



CITY OF VANCOUVER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A10

Report Date: July 3, 2008
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VanRIMS No.: 08-0200-20
Meeting Date: July 22, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Co-Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, Policy, Planning and Infrastructure

SUBJECT: 2008 Public Art Project Allocations from Capital

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the allocation of \$450,000 to the following projects:
- i. \$200,000 to the Olympic and Paralympic 2010 Winter Games Public Art Program;
 - ii. \$100,000 to the Main Street Showcase Public Art Project;
 - iii. \$50,000 to begin restoration of the Mungo Martin Totem Pole at Kits Point;
 - iv. \$25,000 to the Park Board Environmental Art Project in Stanley Park;
 - v. \$75,000 for ongoing project management and Program administration;

Source of funds to be the 2008 Public Art Capital Budget.

- B. THAT Council give the Director of Legal Services standing authority to execute, on behalf of the City, agreements with artists and others respecting the projects above, provided the documents are drawn to her satisfaction in consultation with the Co-Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs, Policy, Planning and Infrastructure.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager supports Recommendations A and B.

COUNCIL POLICY

City Council adopted the Public Art Program for Civic and Private Development in 1990. In 2007, the Program underwent the first comprehensive review since its inception. The resulting Program revisions and plan were adopted by Council on June 26, 2008.

SUMMARY

This report recommends the allocation of \$450,000 in approved Public Art Capital Funds to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Plan (\$200,000) and to projects with partners at Translink (\$100,000) and Park Board (\$25,000). Funds are also recommended to initiate the restoration of the Mungo Martin totem pole (\$50,000) and to manage new and ongoing public art projects (\$75,000).

BACKGROUND

The Public Art Program works with civic departments and others to commission artwork for public places. Civic public art processes develop artworks at new and existing City and Park capital projects, and in neighbourhoods by means of artist and community collaborations. The Civic Public Art Program is funded through the Capital Plan. The Private Sector Program provides options and guidelines for developer-sponsored public art when artwork is required as a condition of development. With the exception of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Plan, the projects recommended here complete the current Capital Plan cycle (2006 - 2008). Project requests from future Capital Plans will reflect the Program revisions Council approved on June 26, 2008.

In 2006, City Council approved \$1 million for public art as part of the 2006 - 2008 Capital Plan. On May 15, 2008 (RTS #7330), Council approved \$450,000 for civic public art projects as part of the 2008 Basic Capital Budget.

DISCUSSION

1. 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Plan: \$200,000

In January, Council adopted a comprehensive 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Plan. That Plan proposed two commission streams to fulfil Vancouver's public art ambitions: a series of major (legacy) artworks commissioned for Olympic Venues and other important sites (e.g., Olympic Village Plaza, the Georgia Street End at Stanley Park); and, by means of an Artist Initiatives Program, opportunities for artists to propose artworks at a range of scales and budgets at sites throughout the City. A preliminary budget of \$3.75 million was approved with the Plan, with staff noting that an additional allocation of \$200,000 would be recommended from the 2008 public art Capital Plan allocation when those funds became available in May, 2008. The \$200,000 recommended here will ensure sufficient funds are available this year to launch the first phase of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Public Art

Program. We will report back to Council on final Olympic Plan projects and budgets by September 30, 2008.

2. Main Showcase Project: \$100,000

The City in conjunction with the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (TransLink) is carrying out pedestrian and transit improvements along the Main Street corridor. These improvements are referred to as the Main Street Urban Transportation Showcase Project (Main Showcase). The project received funding support from Transport Canada. As part of these improvements, Translink and the City have jointly supported a public art process which will result in public artworks at sites along Main Street as well as on and in busses (bus wraps and ad cards). CBS Outdoor, which manages the transit shelters, has joined the initiative and is providing modifications to a transit shelter to accommodate artwork. These artworks will begin to appear later this year.

Because the bus-mounted artworks travel the length of Main Street, Main Showcase public art contributes to our ongoing effort to distribute public art throughout the city, not just downtown. Based on this aspect and on the success of this first public art process, Translink, Engineering Services and the Public Art Program wish to pursue the next phase. The recommended funds will extend an exemplary public art process already underway, enabling artwork to be distributed further along Main Street, and for longer periods of time.

3. Mungo Martin Totem Pole Restoration: \$50,000

This pole is one of the great cultural artefacts of Canada. It is an exact duplicate of an original commissioned by the Province and presented to Queen Elizabeth in 1958. It is 30.5m (100ft) high, representing one foot for each year of the Province's existence at the time. It was carved from a 600 year old red cedar from the Queen Charlottes. Martin with his son David and nephew Henry Hunt completed the pole in seven months. The original stands in Windsor Great Park in England. The Vancouver pole is an inspiring sight at the north foot of Cypress St. The meaning of the pole's figures is outlined in the City's online Public Art Registry (vancouver.ca/publicart/). Extensive restoration work was performed for the City Centennial in 1986. Since then, time and weather have caused so much deterioration that many citizens have asked for the pole be restored.

If Council approves, staff will consult Mr. Martin's family and conservators at Vancouver Museum and the Museum of Anthropology to develop an RFP for the conservation work. Due to the degree of deterioration and the pole's exceptional size, preliminary estimates for a complete restoration, which will require removing the pole to a work shed, an engineering report, possibly additional steel supports, wood replacement, repainting, and borax treatment, indicate the total cost could exceed \$100,000.

We see the project as an opportunity to engage apprentice restorers and others, possibly as an adjunct to a First Nations public art StoryScapes process. Funds requested here will enable us to undertake these consultations, establish a detailed project scope and total budget, and begin the conservation work this year. We will request Council support in spring 2009 for the funds required to complete the project by the summer of 2009.

4. Stanley Park Environment Art Project: \$25,000

As part of its restoration of Stanley Park, Park Board issued a call to artists to undertake environmentally sensitive artist interventions in the Park which would employ forest materials and emphasize environmental concerns in the context of the natural setting. Park Board has requested Public Art Program participation in order to enhance the chosen projects, including their documentation and public engagement.

The Cultural Affairs and Park Board staff do not generally recommend funds in support of each other's projects, although we frequently collaborate on jointly funding community public art processes and projects. Due to the exceptional merits of this project, including its extensive community outreach, staff recommend this one-time contribution to a Park Board initiated project, noting that it meets all the criteria of a project typically funded through the Community Public Art Program, a Program we have not implemented since 2005 while we conducted the Public Art Review and Plan.

5. Project Management and Program Administration: \$75,000

City Council approved two FTE staff positions for the Public Art Program as part of the revisions adopted June 26, 2008. Until those staff positions are filled, project managers will continue to implement ongoing projects and those recommended here.

Civic public art processes are partially managed by consultants who also perform program administrative duties at the direction of staff. Depending on the complexity and the degree of public consultation required, individual projects vary in the amount of consultant time required. The budget covers project development for new initiatives, management for current projects, including Kingsway One Civic Center, the Ridgeway Greenway, and the Library Square Art Program. In addition, consultants manage the Public Art Registry, program communications, maintenance inventories, assisting with the Program Review, and other costs incidental to running the program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On May 15, 2008 (RTS #7330), Council approved the 2008 Capital Budget of \$450,000 for civic public art projects. The report recommends allocation as follows:

- 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Plan - \$200,000
- Main Street Showcase Public Art Project - \$100,000
- Consultation, scoping, and budget development for the restoration of the Mungo Martin Totem Pole at Kits Point - \$50,000
- Park Board Environmental Artwork Project in Stanley Park - \$25,000
- Project management and program administration - \$75,000

The source of funds for the above expenditures would be the approved 2008 Capital Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Stanley Park project recommended here has the environment as its focus. Increasingly, artist projects display a high degree of environmental awareness, and concern for sustainability.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Mungo Martin totem pole restoration project recommended here has some capacity to engage youth, specifically Native youth, and contribute to the goals of the First Nation StoryScapes projects.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Project management budget recommended here (A.v) will provide basic Program communications in addition to information specific to individual artworks.

CONCLUSION

The projects recommended here represent a balance of new and restoration initiatives reflecting the Public Art Program's mandate to provide an experience of high quality art in public places while ensuring the health of Vancouver's public art collection.

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