

NO: R118

COUNCIL DATE: May 28, 2018

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **May 23, 2018**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **8000-30**  
SUBJECT: **Recommendation for North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex Indigenous Public Art Project**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to undertake contracts and implement artist Trenton Pierre's public art design for the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex as generally described in this report.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding the proposed design for public art for the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex and obtain Council approval for staff to implement the recommended public art design.

## BACKGROUND

The Public Art Master Plan recognizes that residents of Surrey value artwork that is reflective of the diversity of its cultural communities, including the work of Indigenous artists.

The *All Our Relations Social Innovation Strategy* report, Phase 2 of the Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project, recommends the City *Indigenize public spaces* (Goal #10). The creative enhancement of civic facilities and infrastructure with public art designs provides an opportunity to fulfill both the objectives of the Public Art Master Plan, and Goal #10 of this report.

As part of a strategy to create a cost effective opportunity to commission additional artworks by Indigenous artists, eight sites that would welcome creative enhancement were identified in consultation with stakeholders from Surrey Libraries, Civic Facilities, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, and the Engineering Department. Staff then initiated a process to be guided by recommendations from the Chiefs from Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations for commissioning and selecting preliminary designs by Indigenous artists for these locations.

Eight artists were invited by the Councils of Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations to create preliminary design proposals for one or more sites:

- Brandon Gabriel (Kwantlen);
- Drew Atkins (Kwantlen);
- Leslie Wells (Semiahmoo);
- Trenton Pierre (Katzie);
- Phyllis Atkins (Kwantlen);
- Roxanne Charles (Semiahmoo);
- Tony Gabriel (Kwantlen); and
- Wes Antone (Kwantlen).

On December 4, 2017, staff welcomed Elders from each Nation to review and provide recommendations on the proposed designs. Elders who contributed recommendations were:

- Barbara Calder (Semiahmoo);
- Hazel Gludo (Kwantlen);
- Verna Davies (Kwantlen);
- Cookie Schwartz (Katzie);
- Charles Moody (Katzie);
- Diana Evans (Katzie);
- Helen Johnson (Katzie);
- Leslie Bailey (Katzie); and
- Harry Pierre (Katzie).

Following the Elders' recommendation, which matched each artist to a venue, the City then invited each artist to develop their preliminary concepts into final designs. Five of these final designs by these artists were supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee, staff and venue stakeholders and approved by Council in December 2017 and April 2018 have now either been installed or are now in fabrication:

1. Brandon Gabriel's design will be installed on the Guildford Public Library windows;
2. Drew Atkins' design has been installed on the Surrey Arts Centre courtyard windows;
3. Leslie Wells' design will be installed on the Surrey Arts Centre program room window;
4. Phyllis Atkin's design will be realized as a creative enhancement to the façade of a concrete barrier to be constructed by Engineering as part of Bear Creek Bridge; and
5. Anthony Gabriel's design are featured on the 2018 City of Surrey public art street banners.

The artist Trenton Pierre of the Katzie First Nations was recommended by the Elders to propose a design for the North Surrey Sports & Ice Complex (Appendix "I").

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff invited the artist to develop a design to be fabricated specifically for the windows facing those entering the North Surrey Sport and Ice Complex. The artist was provided with guidelines for the scale and form for his concept: up to two compositions in the dimension of a pane of glass that would be completed when mirrored. This design would be repeated for each of the three windows. Staff assisted the artist to become familiar with the specific design requirements for this form of opportunity, successfully used for the public artwork design fabricated in frit on the Newton Recreation Centre glass façade. Frit is a method of printing and permanently fusing

ceramic ink onto glass. The most common form of frit printing is a series of white dots that also serve to diffuse light and mitigate solar gain.

At its meeting on May 3, 2018 the Public Art Advisory Committee (“PAAC”) received artist Trenton Pierre’s presentation of his proposed designs for the windows of the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex. Feedback from the PAAC identified the design of a guardian spirit mask along with a circular design, as their preference. PAAC also provided feedback that encouraged the artist to further enhance the eagle form in the mask and strengthen its message of reconciliation. Further reviews and support for the enhanced design were provided to staff by PAAC committee members Jim Adams and Diane Purvey.

The guardian mask design proposed by Trenton Pierre was also shared by public art staff with the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex design and construction project team including its architects, developers and construction managers:

- Scott Groves, Manager of Civic Facilities, City of Surrey;
- Trevor Massey, Operations Manager, Lark Group;
- Kyle Weiher, Project Manager, Lark Group;
- Dare Pekenik, Project Manager, Turnbull Construction Project Managers;
- Walter Francl, Principal, Francl Architecture; and
- Shea Treacy, Architect, Francl Architecture.

All representatives agreed and supported the proposed design by Trenton Pierre for approval and implementation on the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex windows facing those entering the building.

The construction team also received a recommendation regarding the organization of the coloured cladding to be used on the side of the building supporting the windows where the public art would be installed. The team supported the recommendation from Indigenous artists who requested consideration be made to organize a regular pattern of the panels such that the wall would represent the waves of water on the river and recall the pattern of Salish weaving. The construction team supported implementing this recommendation for this pattern, given that it would not increase the budget or change the materials required, and support the intention of the public art initiative to respond to the Indigenous history of this location.

The design presented here was reviewed and supported by the Elders of the Katzie First Nation (Appendix “II”).

### **Public Art Advisory Committee Recommendation**

The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture prepare a report to Council recommending the selected artist, Trenton Pierre of the Katzie First Nation, be commissioned to realize his proposal for the eagle guardian mask for the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex windows.

### **About the Artwork**

The artist’s intention for this public artwork is to contribute towards reconciliation. The design of the mask is also intended to be understood as a guardian who serves to protect the different users and functions within the building. The artist states:

*“I have called this mask "Guardian Spirit" because of the building’s purpose. The building will host many teams, events and gatherings for many races and colours. I wanted to have the guardians on the windows as a sense of protection over all that make use of the new building. I also want to show a design that reflected something our people hold sacred to our people, which are mask dancers. Our culture was almost lost due to residential schools and attempted genocide, but our people fought back to keep our cultures and traditions alive. Our masks and drums were burned in the time of colonization. We hid our masks away from the public in fear of losing them. Today we step into reconciliation and are proud of our culture. Being able to still practice "mask dancing" is a tribute to our survival.”*

The artist also shared the significance of the seven feathers to symbolize the seven s reconciliation: Courage, Humility, Love, Honesty, Truth, Wisdom, and Respect. The artist intended the mirroring of the two eagles that form the mask, to symbolize that in reconciliation we will be guided into the future, coming together as one.

### **About the Artist**

Trenton Pierre is a 28-year-old artist from Katzie First Nation. In 2016, he changed his career path from civil engineering to pursue art and to follow a path more aligned with his spirit. He creates artworks in a variety of mediums including custom made spray-paint murals and pictures. He has also worked with the school districts of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, to inspire young students with both his art and the stories of his life.

### **Next steps**

With Council’s recommendation, Trenton’s design will be translated into a digital file, for the purpose of fabrication in white dots on glass (the form of frit for this project).

The design will be on one or up to three windows. Each window measures approximately 4.6 m (15 feet) high x 10.2 m (40 feet) wide. Each of the 10 panes of glass that each approximately measure 1.2m (4feet) wide x 3.5m (11 feet) high. The spacing of frit to cover no less than 20% of the windows to fulfill the goal for solar gain mitigation on the west elevation.

In the event it is not possible to coordinate with the construction of the building to realize the design as a frit on the glass, another location will be found inside the building to present the artist’s design to the public.

### **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.

The recommendation of an artwork by an Indigenous artist complies with 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.

## **FUNDING**

Total funding for this public art project is approximately \$30,000, including design and consultation fees paid to the artist, test samples, set up a maximum of two custom screens for fabricating the frit (approximately \$8,000 per screen) and coordination costs for installation.

Funding for this public art component draws from 1.25% of construction of the North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex set aside for the purposes of commissioning public art. The cost for fabrication and installation of the frit glass is within the construction budget of the facility, as the frit glass is a solution to mitigate solar gain within the building.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

This initiative will assist in meeting the following Desired Outcomes (DO) contained within the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0 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".

This initiative supports the Community Theme of "Education and Culture" identified in the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0:

- 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".

This initiative supports the Community Theme of "Inclusion" identified in the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0:

- 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 authorize staff to undertake contracts and implement artist Tenton Pierre's public art for North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex as generally described in this report.

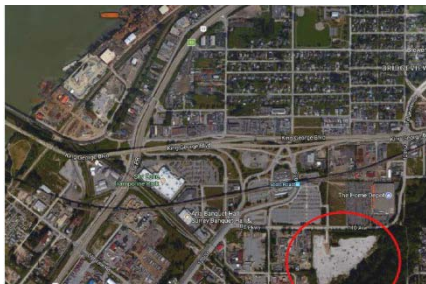
Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" – Public Art Site  
Appendix "II" – Proposed Design

Proposed Site for Public Art



This is an elevation rendering of the North Surrey Sport and Ice Complex's west (front) elevation. The artist's design will be incorporated into the groups of windows outlined in red.



A rendering of the building and an aerial photo of the site (encircled in red) showing its situation in relation to King George Boulevard, Pattullo Bridge, and Highway 17



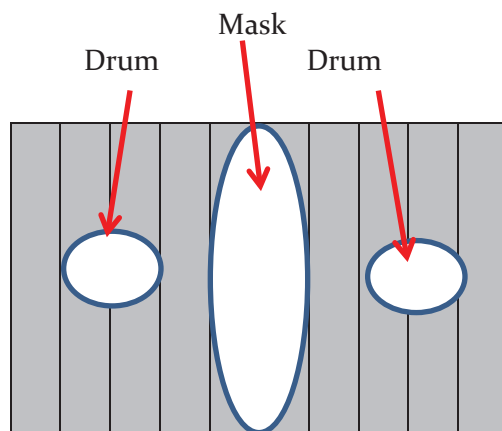
## Proposed Public Art Design for North Surrey Sport & Ice Complex Glazing

**Guardian spirits:** Reconciliation themed public art concept design for the windows of North Surrey Ice and Sport Complex:

**Artist: Trenton Pierre of Katzie First Nation**

This design features two forms intended to represent the living culture of the Katzie First Nation: a contemporary Salish dance mask of a guardian spirit (right) and a contemporary Salish drum (below). The artwork will be fabricated in white dots and will be presented on three windows in pairs.

Shown here are the concept pencil sketches, which will be further refined in its form when digitized into a vector file for fabrication



Following are the meanings for the symbols in the artwork

### **Eagle Mask form:**

- The eagle is a traditional and important symbol – here it represents a guide into reconciliation. In its spiritual form, the eagle brings wisdom of the past and present to guide us into the future. The eagle's head is presented sideways, with its claws forming the mouth and chin.
- The eagle when mirrored creates the mask design. The mask when worn dancing would transform the dancer into the spirit eagle – a supernatural being. The twinning of the design forms one eagle, and this also represents that in reconciliation we come together as one.
- The use of a mask is a tribute to the survival of masks as a Salish cultural form, as well as acknowledging the dances and dancers which are an important part of Salish culture and the ways of knowing, knowledge and wisdom they bring into the present

### **The cross hatching:**

- this texture recalls the marks made from carving traditional wooden masks in cedar. Cedar is very important to all coastal Indigenous cultures

### **The moons**

- along the sides of the eagle's heads are moons, representing time and change



### The feathers

- Feathers are often added to a mask's edges – and are often eagle feathers. There are eighteen feathers to represent the year 2018
- feathers above the people beneath are part of the mask and represent its supernatural power and shower people below with strength and courage to walk this journey of reconciliation together

### Silhouette of people

- this crowd of people represents all of us as one community, everyone holding hands, representing the entire world stepping together with First Nations people

### The Drum

- the drum represents the music and songs of the mask dancers
- on the drum is an image of the world we share: turtle island – the land of North America

### The bear family

- The pair of adult followed by cubs represents the importance of family and togetherness.

### The trees

- treeline represents the nature we have all around us, and the importance of the cedar tree to Salish culture

### Paddles

- we are all in the same canoe, and we must pull together into the future to succeed

### Seven Paddles

- the seven paddles represents the seven sacred teachings of the Katsie First Nation and the teaching of reconciliation:
  - o Courage;
  - o Humility;
  - o Love;
  - o Honesty;
  - o Truth;
  - o Wisdom; and
  - o Respect.

