



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Karen Rennie, Manager of Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

Meeting Date: October 8, 2020

Subject: Report ACHAC20-019
Potential Public Art Opportunities 2021-2026

Purpose

A report to ACHAC to initiate discussion regarding potential public art opportunities.

Recommendation

That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC20-019 dated October 8, 2020 of the Manager of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Division, as follows:

That Report ACHAC20-019 be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budgetary or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

Background

This report identifies potential public art opportunities referencing the public art program and other municipal initiatives and priorities. There will be an opportunity for Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee members to comment and ask questions.

Public Art Program Scope –A Review

The scope of the Public Art Program includes five main areas: Public Art Capital Projects; Temporary Public Art Projects; Public Art Development and Arts Sector Advancement Program; Community Based Public Art Projects; and Special Projects.

1. Public Art Capital Projects:

Major permanent public art projects and initiatives integrated into the City's annual budget process and developed as a distinct component of a capital project through the planning and design stages of municipal construction, renovation or engineering projects; through project collaborations with departments across the corporation; and through the development of partnerships with community organizations and businesses, and/or project sponsorship. This work will become part of the civic collection.

2. Temporary Public Art Projects:

Artworks, installations or initiatives commissioned for a specific occasion, event or limited time frame. Temporary public art includes, but is not limited to, the visual arts, digital, sound art, performance or pop-ups and the establishment of public art platforms, such as a street art or hoarding art walls to exhibit rotating displays of art. Temporary public art will not become part of the civic collection and will only be maintained if damages occur within the intended life span of the project or initiative.

3. Public Art Development and Arts Sector Advancement Program:

Public Art opportunities created by encouraging provisions for public art in significant development and construction projects through the urban design and land use planning and/or community benefits charge process; and by commissioning artists to collaborate with architects, engineers and designers during the early stages of infrastructure design. As a member of the design team, the artist contributes to the overall design process, may identify opportunities for public art or be responsible for the -overall design in consultation with team members. The public art development and arts sector advancement program will assist private developers and other public entities acquire public art, create employment opportunities for artists working in a wide range of disciplines, and expand the presence of public art in neighbourhoods and communities across the city.

4. Community Based Public Art Projects:

Artworks produced by a self-defined community through collaborative creative expression and activity led by a professional practicing artist. This work will not become part of the civic collection.

5. Special Projects:

Public Art projects and initiatives that encourage artists to explore the process of creating art through alternative approaches such as artist residencies and artist mentorships, or artist/community-initiated projects where artists are invited to submit proposals for concept and locations of their own choosing.

2021 Strategic Directions

Given that major capital projects have been our focus for the last few years, and two will carry over to next year, the current economic climate and the pandemic crisis, the initiatives proposed to support the 2021 budget request reflect less complex scheduling considerations such as collaborations across the corporation and /or within the community where budgets can be shared.

The 2021 public art program priorities consist of four projects designed to enhance our civic spaces, provide opportunities to address current issues, support services and programs across the corporation, and promote economic development.

Transit Stop Shelter Project

The Transit Stop Shelter Project will turn bus shelters across the city into public art platforms for the temporary display of text-based works and/ or visual artforms. Developed in partnership with Infrastructure and Transportation, the 2021 goal is to create public art opportunities on 2-3 shelters per transit route. (There are 12 routes and 109 shelters throughout the city.) This project comes out of feedback from the Public Art Refresh engagement process and will provide employment opportunities for 36 visual artists or writers/poets biannually for the duration of the initiative.

Street Art/ Road Mural Project

Developed in collaboration with Infrastructure and Transportation, Planning, Accessibility, and various community groups, this initiative will encourage active transportation, and may also be targeted at ensuring responsible navigation of public spaces during the pandemic recalibration i.e. street art sidewalk extensions or physical distancing wayfinding at our outdoor markets or as deemed necessary at other events in support of public health and welfare.

The Public Art for Community Project (PARC) will create a new public art platform to activate the new Urban Park and engage the community. This could take the form of a moveable (and environmentally friendly) woodfired bread oven, artist garden projects such as moveable gardening containers for food production, or picnic tables, chairs and benches designed for physical distancing. The 2021 budget will be allocated to planning and community engagement, and to platform fabrication as construction of the Urban Park is completed.

The Art for Sustainability Advancement Project (ASAP) is a two-phase project that provides the framework and funding for artists in the community to participate in municipal environment, climate change and sustainability planning in phase 1, and to realize an innovative low-impact public art project in phase 2 (2022). Consider what we have learned from the pandemic: We have demonstrated we can come together with determination and resolve to find solutions for a global problem. What is the next right thing? What can be accomplished if we harness the same energy and turn our minds to the climate change crisis and sustainability planning? The timing is right to invite artists to contribute ideas and consider solutions.

Case for Support

Community and Economic Impact

- Projects of this nature create job opportunities for artists, enrich community groups programming and enhance the urban experience for the general public, all which contribute to a vibrant city image, increased tourism and economic growth. In addition, measures to ensure health and safety will increase consumer confidence and traffic.
- In consideration of the Urban Park's lengthy gestation period, public art projects that animate and give the public ownership of the space will be of great community benefit.
- COVID 19 has changed the way we move, and physical distancing measures may need to be in place for some time: The arts can play a part in recovery measures as we come together to adapt to and manage this crisis.
- As we try to make sense of or draw meaning from isolation, public art projects that provide a voice and creative outlet to large number of people will have great social value.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

All the proposed 2021 projects can be developed to communicate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. For example, the artist gardens can be used to support climate change strategies and messaging.

Looking Further Ahead

The Planning Department has identified the following sites to consider for public art opportunities.

Urban Park

A new building will be developed at the south end of the park. It will be residential and house park services as per the City's needs. Planning feels there is strong potential for a public art opportunity here.

Little Lake Loop — Small Park Sites

The land along the lake from Del Crary Park to the cemetery is slotted for landscaping within the next five years. This will provide an opportunity to consult with Planning about the landscaping around the Benchmark benches and perhaps commission more.

Charlotte Street

The streetscape in two areas along Charlotte Street is to be developed: Aylmer St to Water St and West of Aylmer. The streetscape west of Aylmer is to include bike lanes.

Development on George Street, south of Hunter

A new development on Hunter St will cover up an existing mural—a much-loved artwork by David Bierk. A plan to refurbish and move the mural to the north facing wall of the new building could be a good opportunity for an artist mentorship or community collaboration.

Development II on George and Simcoe

The courtyards behind these buildings are calling out for attention.

Large Developments to Consider

- Cleantech Commons at Trent - Servicing/street construction is underway. This is the ideal time to ask about public art.
- Heritage Park Development by the zoo - 2021
- Large park in the Mason Home subdivision on Chemong - 2021
- Park on Lansdowne east by the Independent Plaza - 2022 or 2023
- Ashborough Village phase II - i.e. Close to locks and golf course. - Beyond 2023

Submitted by

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