

NO: R173

COUNCIL DATE: July 23, 2018

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 18, 2018**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **8000-30**
SUBJECT: **Recommendation for the Museum of Surrey Indigenous Public Art Project**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to undertake contracts and implement the artist team K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio, public art design for the illuminated sculpture outside the Museum of Surrey 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 Museum of Surrey and obtain Council approval for staff to implement the recommended public art design.

BACKGROUND

The Public Art Advisory Committee at its meeting on July 6, 2017 supported a motion to commission a new artwork to serve as a gateway marker for Cloverdale Town Centre and wayfinding for the Heritage Campus. This motion included support for repurposing an existing footing for the new public art commission. The footing currently supports a pylon LED sign located outside the Museum of Surrey as shown in Appendix "I".

On November 20, 2017, a community consultation meeting was held to provide recommendations on the theme and form for the illuminated public art sculpture. Stakeholders attending this meeting included youth and long-time residents as well as representatives from:

- Cloverdale Business Improvement Association;
- Cloverdale Community Association;
- Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce;
- Kwantlen First Nation;
- Katzie First Nation;
- Fraser Valley Heritage Rail Society;
- Heritage Services Community Advisory Board;

- Museum of Surrey;
- Surrey Archives;
- Cloverdale Recreation Centre;
- Cloverdale Public Library; and
- Public Art Advisory Committee.

Cloverdale stakeholders who participated in the consultation meeting recommended a significantly scaled and celebratory sculpture that tells a story and weaves together the ancient and diverse heritages of Cloverdale.

Informed by the community's recommendations, an open call to artists was posted on BC Bid, the City's Opportunities for Business webpage, the City's Public Art Opportunities for Artists web page, Creative City Network of Canada webpage, BC Alliance for Arts and Culture webpage, and through the City's public art e-newsletter.

A selection panel to evaluate the submissions received from artists was convened and included the following:

Selection Panel Members

- Alan Storey, Artist;
- Tumia Knott, First Nations Representative;
- Carole Cochran, Community Representative;
- Levi Giesbrecht, Community Representative; and
- Brian Leong, Community Representative.

Non-Voting Panel Members/Advisors

- Bob McMurray, Public Art Advisory Committee Representative;
- Julia Stewart, Public Art Advisory Committee Representative;
- Eric Andres, Community Advisory Group;
- Bill McNamara, Friends of Surrey Museum and Archives Society;
- Lynn Saffery, Museum Manager, City of Surrey;
- Ryan Gallagher, Manager of Heritage Administration and Facilities, City of Surrey;
- Paul MacDonell, Cloverdale Public Library Staff, City of Surrey; and
- Peter Joyce, Planning & Development Design & Construction Manager, City of Surrey.

City of Surrey Public Art Staff

- Liane Davison, Manager of Visual and Community Art; and
- Hossam Meawad, Public Art Coordinator.

On February 17, 2018, 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 six (6) artists for the developing of a competition proposal. These artists are:

1. Jill Anholt;
2. Phyllis Atkins, Drew Atkins, and Aaron Jordan (K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio);
3. Blessing Hancock;

4. Warren Langley;
5. Bill Pechet; and
6. Paul Reimer.

On February 23, 2018, an information meeting and site visit were conducted by staff for the shortlisted artists to review the location for the artwork; experience the community context and values; and review the expectations for this project. The shortlisted artists were then contracted to develop and present a competition proposals for an artwork.

DISCUSSION

On March 24, 2018, the six (6) submissions from the shortlisted artists and presentations of competition proposals were reviewed by the Panel. The Panel unanimously voted to recommend to the Public Art Advisory Committee the artist team K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio for this commission.

Public Art Advisory Committee Recommendation

At its meeting on July 5, 2018, the Public Art Advisory Committee received the selection panel's unanimous recommendation, reviewed the artist's preliminary proposal and in turn voted unanimously to recommend that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture prepare a report to Council recommending the selected artist team K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio for the Museum of Surrey public art commission.

About the Artwork

The working title for the proposed sculpture is "*The Rivers that Connect Us*".

The design of this public art sculpture presents four monumental paddles standing at 16'. They will encircle a 12' round medallion base, with a design inspired by the traditional form of a Coast Salish spindle whorl. Paddles standing up are presented to symbolize a traditional respectful and welcoming gesture; they are intended to recognize, welcome and honour the diversity and inclusiveness of newcomers to the City of Surrey and the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples. Four paddles represent the four races of people as well as the four directions.

The design of the paddles includes on the blades, the form of a Coast Salish eye. The designs in the medallion represent the seven (7) traditional teachings of the Coast Salish peoples: health, happiness, generations, humility, forgiveness, understanding, and teaching.

By having the paddles installed in a circular arrangement, the artwork's design also echoes the rounded architectural form of the original Museum of Surrey building.

The paddles will be fabricated from aluminum and polycarbonate and feature interior and exterior lighting. The medallion will be made from coloured concrete and will feature brass insets for the design elements. The concept design for this artwork is shown in Appendix "II".

About the Artists

Drew Atkins was born in Victoria, BC in 1962. He learned to carve long before he ever touched a knife to wood. As a young boy he spent many afternoons watching some of the early Masters carve at the Royal History Museum's Totem Pole Park in Victoria, planting a seed that would take root much later in life. He apprenticed under renowned Master Carver Xwa-lack-tun (Rick Harry) for eight years, working on many projects together. Drew owns and operates K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio & Gallery with his wife Phyllis Atkins.

Phyllis (Qwoy'tic'a) Atkins is an artist of the Kwantlen First Nation whose name means "I wear the clouds like a blanket" or "Shrouded in clouds." Her name comes from the Nl̓eʔkepmx language and it was given to her by her maternal grandfather Hereditary Chief Anthony Joe of the Shakan Band (Thompson River People). Phyllis is also part Sto:lo (People of the river). Phyllis has taken oil painting lessons from Barbara Boldt and hand-carved silver jewelry lessons by Master Carver Derek Wilson. She is a renowned painter and jeweler at their home on Kwantlen First Nation in Fort Langley.

Aaron Jordan grew up surrounded by artists and craftsmen of all mediums. Working for a few years in art galleries and museums led Aaron to attend Langara College to study fine arts. He went on to discover the world of film and was swept up by the creativity and diversity of the industry while working as a sculptor and carpenter building sets and props.

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 "Plan"). The Plan identifies this location as a priority site for the development of a public art feature to enhance the neighbourhood and fulfill plans for public art in the Cloverdale area.

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

Funding for the Museum of Surrey artist's contract of \$180,000 is sourced from 1.25% of the construction budget from the expansion of the Museum of Surrey and equally matched by funding from the private development public art reserve contributed from developments in the Cloverdale Town Centre. This budget is inclusive of all artwork costs such as detailed design, engineering, fabrication, transportation, installation, permits, insurance and taxes.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, it is expected that the artist will begin on this project in August 2018 and conclude with the final design and installation of an artwork before fall 2019.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The public art sculpture will assist in supporting the themes of Built Environments & Neighbourhoods, Education & Culture and Inclusion, contained within the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. Specifically, this project will support the following Desired Outcomes (DO):

- 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.
- 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.
- Diversity & Inclusion - 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 the artist team K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio, public art design for the illuminated sculpture outside the Surrey Museum as generally described in this report.

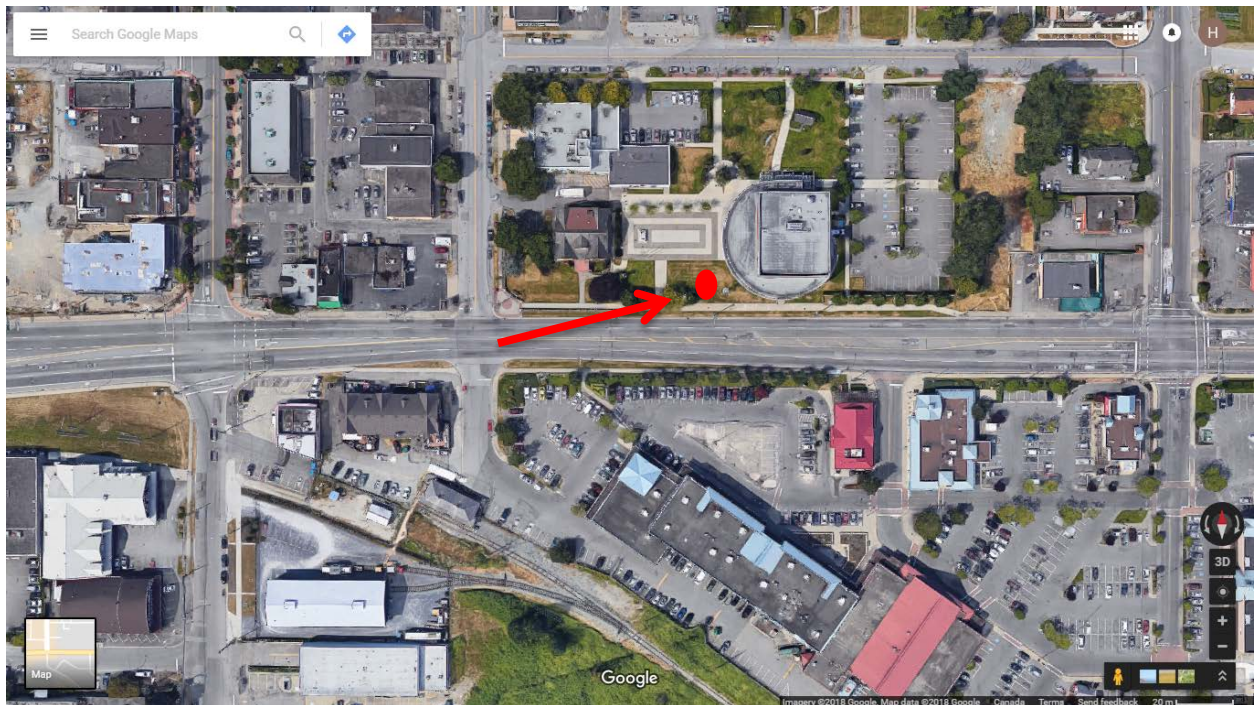
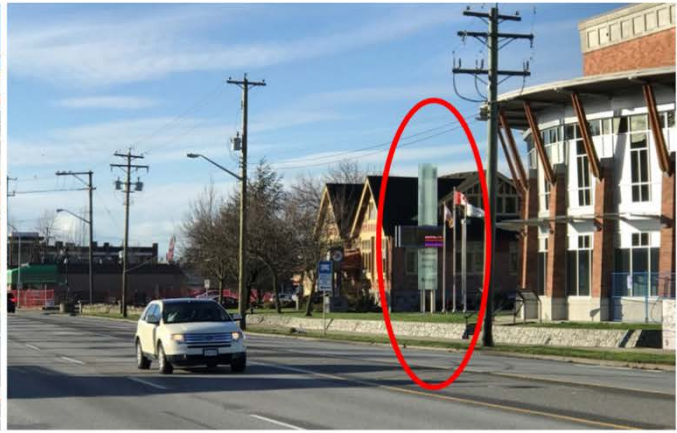
Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" - Artwork Location

Appendix "II" - Rendering of Competition Concept by K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio

APPENDIX "I"

Artwork Location



Rendering of Competition Concept by K'wy'i'y'e Spring Salmon Studio
The Rivers that Connect Us

