



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: 2005-11-17
Author: Bryan Newson
Phone No.: 604.871.6002
RTS No.: 05570
CC File No.: 3130
Meeting Date: December 13, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director, Cultural Services
SUBJECT: 2005 Community Public Art Grant Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve four Community Public Art grants totalling \$62,122 to the organizations listed in Table 1, subject to the resolution of any outstanding issues arising from the final siting, engineering and safety reviews to the satisfaction of the Managing Director of Cultural Services; source of funds to be the 2005 Community Public Art budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager RECOMMENDS approval.

COUNCIL POLICY

The Community Public Art Program has since 1994 supported artist/community collaborations on projects that create permanent artworks and enhance communities through artistic features and the community development process required to create them. On June 28, 2005, Council allocated \$75,000 to this Program for 2005, on the understanding that projects recommended for funding would be reported back for Council's consideration.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

SUMMARY

This report recommends the allocation of \$62,122 to four projects set out in Table I, with source of funds to be the Community Public Art budget approved by Council on 28 June 2005.

PURPOSE

This report describes the Community Public Art Program; the project applications; and the evaluation process on which the recommendations are based.

BACKGROUND

The Community Public Art Program supports artist/community collaborations on projects that address community needs and aspirations. Initiated by artists or by communities or jointly, projects offer an experience of art in neighbourhood settings and build community through collaborative creative activity. Since 1994, funds have been granted to 75 projects involving at least as many artists, and several thousand community participants. Due to its community focus and complementary relationship to the Park Board's Artist in Residence and Neighbourhood Matching programs, City and Park staff jointly undertake program advertising, community workshops, and technical reviews.

Program Criteria

The Program encourages a balance of artistic excellence and community development, favouring projects that:

- Present a clear and well-developed plan of action and budget
- Propose art legacies that are new, innovative, technically feasible, and respond to a broadly supported community ambition
- Demonstrate strong community support and involvement in project concept, design and/or implementation

Many other factors are considered, including linkages between art projects and other City or community processes (e.g., Greenways; school initiatives; working with street involved youth); and the presence (or lack) of other art projects in the area.

Review Process and Panel

This year the applications were reviewed by a four-member review panel consisting of two community and two staff members. This year's community panellists were Rita Beiks, artist, YVR art curator, and 2002 Program participant as an artist; and Roy Crowe, a community development consultant. Prior to review by the panel, a preliminary review for eligibility and technical feasibility is conducted by staff from Planning, Engineering, Cultural Affairs, and Parks. Applications are then reviewed by the panel including a tour of proposed art sites. After extensive discussion, the panel recommended those projects which, in their collective opinion, most closely matched Program goals and criteria.

DISCUSSION

The Community Public Art Program is advertised in community newspapers and public meetings are conducted to discuss proposals and opportunities. This year, eight applications requesting in total \$ 178,072 were received. Four applications (outlined in Table 2) were disqualified during the preliminary technical review: one because the project was temporary (Program criteria preclude event or ephemeral-project funding); one because no artwork was produced; and two because the proposals were slated for major waterfront parks requiring more community consultation, and Park Board permission, before funds could be recommended. These last two projects have been referred back to Park Board for further discussion with the proponents.

Projects Recommended in **Table 1**, below, are discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**. Projects not recommended are listed in **Table 2**. Program guidelines are attached as **Appendix B**.

Table 1 – Projects Recommended

Community Organization	Project	Request	Recommended
B.E.S.T.	Bike Tree	25,000	25,000
Happy Corner Parent Preschool	Falaise Mural & Mosaics	15,650	15,650
Riley Park Community Assn.	Stepping Thru Neighbourhood	1,472	1,472
Strathcona BIA	Open Windows	<u>30,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Totals		\$72,122	\$62,122

Table 2 – Projects Not Recommended

Community Organization	Project	Request	Recommended
Arts Starts in the Schools	We Are here	3,000	0
Lac Viet Education Society	Boat People--Canadian Spirit	50,000	0
Simon Fraser University	History of Sex Work	20,000	0
Squamish Nation	Palms Project	<u>32,950</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals		\$105,950	\$0

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council approved \$75,000 for the 2005 Community Public Art Program on June 28, 2005. Of this amount, approximately \$2,500 has been spent on program administration including advertising and community meetings. If all grants recommended in this report are approved (\$62,122), approximately \$10,378 will remain for allocation to future public art capital projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no negative environmental implications to these projects. The Bike Tree project reinforces City initiatives to promote cycling.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Community public art projects have very successfully brought communities together and built bridges between cultures and generations.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends that Council approve grants totalling \$62,122 to the four organizations listed in Table 1. All grants would be released on the authority of the Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, when any outstanding technical matters are resolved.

* * * * *

Community Public Art Projects Recommended:**BEST Bike Tree****Recommended: \$25,000**

This project sponsored by Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (B.E.S.T.) proposes to develop a prototype bike rack in the form of a tree. A preliminary review by Engineering Services has determined that the project is promising, and a number of organizations have expressed interest in hosting the installation of the prototype. The first model will be sited at Science World, the terminus of the Central Valley Greenway bike route. If successful, subsequent models could be sited at strategic locations such as transit stations, other bikeways, etc.

Happy Corner Falaise Mural & Mosaics**Recommended: \$15,650**

Parents from the Happy Corner Preschool have consulted extensively with the neighbourhood, including parents and staff from the nearby school. This project would provide a mural on a wall of the preschool that faces a story-telling area, what would be decorated with colourful mosaics.

Riley Park Community Association “Stepping Through our Neighbourhood”**Recommended: \$1,472**

Riley Park Community Centre Association is taking a lead role in helping this active community group consult residents, determine locations, select artists, and provide the meeting and workshop space necessary to create a series of boulevard-based mosaic “stepping stones” to be placed along 23rd Avenue between Quebec and Ontario streets.

Strathcona BIA “Open Windows”**Recommended: \$20,000**

The BIA is sponsoring a project to address the barricaded facades of many addresses along the 300-block Powell Street. Some barricades are attractively fashioned of designed wrought iron, but others consist of bars on windows and doors. Properties include private residences, institutions (mostly owned by St James Church) and businesses. Project proponents will work with property owners on a pilot project to “open” the building entrances to the street and to create a more inviting streetscape. Working primarily with the properties owned by St. James, they will create artistically pleasing address designs and set them into boulevards and sidewalks. They will also encourage all property owners to remove unnecessary barricading, in an effort to re-open the buildings to the street.

APPENDIX A
PAGE 2 OF 2**Projects Not Recommended:****Art Starts in the Schools**

This project proposes to signal the May, 2006 opening of the ArtStarts facility, a City space created through the Amenity Bonusing Program, at the corner of Richards and Robson streets, by having Vancouver students create a large chalk mural on the street. This project does not meet the Community Public Art Program requirement to create lasting art legacies (permanent artwork) and is therefore not recommended for support.

Boat People—Canadian Spirit Sculpture

Lac Viet Public Education Society proposes to create an interpretive sculpture at a waterfront location as a means of informing their children, and the community at large, about their origins as boat-borne refugees who fled Vietnam at the end of the war. This is a substantial proposal strongly supported by the Canadian Vietnamese community. Park Board could not support the request for a major waterfront Park location without an extensive community consultation, and project proponents have been referred back to Park Board for consultations on the processes for identifying a site and consulting the community.

History of Sex Work

This project, sponsored by the Community Education Program at SFU Downtown, proposes a research project focused on sex workers. The intent is to reclaim their history and explore complex issues in the sex industry. The project would result in the display of research material and documentation, including a video. This is valuable work but does not meet the Program's requirement to leave a permanent artwork legacy.

The Palm Project

Squamish and other First Nation artists propose to collaborate with a Mexican artist on a project that would articulate issues of shared aboriginal experience in Vanier Park. Park Board could not support the proponents' choice of Vanier Park without a major community consultation, and the proponents have been referred back to Park Board for consultations on the processes for identifying a site and consulting the community.



CITY OF VANCOUVER, Office of Cultural Affairs

Community Public Art

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Site: City Square Mall, East Tower,
Suite 330, 555 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.
Mail: 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4
Phone: 604.871.6000 *Fax:* 604.871.6005
E-mail: publicart@vancouver.ca
Web: Vancouver.ca/publicart

Deadline: October 28, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

This program supports collaborations between artists and others on projects that address community needs and aspirations.

Program Goals

- ❖ To encourage the creation of permanent artworks having artistic merit and community benefit
- ❖ To foster community pride, identity, and cohesion through collaborative artistic endeavour and the creation of lasting artwork legacies
- ❖ To support local leadership in community art projects while respecting the role of creative artists and other design professionals
- ❖ To reflect the diversity, needs, and ambitions of the larger community

Examples can be viewed at vancouver.ca/publicart - click on Art City. Sponsoring organizations have included Community Centre and Residents Associations, Neighbourhood Houses, Parent Advisory Committees, arts organizations and other not-for-profit Societies.

How It Works

This is a competition. A total of \$75,000 is available, typically allocated to 4 or 5 projects. Please explore other institutional funding sources - Park Board, Canada Council, foundations - and look for community support in the form of materials, services, and cash.

Projects need to engage neighbourhood residents in site selection, in imagining possible art work in collaboration with artists, and in aspects of creating the actual work.

Proposals should:

- ❖ identify potential site(s)
- ❖ detail who would lead the project
- ❖ describe the scope of the artist or design professional's role
- ❖ identify a non-profit society that can receive funds on behalf of the project

Exact details of the proposed work do not need to be determined at the application stage. It is enough to describe what makes the project or potential site important to the neighbourhood, what you have done to seek additional support, and to describe the skills you are looking for in an artist or design professional. Please don't over specify the details of the art work without first involving a qualified artist. This program is about collaboration, so leave room for the artists to make a creative contribution.

If you have an artist in mind, or the application is coming from an artist, please provide a resume and 6 slides of previous work

How Decisions are Made

City staff first review applications to ensure the proposed project meets program requirements and is technically feasible. An Advisory Committee then reviews the applications and recommends projects for approval. This committee includes artists, program staff, a youth representative, and persons with experience in community initiatives.

The Advisory Committee evaluates proposals for artistic merit, the quality of the community process, and the relevance of the site to the neighbourhood or larger community.

- ❖ Community process is evaluated by the level of community leadership, the cultural diversity of community participation, and evidence of support by community groups and individuals who may donate funds, materials and services.
- ❖ Art sites should be identified in the application, and their significance to the neighbourhood or larger community described.
- ❖ Artistic merit is evaluated by the quality of production, project innovation, and the intent of the proposed work for that site, in the context of its surroundings. If the project artist is part of the application team, their training, experience and previous work is part of the evaluation.

City Council makes the final decision, usually in January. Successful applicants must sign a memorandum of agreement with the City. Ten percent of the grant is retained until receipt of documentation and a final report.

Project Requirements

- ❖ Apply under the auspices of a non-profit Society.
- ❖ Propose permanent art work that is safe, vandal resistant, and requires little or no maintenance.
- ❖ Propose art work that is publicly accessible and located on public lands such as City parks, boulevards, Greenways, or buildings. Sites owned by the Federal and Provincial government may also be explored.
- ❖ Consider future maintenance needs and explain who would provide it.
- ❖ Approval of the site owner (e.g., Park Board, Engineering Department, School Board) is required; School or Park Board financial participation is required if there are charges for installation of the art work by third party contractors or Board staff.
- ❖ Document the support of residents adjacent to the proposed installation site.
- ❖ Demonstrate the capacity to undertake and complete the project within one year.
- ❖ Projects cannot be funded retroactively, and cannot receive funds from other City Cultural Grant programs.

Business Improvement Areas or Shopping Districts

BIA's are welcome to contribute to neighbourhood identity as co-sponsors for projects in BIA districts if artistically innovative art works are proposed. The program does not fund street banners or "Welcome to..." neighbourhood signs. Please contact City staff.

Where Does the Money Come From?

For the past several years, City Council has allocated \$75,000 to the Community Public Art Program. City Council sets all grant policies and makes all final decisions on grant recommendations.

How to Apply

Check the City's web site vancouver.ca/publicart and search Art City for images. This will also link you back to the Office of Cultural Affairs home page - check public art and community public art. The City website also has past City Council Reports for previously-approved projects.

For information about Neighbourhood Matching and Artist in Residence programs, look up the Parks and Recreation page on the City website and follow the links.

See also:

www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca (Arts and Culture)

www.canadacouncil.ca/grants (Artists and Community Collaboration Fund)

Contact Program Staff

This is a chance to get feedback on your ideas and for staff to check if the activity is generally eligible for funding. You can ask for an application form at this stage.

Go to the Information Meetings

Thursday, September 15th & 22nd

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Roundhouse Community Centre

Davie at Pacific

Wednesday, October 12

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Roundhouse Community Centre

Davie at Pacific

Cultural Affairs and Parks staff will cover the key issues: planning a project, budgeting, community participation, artistic merit. Question and answer session. Application forms will be available.

Our staff welcome the opportunity to meet with neighbourhood groups, or groups of artists etc. Please contact us so we can check our availability, and let us know how many people from your group will attend. If it is fewer than three people, come and see us at the information meetings.

Workshop

Wednesday, October 12 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Roundhouse Community Centre, Davie at Pacific

This is a workshop for people who have filled in a draft application form and would like to get feedback on the specifics of budget, site, technical or other issues. Get a one-to-one discussion with City staff about your draft.

If you haven't drafted an application and simply need information, you are welcome to come at 6:00 p.m. for a one hour session.

Important Dates

Information Meeting

Thursday, September 15th & 22nd

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Roundhouse Community Centre

Davie at Pacific

Workshop

Tuesday, October 12

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Roundhouse Community Centre

Davie at Pacific