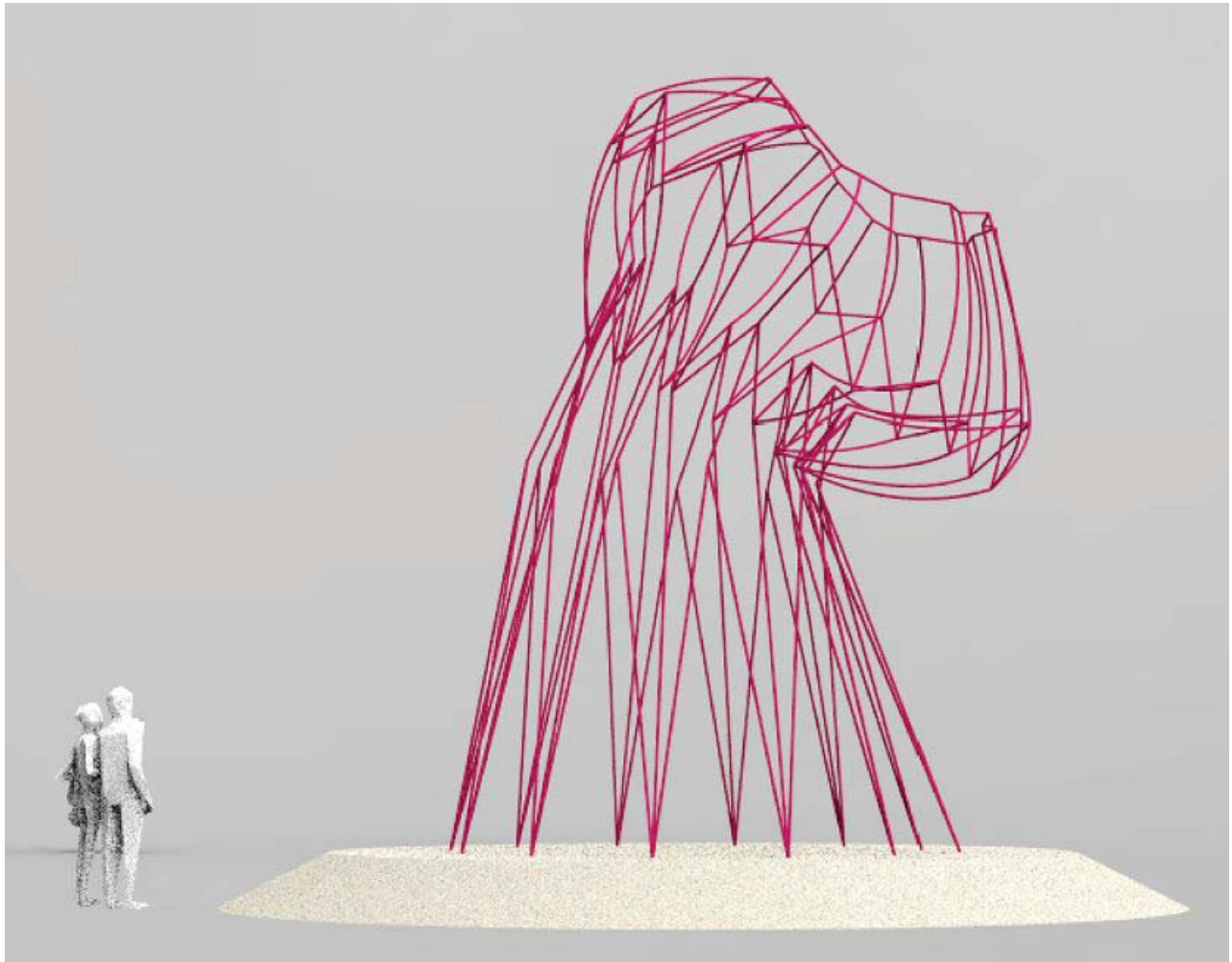
Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

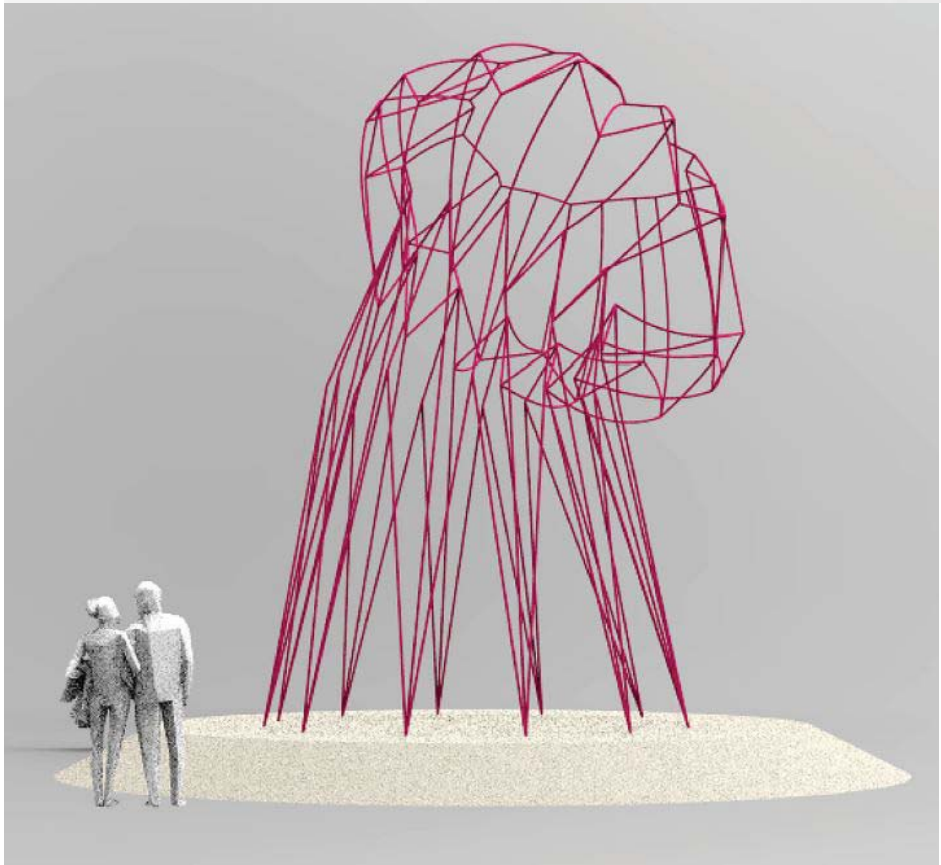
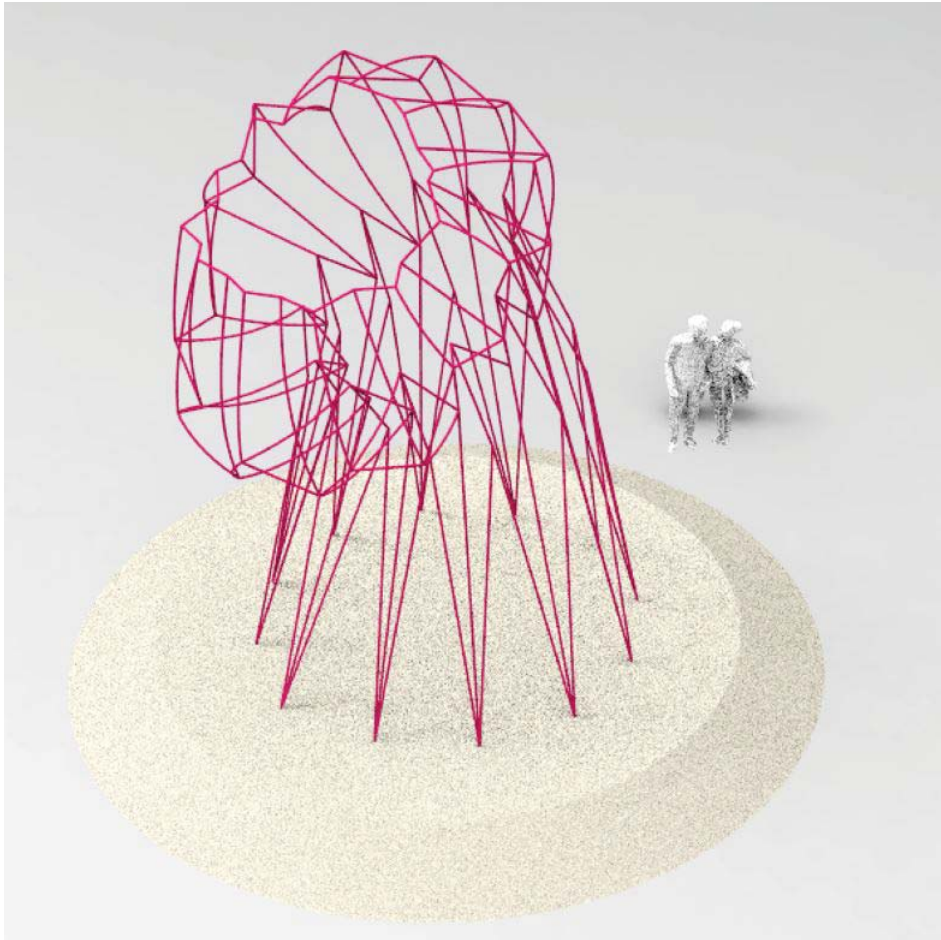
Appendix "I" – Studio Morison Proposal

j:\wpcentre\corprpts\2017\recommendation for clayton community centre public art project.docx  
SR 12/14/17 4:20 PM

Appendices available upon request

Design





## The Moment by Margaret Atwood

*"the moment when, after many years  
of hard work and a long voyage  
you stand in the centre of your room,  
house, half-acre, square mile, island, country,  
knowing at last how you got there,  
and say, I own this,*

*is the same moment when the trees unloose  
their soft arms from around you,  
the birds take back their language,  
the cliffs fissure and collapse,  
the air moved back from you like a wave  
and you can't breathe.*

*No, they whisper. You own nothing.  
You were a visitor, time after time  
Climbing the hill, planting the flat, proclaiming.  
We never belonged to you.  
You never found us.  
It was always the other way round."*

Margaret Atwood