

**Public Art Initiatives
Focus Group
March 30, 2015
Sutherland Room**

Present: Ken Doherty, Bruce Stonehouse, Celeste Scopelites, Fynn Leitch, Wendy Trussler, Jon Lockyer, Dennis Carter-Edwards, Cathy Gogo (recording)
Regrets: John Climenhage, Victoria Wallace, Terry Guiel

It was proposed that item 4 on the agenda be deleted, and the agenda was approved.

D. Carter-Edwards moved the following motion:

That the minutes of the March 2, 2015 meeting be approved. Carried.

D. Carter-Edwards provided an article on graffiti art, which described how its use had turned a neighbourhood around for the better. The City of Toronto had created a structure, budget, and program with artists in a lead role, and this is a great case study. Attention and the provision of designated spaces for that kind of work for artistic expression is increasing; corporations are not interested in this.

Comments from ACHAC

The conversation at the last ACHAC meeting was about having input too late in the process for the gateway signage design. The Municipal Cultural Plan indicates proposed City projects should be viewed through a cultural lens; consultation needs to happen earlier. The ACHAC members will be invited to meet with Architect, Brian Basterfield and City Planner, Brian Buchardt. The Public Art Initiatives Focus Group members should also attend. City Council has directed further meetings take place on the design.

C. Scopelites attended one of the consultation meetings. She understood the platform space in the design was for public art and there is potential for public art in the median strip of the road. This could represent two phases for public art installations. Public Works staff in attendance discussed modifying the street poles. There are many constraints at that intersection. ORCA representatives were also present as there are wetland challenges in the area. This may not be the best place for Public Art.

The gateway design will be installed at four locations, and needs the maximum public support. Focus Group members are interested in participating in the process.

It was suggested water features, such as fountains, could be added to the design.

It is important for Planning staff to hear that the community wants to be involved in projects relating to the cultural sector at all stages. Directional signage design is a future project that presents an opportunity for cultural input.

Steering Committee Project Development

DBIA Mural

Celeste reported there has been no movement on the project; she has been working on the contract for the coordinator position.

Hunter Street Bridge

Jon Lockyer circulated the timeline for the graffiti project under the arches of the Hunter Street Bridge. He proposed an annual budget of \$25,000 to include artist fees, travel and materials. Surface treatments, lighting, scaffolding, rental costs for special equipment such as hydraulic lifts, and associated health and safety training requirements for artists are possible expenses that may cause the project to approach an upper limit of \$30,000. The call for submissions will be an annual event. City staff, especially from Public Works, will be involved at every step along the way. The timeline is considered possible, as resources are in place to move quickly and the medium allows for this.

The necessary budget approvals are in place, and the competitive process is aligned with the City's Purchasing Policy. Artspace will decide how to disseminate information, and K. Doherty will meet with the City's Customer Service Coordinator. This is an opportunity for a "re-launch" of the Public Art program, and the message should encourage maximum public support.

J. Lockyer moved the following motion:

That the annual budget for the Hunter Street Bridge graffiti project be in the range of \$25 - \$30,000, all in. Carried.

City Hall Staircase Landing

C. Scopelites suggested a piece from the Art Gallery collection be displayed in the space upstairs in City Hall, where the television has been hung. A strong piece by John Climenhage, measuring 60" X 60" is proposed to be displayed with a plexiglass cover. This piece by a local artist tells a story and is considered a good starting point as a bridge for Public Art. The piece will work with the brightness of the space. It is proposed it could remain there until the fall. K. Doherty will discuss this project with the CAO. This can be considered a pilot project to "stake the area". If approved, communications will take place in May.

D. Carter Edwards moved the following motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm

Next meeting will be April 27, 2015 at 3 pm.