



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: March 12, 2015

Subject: Report ACHAC15-011
Update on Public Art Projects

Purpose

A report to provide an update on Public Art Projects for the current year.

Recommendation

That the Arts Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report ACHAC15-011 dated March 12, 2015, of the Director of Community Services as follows:

That the minutes of the February 2, 2015 and March 2, 2015 meetings of the Public Art Focus Group be received.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications resulting from the approval of the recommendation in this report.

Background

The Public Art Focus Group met in February and March and have decided to move forward on two Public Art Projects to be undertaken in 2015. The minutes of the meetings are being provided to members of the ACHAC for their information.

Submitted by,

Ken Doherty
Director, Community Services

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Minutes of the February 2, 2015 Meeting of the Public Art Focus Group
Appendix B – Minutes of the March 2, 2015 Meeting of the Public Art Focus Group

Report ACHAC15-011 – Appendix A

**Public Art Initiatives
Focus Group
February 2, 2015
Sutherland Room**

Present: Ken Doherty, Bruce Stonehouse, John Lockyer, Dennis Carter-Edwards, Celeste Scopelites, Finn Leitch, Brendan Wedley, Wendy Trussler, John Climenhage, Cathy Gogo (recording)
Regrets: Victoria Wallace

After welcome and introductions, the agenda was approved. D. Carter-Edwards, representing the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC), reported K. Doherty had provided ACHAC members with the Public Art presentation.

Interviews for new committee members for the Advisory Committees have been completed. The results of the recruitment process will be presented to Council at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on February 17th with final approval on February 23rd. The March meetings will be attended by the new members. Staff is encouraged to play an active role with committees. C. Scopelites and K. Doherty will accept any emails from people wanting to join the Public Art Committee, reporting to ACHAC. For each of the Public Art projects, there will be a steering committee, as per the Public Art Policy.

Project Priorities

Focus Group members felt the question about what we want Public Art to be was a priority. A review of the Public Art Policy followed.

The Municipal Cultural Plan addresses Public Art. Whether we want Public Art for tourism or for residents should be addressed. Council and the public need to be educated about why we are doing it. J. Lockyer said good work will bring people here. If we prioritize the quality rather than the place or the reason, everything else will sort itself out.

In regards to what drove the existing projects, the focus was to reflect on the community, to create works of art that would make people stop and think. The only Public Art the City was involved in without a juried process was Chaisson Pond; all the other projects were juried. The City established the location and the idea, then invited submissions. The Planning Department worked with the artist developing Esker, as there was potential for children climbing on it and possibly injuring themselves. The Benchmarks installations were driven by the the 100th anniversary of the City.

W. Trussler felt having a Fireman on the jury for the Firefighter Memorial strongly influenced the jury. This happens when there is a sponsor, but there will be some projects without a sponsor, e.g. Hunter Street bridge location. The DBIA contributed to

the downtown mural project, so will be the sponsor. We will encourage service clubs and other organizations to sponsor public art. The Rotary Club was not challenging to work with and they were pleased with the outcome. We also ended up with an interesting Fire statue. Political concern is why we go through a public process.

In Section 2.2 of the Public Art Policy, public art is described:

Public Art includes permanent or temporary works of art that serve a decorative or functional purpose. Examples of forms of art that could be displayed as public art include, but are not limited to, the following: Sculptures, murals, paintings, earthworks, landscapes, fibre works, neon, glass, mosaics, photography, prints, calligraphy, structural, tableaux, vignettes, or a creative display of an artistic or information nature.

The Chair read paragraph two of the Background section of the report that presented the Public Art Policy to Council for approval:

Public art reflects the identity of a community and gives a voice to the community. It gives meaning to place by interpreting the social, historical, cultural and natural environment. Public art enhances our quality of life, contributes to economic development and helps us to celebrate our rich history. It brings art to life for our citizens in many everyday settings and shows our commitment to local artists. Through public art, Peterborough residents will have access to art from local, regional, national and international artists.

There is a commitment to do the mural downtown for the DBIA but we don't have a site for it yet. The Mayor specifically mentioned Public Art as part of refreshing the downtown, but would like a longer plan. There have been missed opportunities for artistic input, e.g. bicycle stands, benches, etc. Staff in other departments of the City want to maintain control of projects. Landscape artists typically like to design on their own and don't include public art. At the last meeting of the ACHAC, committee members requested Brian Buchardt provide an update on his latest projects, so they can suggest artistic input.

The ACHAC has pushed the Municipal Cultural Plan as the lens through which Council will see future projects. Staffing has to be considered for projects, but there's no reason why we can't consider more than one project. We will need two subcommittees, preferably with different participants. Right now, the Hunter Street Bridge archways are covered in graffiti; the Utility Services Department asked if we could do something there.

When the Municipal Cultural Plan was under review, there was an interdepartmental committee so departments could talk to each other, but that was just for the MCP. Staff regularly meet with other departments for reviews, so discussions are happening on a regular basis. Public Art is the responsibility of this committee and the ACHAC.

Staff and the ACHAC have the budget and approval of the MCP. \$148,000 is available, and an additional \$80,000 can be requested for the 2016 budget.

C. Scopelites distributed and reviewed the draft of the DBIA Mural project. The process entails identification of location, a two-stage selection process with open call to artists, final selection and contract, then communications. The draft recommends clear objectives for the committee to take action and the artists to respond. This should be done this summer. The committee was positive about the Draft.

Part of the process will be investigation. City staff would like to see more done with the back alley-ways. When members of this committee meet with business owners who are interested, they should present options, such as grand murals vs small ones or longstanding murals vs short duration ones. Legal agreements with business owners will be dealt with on an individual basis.

The maintenance of the murals is an issue to be addressed. The fact that they are temporary installations will help. Some media lend themselves to long term preservation. We don't want to use the budget every year, and the artists' talents, only in the same areas. Some murals are not painted on the buildings. Graffiti artists don't want their work preserved for a long time; a year at most. Within the call, we should give artists the opportunity to say how long they want their work to remain.

The next step is for AGP staff to meet with DBIA. C. Scopelites asked for names of potential steering committee members for this project be sent to her by Friday.

J. Lockyer will lead a steering committee for the Hunter Street Bridge project and will plan a call to artists through Artspace. K. Doherty and possibly E. Hanson will participate on the Hunter Street project. The two project committees will return in a month's time to report to this over-arching committee on progress to date.

The next committee meeting will be Monday March 2 at 3 pm (changed to 3:30).

D. Carter-Edwards reported that RTO8 has launched an initiative to promote the visual arts for tourism. They encourage artists to match their art with food, or some other facet to broaden the potential for tourism. They want to promote some unique experiences involving partnerships or help artists to see what they can do in their studios. He will hear back from the consultant on this initiative. RTO8 also administers funding from the province for tourism initiatives. There is a deadline after March 30 for another round of funds. As long as there is a tourism focus, there is an opportunity for funding.

Report ACHAC15-011 – Appendix B

**Public Art Initiatives
Focus Group
March 2, 2015
Recreation Board Room**

Present: Wendy Trussler, Victoria Wallace, Jon Lockyer, Bruce Stonehouse, Celeste Scopelites, Dennis Carter-Edwards, Cathy Gogo (recording)

Regrets: Ken Doherty, John Climenhage, Brendan Wedley, Fynn Leitch

1. The Chair distributed photos of murals in Quebec City, showing the different seasons and some history of the area.
2. The Chair added an item under #5 in the agenda, i.e. Public Art for the City Hall staircase. The agenda was approved.
3. Approval of the minutes of the February 2, 2015 meeting was moved by J. Lockyer and carried.
4. Comments from ACHAC re Public Art
As D. Carter-Edwards had not yet arrived, the Chair provided comments. The committee met last week, and mentioned they would like to see Public Art in Council Chambers. They agreed that the display of the Group of Seven works created a strong force in the town of Huntsville. The ACHAC members were surprised we didn't have the City Hall staircase as a higher priority.
5. Project Development
 - a) DBIA Mural Steering Committee
Celeste distributed notes from the February 26 meeting that showed a timeline for the selection of location and artist for a downtown mural, to be installed by the fall of 2015. In the future information session to be provided to business owners, she will have images of mural ideas to demonstrate some of the available options. The committee will choose the site based on suitability for the first mural, and the Call to Artists will happen after the site has been selected. The artists would have three to four weeks to submit their ideas. The City's Legal Services, City staff, and the DBIA all need to be involved, and the process will have to work around the temporary move of the Art Gallery. Three artists will go to the second stage, and the final selection will be made by July.

We have limited resources, so the mural idea will need to be discussed further, once we have some businesses on board. Then we can develop a timeline to keep murals under development, but not restrict ourselves to only doing murals. The short list would have to be refreshed, e.g. five key mural sites. This would also solve the issue of the lifetime of the murals, gives us flexibility and provides opportunities for artists. This can be

considered as we progress. We need to see responses from the downtown core, and we need to define goals for the long term.

The committee would open up the Call to the regional level (excluding Toronto). The region is the same area defined by the Art Gallery. This is also open to discussion. Artspace also has a similar regional circle, i.e. Kingston, Oshawa, Haliburton.

C. Scopelites would like to have another meeting of the mural steering committee next week. Honourariums will be provided to artists who are asked for maquettes. Finalists could have their ideas on display at the Art Gallery and this would assist in the community's understanding of the Public Art juried process. C. Scopelites would prefer this display to happen after the winner has been chosen, instead of allowing public input into the decision because the business, as sponsor, will have input.

b) Hunter Street Bridge Steering Committee

J. Lockyer has a working committee from the Artspace Board. The timeline for the graffiti project is similar to the DBIA mural project. They will close the Call to artists in the first week of May. Content will be explicitly street art; they do not want to include artists with more traditional practices. This makes it distinct from the mural project and lends itself well to the site. The two archways will be staggered on a two-year shelf life; each year, one would be re-done. This is a good length of time for this type of art. The response from the public and City staff will determine how this goes. Traffic in this area will be increasing. In this location, there is no need to work with businesses, the bridge is there to stay and the City needs a solution for this area.

A provincial Call to Artists is preferred. Street Art is an emerging practice in Peterborough, and a professional level is required, broader than simple tag-based graffiti art. The jury will decide ultimately on type. The budget is not yet known, but may include materials and maintenance as well as artist fees. Artists will understand their responsibility to their mural ends once it is complete, within a reasonable time frame. Late July would see the installation begin. The artist is limited to a two-dimensional piece in this space. Lighting is poor and this is something the City would like to address. Brightening this location will be built into the Call. The Call will be structured similar to the way Artspace issues them. Artists would be welcome to collaborate on the installation. A second place artist could be asked to re-apply when the next Call is issued. Scheduling the Call in May should allow enough time to coordinate cleaning or treatment of the surface if it is required by the medium.

The Chair asked if J. Lockyer could return to the next meeting with a budget. This budget will be ongoing from year to year.

c) Public Art Committee membership

The Chair reminded the Focus Group that more members are required for the Public Art Committee.

There was further discussion about the interest expressed by the ACHAC members in a third project, the City Hall staircase. We want to avoid circumvention of the Public Art process for this. The collection of the Art Gallery belongs to the residents of Peterborough, and hanging some of the large pieces in this location would increase public awareness. The Chair asked members to think about this idea for the next meeting, i.e. using some of the AGP collection as a placeholder in this area. The cultural diversity in the Municipal Cultural Plan can be emphasized, and ideas are needed. We also need to consider the optics of making this area a priority.

d) Visual Arts and Tourism

There was nothing further from RTO8. The City of Kawartha Lakes is looking at theatre productions around the waterway theme. RTO8 provides funding for tourism initiatives.

The next meeting will take place March 30, 2015 at 3 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm, and some committee members went to look at the City Hall staircase area.