



City of
Peterborough

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

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

Meeting Date: September 16, 2021

Subject: Report ACHAC21-027
Public Art Update- Renaissance on Hunter Projects Summary

Purpose

A report to summarize the Renaissance on Hunter Projects

Recommendations

That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report ACHAC21-027, dated September 16, 2021 of the Manager of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Division, as follows:

- a) That the Committee receive the report for information, and
- b) That staff be directed to investigate similar initiatives in 2022.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no financial or budget implications related to the recommendation in this report.

Background

Project Overview and Intent

In April 2021, the City invited artists to submit proposals for two distinct but related public art projects: The Artists' Garden Project and The Road Mural Project.

Collectively named Renaissance on Hunter, the two initiatives called on artists to animate the lane closures along Hunter Street and transform the corridor into a welcoming and engaging pedestrian space for the warm weather season. This broadly defined call was intended to welcome a range of responses. Anchored by endorsements from the mayor and the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, it also gave artists an opportunity to think about how we may navigate the pandemic recovery together, and let healing begin.

“Over the past year we have faced many challenges, experienced great loss, and witnessed colossal social upheaval. As we enter and navigate the pandemic recovery together, the hope is that the Renaissance on Hunter will also support mental well-being and help us initiate much needed conversations to let healing begin.”

Mayor Therrien

"Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have turned to the arts for comfort. When we are willing to ask ourselves what it means to live together, and as we look towards healing, we must also look to our artists. For artists hold the possibility of hope in their creations."

— City of Peterborough, Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, 2021

Responses to the call came from emerging and established artists and ad hoc artist teams working in a range of disciplines and media.

The living artworks and network of murals they created for Renaissance on Hunter evoked ideas around ecology, sustainability and food security, diversity, inclusivity, resilience, and compassion.

Within a brief Hunter Street stroll the gardens and murals also reminded us of the vibrancy of our community, what it means to walk together or share a meal, and the joy of moving freely, playfully, and safely.

The Renaissance on Hunter is the first public art project of its kind in our city. It was developed in consultation with the Planning and Transportation Divisions and Accessibility Office, and is being presented in partnership with Artspace, the Downtown Business Improvement Area and GreenUp. It was administered and funded through the City's Public Art Program.

Team Building and Partnerships

The Renaissance on Hunter initiatives were designed to align with the 2021 Temporary Downtown Public Space Changes, in particular the traffic calming and mobility strategy for Hunter Street. That plan established one-way traffic maintained in the westbound direction creating a curb extension and temporary sidewalk space within the closed traffic lane to provide opportunities to maintain public safety along this corridor. A combination of portable planters and barricades in four areas were installed along the streetscape to de-mark the spaces, provide physical separation, and further enhance accessibility for those with low vision.

In early winter the Public Art Facilitator proposed using the four new pedestrian spaces created between Aylmer and Chambers Streets as sites for a series of temporary murals on the asphalt, and themed gardens/interventions in the planters. While awaiting Council approval of the Downtown Plan and as the plan was being implemented, Public Art worked with the Planning and Transportation Divisions, Traffic Engineers and Accessibility office to hone and refine the two initiatives.

i.e.

- Defining parameters for the call for proposals such as installation logistics, timing, and seeking support from Public Works. (Planning, Transportation and Accessibility)
- Identifying and sourcing a paint that would meet MTO requirements (Traffic Engineers)
- Deciding the final location of the planters (Planning, Accessibility and Public Works)

Partnerships were formed with the Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA), Green Up and Artspace to tap into the expertise within each organization and for logistical support.

i.e.

- The DBIA assisted with site coordination and business relations. They also provided soil for the planters, watered the plants and were responsible for general site maintenance (cigarette butt cleanup)
- Green Up served as resource for individual artists and for the Artists' Garden Project selection committee.
- Artspace supported Renaissance on Hunter by allowing us to use their empty gallery space as a paint depot and home base where Road Mural Project artists could mix their paint and store their equipment each day.

Project Budget

The Artists' Garden Project Budget was \$24,000. The total amount allotted to artists' commissions for the four sites was \$20,800. Individual commission values were based on the number of planters per site and ranged from \$4,000 to \$7,200.

The Road Mural Project Budget was \$30,500. The amount allotted to artists' commissions for the four sites was \$22,000. Individual commission values were based on site dimensions and ranged from \$3,000 to \$9,500.

Call for Proposals

The call for proposals for the Renaissance on Hunter projects was issued in late April and disseminated through the City's website, local media, and social media.

The calls were open to both emerging and established professional artists, ad hoc artist teams or collectives working in a range of disciplines and media. Partnerships and collaborations were encouraged to create opportunities for a variety of creatives to contribute.

The Calls for Proposals and Application Help Guides are located on the Public Art Program: [Artists' Garden Project](#) and [Road Mural Project](#)

The deadline for both projects was May 28th, 2021 at 5 p.m. Proposals were to be submitted online through the Submittable.com platform.

Artist Selection Process and Approval

Submissions

There were eight applications to the Artist's Garden Project and sixteen applications to the Road Mural Project. Many applications were from local artists, however we also received one from Toronto, and three from the US (Jacksonville, Fla; Denver, Calif; Baltimore, Maryland). The applications from the US we deemed unfeasible due COVID 19 restrictions and the closed border. Submissions received via email or after the deadline were also not assessed.

Selection Committee Composition

Applications were assessed by Selections Committees composed of community members. (2 ACHAC members and 3 members of the community at large with non-voting project partners and staff advisors as applicable to the projects)

Assessment

The Artists' Garden Project and Road Mural Project submission assessments took place at virtual meetings on from 5:00 to 7:00 pm Thursday June 3rd and Tuesday June 8th respectively.

Approximately one week prior to the meeting dates, committee members for both initiatives were provided with detailed instructions regarding the review process, and each project's mandate. At that time selection committees were granted access to the submission packages via Submittable and instructed to electronically vote prior to the meeting date. Applications were assessed considering artistic merit, relevance, and feasibility with a goal of selecting four designs for each project. I.e., four gardens and four murals. This process was repeated at the virtual meetings. The Selection Committee results were received by ACHAC at the June meeting and subsequently shared with the artists via email. All artists were invited to seek feedback on their applications.

Commissioned Artists

The Artist's Garden Project Artists

Site I Bonnie Kubica & Marcy Palmer **Project Name:** Hunter Shelter

Site II Anica James & Araura Marche **Project Name:** *Bee A Good Companion*

Site III Garrett Gilbert **Project Name:** Silhouettes of Field and Forest

Site IV Kollene Drummond Naomi Duvall **Project Name:** Food as Art

Road Mural Project

Site I Miguel Hernández Autorino & Casandra Lee **Project Name:** Picnic by Water

Site II Brooklin Holbrough & Undetermined **Project Name:** Dragon Migration

Site III Tia Cavanagh **Project Name:** Miikaans

Site IV Aaron Robitaille- Others not identified **Project Name:** Hopscotch PTBO

Artist bios and a description of the Renaissance on Hunter projects arranged according to site can be found at on the [Public Art Program webpage](#)

Project Workflow and Installation

The garden installations took place June 22nd to June 27th

The mural installations took place July 21st to August 5th.

Project launch

Due to COVID 19 restrictions no public project launches or ribbon cuttings were planned.

Documentation and Design

The installation of both projects was well documented by the public art facilitator, in local media (print and television) and on social media platforms. Upon completion local photographer, Wayne Eardley, was commissioned to document Renaissance on Hunter in stills which included a drone shot of the streetscape. Rob Wilkes of Big Sky Design provided design support throughout the project.

Summary

This report details the processes involved in the planning and installation of Renaissance on Hunter public art projects.

Public art Facilitator Wendy Trusler will provide an overview of feedback and recommendations for future initiatives of this nature.

Submitted by,

Karen Rennie
Manager, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

Contact Name:

Karen Rennie
Manager, Arts, Culture & Heritage Division
Phone: 705-742-7777, Ext.1442
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax: 705-743-2614
E-Mail: krennie@peterborough.ca