



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 2, 2018
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Meeting Date: January 31, 2018

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services
SUBJECT: Public Art Boost - 2018 Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, as part of the Public Art Boost allocations approved on June 29, 2016, Council approve the Public Art Community Grants of \$180,050 from the 2015-2018 Capital Plan for Social and Cultural Grants and Public Art capital funds, as noted in Appendix B.

Approval of the Public Art Community Grants requires eight affirmative votes of Council.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report is the third regarding allocation of funds for the Public Art Boost approved by Council on May 31, 2016. The Boost provides \$1,500,000 in funding to augment Vancouver's public art activities and increase awareness through new events and projects over 2016-2018. The first report, on June 2, 2016, identified five Quick Start public art projects for a total expenditure of \$755,000. The second report, on March 29, 2017, recommended twenty-one additional public art projects, including grants for eleven community-led public art projects, for a total allocation of \$642,000. This report continues to follow through with City objectives expressed in the motion for the Public Art Boost to stimulate opportunities for public art by recommending twelve new public art projects, ranging from large projections on the façade of the Vancouver Art Gallery to re-wilding urban sites by indigenous artists.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Vancouver's *Culture Plan: Strategic Directions for the Next 5 Years (2014-2018)* received by Council in October 23, 2013 (RTS 10309) aims to support a diverse and thriving cultural ecology. Four specific directions related to the recommendations in this report are to:

- Expand support to emerging and innovative artistic practice;
- Increase public participation and community engagement in arts and culture;
- Promote local arts and culture; and
- Improve access to new and underserved communities.

In 2014, Council approved *Maximizing Investment in the Public Art Program* (RTS 09535) which included program changes that enabled the commissioning of artworks of international significance for prominent sites through establishment of a new Signature Fund. The report also reaffirmed a strong City commitment to commissioning public art in neighbourhoods throughout Vancouver.

On June 1, 2016, *Public Art Program Update and Signature Opportunities* (RTS 10695) provided a report to Council on Vancouver's Public Art Program, signature project opportunities and strategies to further support world-class programming.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

This report continues the significant steps to achieving Council's ambitious objectives for a Public Art Boost by recommending funding for twelve new projects, ranging from community murals to projections to site-specific installations. This report describes how key goals of the Boost motion are met, including future 2018 projects on public awareness, recommendations on removing barriers to public art, and community partnerships.

REPORT

Background/Context

Vancouver's Public Art Program manages civic funding to plan, program, commission and maintain public art. Significant works in a variety of scales, forms, and media contribute to the city's rich, diverse cultural life. The Program also develops policy, and oversees and administers the process for public art commissions by the private sector for major rezoning development projects.

Vancouver's Public Art Program has been commissioning public art for more than twenty-five years and has produced over 300 pieces of public art throughout the City. In 2017, the program produced 10 temporary artworks and 6 permanent artworks. As part of Strengthening our Relations: Vancouver Commemorates Canada 150+, the citywide celebration for Canada's 150th anniversary, the Public Art Program commissioned six new artworks by Indigenous artists in the summer and fall of 2017. Some of the artworks completed in 2017 through the requirement for development rezonings include *A Long Conversation (for Oona)* by Peter Gazendam at Columbia College on Terminal Avenue and *Slow* by Zhang Huan at the Parq Resort and Casino on Smithe Street.

The Public Art Program has also commissioned two artworks through partnerships with other departments and external organizations. In partnership with the Sustainability Group, local artist Justin Langlois recently completed a public artwork as the culmination of an eighteen-month Artist-in-Residence program. The artwork *Should I Be Worried?* is a call to awareness which asks the viewer to check in with the present moment and their surroundings. The success of Langlois's residency has inspired Engineering Services to launch their own Artist-in-Residence program, with the first selected artist beginning work in early 2018.

Projects in process include Germaine Koh's *SeeSawSeat* (installation began January 2018) and Lead Pencil Studio's *Home and Away* at Hastings Park, now in fabrication.

An open call for artists to propose ideas and sites for artworks in public spaces was launched in 2017, with a two-stage process for developing proposals into viable projects. This “Artist-Initiated Projects” call led to six new commissions which will be developed across the City over 2018, including Indigenous Healing Gardens by Anne Riley and Cease Wyss on the sites of former gas stations, and a year-long series of installations and events by Paul Wong at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Classical Garden.

Public Art staff works regularly with staff of Engineering Services, Planning and Park Board to plan for public art and identify opportunities to transform public spaces through encounters with art. A Public Art Plan is in development for Northeast False Creek through consultations with artists and curators, MST First Nations, neighbouring communities, landscape architects and developers in order to respond to the many opportunities and demands for public art in this key area. Public art planning is also underway for the Arbutus Greenway Project, which provides opportunities for MST recognition and integrated projects. In 2018, the public art program will work with Translink on art planning for the Millennium Line Broadway Extension, will continue work with City planners and partners on Britannia Centre and 800 Robson, and will work with developers of major sites across the city to ensure strong public art plans for Oakridge, Pearson-Dogwood, Little Mountain, and St. Paul’s, along with other projects. In 2018, Cultural Services will work with Park Board on developing a structure for consultation and collaboration with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, which will support the City’s Reconciliation Goals and build toward future public art commissions. The program is working with the downtown Vancouver Public Library to commission a major new artwork in the context of the new expansion. In 2018, the program will launch its first Signature Fund project, pooling City funds with money from several nearby developments to create a major opportunity in Coal Harbour.

Public Art Boost

On May 31, 2016, Council approved a Public Art Boost (Appendix A) with direction to identify quick starts to be brought back to Council including:

- Identifying projects in process that could be enabled for installation during the Summer of 2016;
- Exploring opportunities to use the Innovation Fund to leverage community partners to enable significant new public art projects;
- Consulting with cultural and business communities, art organizations and interested residents on expansion of public and community art opportunities and projects;
- Identifying and making recommendations to remove barriers to producing public art;
- Putting forward a robust plan to ensure existing public art is maintained; and
- Supporting a public awareness campaign about Vancouver’s public art.

On June 2, 2016 Council approved a \$1,500,000 allocation of funds to create opportunities for artists and other partners to support Vancouver’s vibrant and world-class emerging art scene through 2018, sources of funding to be:

- i. \$500,000 from the Innovation Fund for matching grants; and
- ii. \$1,000,000 from the 2015-2018 Capital Plan for Social and Cultural Grants.

The following allocation plan was also approved at that time:

Table 1: Summary of Total Public Art Boost Funding Allocation

Description		Sub-total Boost
Quick Starts	2016-2017	\$755,000
New Projects	2017-2018	\$745,000
Total		\$1,500,000

Quick Starts

Following Council approval of the Public Art Boost in June, five Quick Start projects, resulting in 52 new artworks, were completed in 2016. Table 2 below summarises the five quick start public art projects totalling \$755,000 as approved for the first phase of the Public Art Boost.

Table 2: Quick Starts - Public Art Boost (2016-2017)

Area	Project	Outcome	Public Art Boost
Innovative Partnerships	<i>New</i> — Vancouver Mural Festival	44 murals and festival in Mount Pleasant	\$200,000
	<i>New</i> — Artist Lighting Projects Lumière Festival, West End BIA	3 lighting projects for Jim Deva Plaza	\$45,000
	<i>New</i> — Imagination Zone: CityStudio and Curator	5 pilot projects in fall 2016 and new curated student/community projects in 2017	\$110,000
	<i>New</i> — South Vancouver Musqueam Infrastructure Project	artist projects in the streetscape in Marpole	\$100,000
Community Public Art	<i>Expanded</i> — Community Public Art Grants	20-25 additional projects over 2017 and 2018	\$300,000
Total Quick Starts Boost			\$755,000

The first phase of Public Art Boost allocations moved forward Council's goal of leveraging funds and partner resources to expand public art opportunities and enhance the experience of the public realm for residents and visitors.

The second phase of the allocations for the Boost continued this work. In a report to Council in March 2017, twenty-one projects to be presented before the end of 2018 were recommended.

Funding is being recommended for twelve new projects through the expanded Public Art Community Grants (PACG) program in this final phase of allocations for the Public Art Boost. The PACG provides an opportunity for non-arts-mandated non-profit organizations (such as Business Improvement Associations) to partner with arts organizations or artists in the support of bringing art to the public realm.

Projects Recommended in 2017

The Boost enabled twenty-one exciting new projects in public art in 2017 and 2018 with allocations of \$642,000.

Public Art Boost Opportunity:

In March 2017, Staff recommended ten new projects to enrich Vancouver's public realm in 2017 and 2018, for a total of \$490,000 in grants. Recommended projects included support to increase the number of artists commissioned and reach broader audiences for ongoing events such as the Vancouver Mural Festival, the Lumière Festival and Façade Festival. New singular projects were also recommended, including an interactive work by Jeff Hamada with Tangible Interaction for the Capture Festival this April and a new public installation by Tsang Kin-Wah on the façade of the Vancouver Art Gallery, completed in October 2017.

Upcoming projects in 2018 include a series of six temporary interventions by artists exploring material re-use, upcycling, and gift economies in Cathedral Square at Dunsmuir and Richards, and the inaugural commission for a dedicated art screen on The Independent at Kingsway and Broadway. In addition, an amount of \$100,000 remains for the Vancouver Mural Festival for 2018.

Other supported artworks or series provide unique opportunities for the public to interact with public art as visual installation, sound works, performance, media and light works.

Public Art Community Grants (2017):

A total of \$152,000 in grants was recommended to support community organizations working with artists to produce eleven new public art projects. Projects included:

- a cloud-shaped swing with lights and pre-recorded stories installed at various LGBTQ2+ events during Pride Month;
- a multi-faceted installation honouring a fifty-year struggle for Aboriginal Rights, presented at Robson Square and the Interurban Gallery; and,
- *The Healing Quilt*, a mural at 20 East Hastings Street by artists Jerry Whitehead and Sharifah Marsden working with youth from the Urban Native Youth Alliance.

New Projects Recommended for 2018

Public Art Community Grants 2018:

In response to the November 8, 2017 deadline, thirty-three applications were reviewed by a peer panel of arts professionals knowledgeable about art and community engagement. Of the total amount of \$543,433 requested by applicants, \$180,050 is being recommended in this report for approval in 2018. Applications were ranked on the following criteria:

- Project vision is compelling and has artistic merit, and practicing artists are involved.
- Events and activities are located in Vancouver, accessible, and welcoming to a diverse public.
- Project has relevance and significance to proposed site or community.
- Maintenance is considered and planned for.
- A plan for artist selection with clear criteria is demonstrated or has been completed.
- Evaluation is in place to assess the success of project.

- Plans are in place to ensure the public is aware of the project and how they can participate.
- The project budget is realistic and balanced, and sufficient to achieve the project and its stated goals.

A total of twelve projects are recommended for funding. Summaries of projects recommended and amounts for funding can be found in Appendix B.

Of the recommended projects, the panel also recommends funding 86% of requested amounts. Some projects are not recommended for the full requested amount, but the selection panel's recommendations are intended to ensure the proposed projects are feasible and not significantly compromised if the full requested amount is not recommended.

In addition to artistic excellence, projects recommended for grants reflect varied neighbourhoods and communities of interest, including intergenerational and marginalized populations, emerging artists, celebration of identity, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity, environmental awareness, education and outreach to schools, and First Nations artists.

The recommended projects will bring lively art commissions to neighbourhoods around Vancouver. Highlights include the following:

- T'uyt'tanat Cease Wyss will work with a team of Indigenous youth to re-wild the grounds of 221a's outdoor public art venue Semi-Public through native plants.
- Vancouver Pride Society will present "Strut, the Peacock," a larger-than-life kinetic sculpture.
- VIVO Media Arts Centre will install a sculpture that will also serve as a screen for outdoor presentations of media art.
- Burrard Arts Foundation will commission 10 new artists for this summer's Façade Festival.

Although the success rate of funded applications was lower than expected at 36%, the adjudication process was particularly competitive this year. A number of factors influence why organizations are not recommended for a grant, including but not limited to:

- Ineligible activities (e.g. fundraisers)
- Concerns over financial feasibility, organizational capacity or timeline to carry out the project
- Weak artistic rationale for the proposal
- Limited artist involvement in the development of the project
- Proposed sites did not offer enough public access
- Critical information missing from the application
- Limited degree of social or community engagement

Feedback from Cultural Services staff is always available to the applicant. The panel suggested that information sessions, to which previous panel members could be invited, would help applicants understand what public art is and what a good public art process looks like.

Future Allocations from the Innovation Fund

Staff are developing opportunities using Innovation Funds to partner with art and education organizations to enable new public art projects and a public art conference in 2018. The Innovation Fund leverages expertise and other funding through one-time partnerships. The Public Art Program is working to use the remaining Boost Innovation Funds to enable significant new public art projects and to explore issues around First Nations public art and Reconciliation, monuments and memorials, and the affordability crisis.

Removing Barriers to Producing Public Art

An important direction from Council was to identify barriers to the implementation of public art. In 2017, staff established an interdepartmental team led by Arts, Culture and Community Services and Engineering Services-Public Space and Street Use staff including Park Board, Planning and Development Services and Real Estate and Facilities Management staff as well as artists and art professionals. The group is reviewing existing policy, identifying barriers, and proposing policy and practice updates to be integrated throughout City departments. The staff team will report to Council in May 2018 with recommendations.

Public Awareness Campaign for Public Art

A focus of the 25th Anniversary for the Public Art Program was to profile the City's collection of public art through regular publicity, and most significantly, to upgrade the Public Art Registry, making it more visually dynamic and accessible on mobile devices in the field.

In partnership with IT Shared Applications and Digital Services, Cultural Services launched a new online registry to showcase the City's Public Art collection of over 400 permanent and temporary artworks. In late 2017, the City published an updated open dataset, allowing users and app designers to use Public Art Registry data in their own projects.

The new Public Art Registry is optimized for mobile devices and can access the viewer's location to display artwork nearby. By showcasing artists and artworks in Vancouver, the new Public Art Registry promotes cultural tourism and local pride.

In addition, the Microsoft Muse App—based on Public Art Registry open data—is under development in cooperation with Digital Services, Burrard Arts Foundation and Microsoft. Muse is intended to gamify Public Art in Vancouver, and will be released in 2018.

Public Art Maintenance

The Public Art Program has approximately fifteen maintenance projects currently underway, including two major restoration projects, the *Centennial Pole* by Mungo Martin in Hadden Park and *The Birds* by Myfanwy MacLeod in Olympic Village. Staff have confirmed a storage site for the *Centennial Pole* where it will be dried and carefully assessed for more detailed conservation and restoration planning. Design and fabrication of a transportation strongback was undertaken in December 2017 and January 2018 and removal is expected to take place in the first quarter of this year. *The Birds* have been transported to Calgary in order to rebuild the artwork with an aluminum outer shell cast from the original sculptures.

There are currently over 300 City-owned artworks in the permanent collection including over 100 historic artworks acquired by the City in years preceding the Public Art Program. Although separate funding was provided for the restoration of the *Centennial Pole*, the majority of maintenance costs for public art are funded from the Public Art Maintenance Reserve. As new

works are added to an aging collection, maintenance and restoration will require more significant planning and funding. Staff will bring forward a maintenance plan for the next capital budget.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

This report is the third report regarding allocation of funds approved by Council on June 2, 2016. No new funds are requested at this time.

This report requests approval of allocations of \$180,050 in grants, \$148,000 from previously approved Boost funding sources, and \$32,050 from existing annual public art capital budget allocations.

Table 3 below summarizes the approved Public Art Boost allocations and the source of funds.

Table 3: Public Art Boost Total Allocations and Source of Funds

	Public Art Boosts	Funding Source	Funding Allocation			Subtotals
			2016	2017	2018	
<u>2016 Quick Starts</u>						
Create Vancouver Society (Mural Festival)	\$200,000	Innovation Funds	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
Lumière Festival Society	\$45,000	Innovation Funds	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$45,000
City Studio (Imagination Zone)	\$110,000	Capital	\$110,000	\$0	\$0	\$110,000
Musqueam Infrastructure Project	\$100,000	Capital	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Public Art Community Grants (Recommendation A, details in Appendix B)	\$300,000	Capital	\$0	\$152,000	\$148,000 ¹	\$300,000
Subtotal Quick Starts	\$755,000		\$455,000	\$152,000	\$148,000	\$755,000
<u>2017 & 2018 New Projects</u>						
Innovative Partnership/s	\$255,000	Innovation Funds	\$0	\$0	\$255,000	\$255,000
Create Vancouver Society (Mural Festival)	\$200,000	Capital	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Public Art Boost Projects	\$290,000	Capital	\$0	\$290,000	\$0	\$290,000
Subtotal New Projects	\$745,000		\$0	\$390,000	\$355,000	\$745,000
TOTAL	\$1.5M		\$455,000	\$642,000	\$403,000	\$1.5M

¹Amount of \$148,000 (requested in this report) does not include \$32,050 contributed from the Public Art capital budget.

CONCLUSION

The Public Art Boost was approved by Council on May 31, 2016. In its subsequent report of June 2, 2016, staff recommended \$1,500,000 in funding to augment public art activities in Vancouver and raise awareness through new events and projects over the next two years. The first report back on the Boost identified five Quick Start Public Art projects that resulted in forty-four new murals and eight light and temporary installation works, for funding of \$755,000. The second report identified allocations of \$642,000 for twenty-one new projects including singular artworks and events, and Public Art Community Grants in 2017-2018. This third and final report identifies allocations of \$180,050 for the Public Art Community Grants to support twelve new public art projects.

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MOTION B.4
APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL, MAY 31, 2016

4. Public Art Boost (adopted unanimously)

MOVER: Councillor Deal
SECONDER: Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver has a successful public and community art program which has resulted in over 400 pieces of public art and community art installations of various forms throughout the City over the past 25 years;
2. Vancouver is well situated to expand the profile of public art in the city, with opportunities for public art such as numerous blank walls and public spaces;
3. Many local organizations, Business Improvement Areas in particular, are interested in expanding the amount of murals and other public and community art in their areas;
4. The City recently adjusted funding options for developers in an effort to increase funding for public art on civic, park, and private property through a process managed by the City;
5. Vancouver's public and community art should provide more opportunities to integrate local First Nations artwork in the public realm and reflect the multicultural nature and changing demographics of the City;
6. There are identified barriers to public art installations, including murals, which can and should be addressed;
7. Other cities such as San Francisco have examples of robust public art programs with high profiles and numerous opportunities for local artists.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to create a "public art boost" with the following efforts:

Quick starts to be brought back to Council as soon as possible and no later than the end of July. These should include:

- Identification of barriers to public art and suggestions of what steps are necessary to remove them;
- Identification of projects already in process which can be enabled to be installed during the Summer of 2016;
- Opportunities to use the Innovation Fund to leverage community partners to enable significant new public art projects for 2016 and 2017;
- Consultation with cultural and business communities, other organizations and interested residents on expansion of public and community art opportunities and projects;
- A robust plan to ensure existing public art is maintained;
- A public awareness campaign about Vancouver's public art.

Public Art Community Grants 2018
Summary of Projects Recommended for Funding

Public Art Community Grants			
Organization	Project Description	2018 Request	2018 Recomm.
221A	Semi-Public Wilding: Through plantings of native species and working with a team of Indigenous youth, T'uy't'ananat Cease Wyss will, wild the grounds of 221A's outdoor venue in Chinatown. A complementary program of ecological stewardship, traditional practices and cultural production that stems from ongoing negotiations of belonging and responsibility on contested land will be offered.	\$20,000	\$20,000
Burrard Arts Foundation	Façade Festival 2018: Façade will commission ten new works of art by ten local professional artists that will be projected onto the Georgia street side of the Vancouver Art Gallery. The projections will be accessible to the public to experience free of charge.	\$20,000	\$20,000
Emily Carr University Foundation	As the Crow Flies: This seven-month long project offers a "bird's eye view" across ten kilometers of Vancouver, from Strathcona to Marpole, and includes permanent sculpture, murals, community art projects and education. Recommended funding is for "On the Wing" projection, "Crow Garden" and video components of the proposed project.	\$20,000	\$15,000
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House	Making Childhood Visible: This project will see three local artists working with the often overlooked and marginalized voices of children, youth, and seniors to create a collaborative and inter-generational two-dimensional public artwork.	\$5,050	\$5,050
grunt gallery	Mount Pleasant Community Screen - PLACE: This yearlong project is a curatorial exploration of a changing Mount Pleasant through media art produced by artists and members of the community both past and present.	\$20,000	\$20,000
Indian Summer Arts Society	Pause @ Indian Summer Festival: The Pause pavilion is a one-time outdoor hub for artistic and community interaction and will act as a canvas for South Asian, Indigenous and racialized artists. Recommended funding is for artist fees.	\$20,000	\$13,000
Or Gallery	Re-search/Re-covery: Comprised of artist-led, site-specific interventions, three artists will present ongoing research pursuits (into personal lineages, local cultures, and socio-historical narratives) as visible, transformational and social experiences.	\$4,000	\$4,000

Public Art Community Grants			
Organization	Project Description	2018 Request	2018 Recomm.
Radix	Waterfront: This public art project invites False Creek community participants to explore the geographic, social, and political consequences of a potential new shoreline created by sea level rise through free public interventions and the creation of a permanent record in a time capsule.	\$20,000	\$18,000
Still Moon Arts Society	Fruiting Bodies: Figures sculpted from natural materials sourced from Renfrew Ravine will be inoculated with mushroom spawn and wrapped in fabric dipped in beeswax. Over time, mushrooms will incubate and fruit, slowly decomposing the figures, transforming them into rich soil and making visceral cycles of growth and decay.	\$20,000	\$17,000
Vancouver Pride Society	Strut, the peacock: This project celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Vancouver Pride with a larger-than-life kinetic sculpture, intended to inspire inclusion, celebrate diversity of the Pride community and provide playful engagement through its interactive elements that include light and the peacock's fanning responses to public movements.	\$20,000	\$16,000
Vines Art Festival	Vines Intersections Installation Series: This land-art installation series in Vancouver's public parks focuses on the intersection of social and environmental issues. Recommended funding is for new public art commissions only.	\$20,000	\$12,000
VIVO Media Arts Centre	Cinema Lot: This public art project is a sculpture installed in VIVO's parking lot that will be activated as an outdoor projection screen through a program of screenings and events.	\$20,000	\$20,000
TOTAL		\$209,050	\$180,050