

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Report Date: May 1, 2019 Contact: Branislav

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RTS No.: 13177 VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20 Meeting Date: May 14, 2019

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Managing Director of Cultural Services

SUBJECT: Final Report on the Public Art Boost

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve grant allocations of \$87,885 to support three projects, as listed in Table 4, source of funding is the Public Art Boost Innovation Funding previously approved by Council on June 29, 2016 (RTS 11505). These three projects fulfil the objectives of the Public Art Boost motion and enable the City to advance goals of Reconciliation by bringing significant temporary public art projects by local Indigenous artists and South Asian artists to the city.

The recommendation in this report is a grant and Council approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative Council votes pursuant to Section 206(1) of the Vancouver Charter.

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report is the fifth and final regarding allocation of funds for the Public Art Boost motion approved by Council on May 31, 2016. The Public Art Boost will have provided \$1,500,000 in funding to augment Vancouver's public art activities and increase awareness through new events and projects. This report follows through on City objectives expressed in the Public Art Boost motion, the City of Reconciliation framework, and aligns with the early findings of the Creative City Strategy.

## 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. 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 Projects Fund. The report also reaffirmed a strong City commitment to commissioning public art in neighbourhoods throughout Vancouver.

On June 2, 2016, following a Council Motion for a Public Art Boost, Council recommended funding of \$1,500,000 (RTS 11505) to augment Vancouver's public art activities and awareness through new events and projects, with an initial allocation of \$755,000. The motion (**Appendix A**) calls for more opportunities for local First Nations artwork in the public realm and directs staff to leverage community partners to enable significant new public art projects.

On March 29, 2017, Council approved Public Art Boost recommendations of \$490,000 for ten new partnership opportunities as well as allocations of \$148,000 for eleven community-led project grants (RTS 11571).

On May 2, 2017 Council directed staff to develop a new, comprehensive Creative City Strategy that addresses current and emerging challenges and opportunities, reflects the culture and history of the city, and interfaces with other City policies and strategies.

On January 31, 2018 Council approved allocations of \$152,000 for twelve additional community-led public art projects (RTS 12342).

On May 25, 2018, Council received a Report Reference on the Creative City Strategy – Early Findings from Preliminary Engagement, which includes Reconciliation, Equity and Access, Investment and Visibility, Capacity and Collaboration as key themes.

On February 26, 2019, Council approved allocations of \$167,115 in grants from the Innovation Fund to support five partnership projects and the Creative City Strategy Symposium.

## CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

This report continues the significant steps to achieving Council's objectives for a Public Art Boost by leveraging community partner investments with Innovation Funding for three new opportunities which include a project highlighting the themes of travel and exchange among Indigenous peoples, a floating artist residency which will be devoted to artists from the

Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations as well as an Indigenous artist from Australia, and textile works by a South Asian artist and a Musqueam, Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh artist that can be 'interwoven' by members of the public. This report describes how key goals of the Public Art Boost motion have been met through community partnerships and Indigenous projects focusing on Reconciliation goals. The recommended projects reflect the importance of Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh visibility and voice on the land, which has emerged as an important principle for the Nations through development of the Creative City Strategy and dialogue with artists.

#### **REPORT**

# Background/Context

The City of 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 public realm. The Program also develops policy, and oversees and administers the public art process for major rezoning development projects.

The Public Art Program has been commissioning public art for more than 25 years and now manages a collection of over 300 permanent pieces of public art throughout the City. In 2018, the program completed 13 temporary artworks and 9 permanent artworks, including seven new temporary two-dimensional artworks by Indigenous artists, commissioned through the Indigenous Mural program in partnership with Engineering Services.

The Public Art Program regularly commissions Artist-Initiated Projects, selected through an open call in which artists propose ideas and sites for artworks in public spaces. The 2017 Artist-Initiated Projects led to six new commissions currently being developed across the city. A new Artist-Initiated call is currently open for projects to be developed and completed over the next two to three years.

Three additional permanent projects are underway: Lead Pencil Studio's *Home and Away* at Hastings Park, now in fabrication; Vanessa Kwan's *Houseplanters*, bronze sculptures for a Mount Pleasant park; and a significant new artwork by Rebecca Belmore and Osvaldo Yero for the newly expanded upper floors at the central Vancouver Public Library.

Public Art staff works regularly with staff of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, Park Board, and Engineering to identify opportunities to transform public spaces through encounters with art. Public Art Plans have been completed for Northeast False Creek and the Arbutus Greenway Project through consultations with artists and curators, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, neighbouring communities, landscape architects and developers in order to respond to the many opportunities and demands for public art in these key areas.

In 2019, the Public Art Program will begin planning for the first Signature Fund project working with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

#### **Public Art Boost**

On May 31, 2016, Council approved a motion (**Appendix A**) directing staff to create a "public art boost." The motion's goals were to expand the profile of public art in the city, increase public art funding available to organizations, and offer more opportunities to integrate local First Nations art in the city. Staff were directed to pursue a number of projects: identify barriers to public art; find projects in progress that could be enabled; explore using the Innovation Fund to leverage community partners for significant new public art projects; plan for maintenance of public art; and support a public awareness campaign about Vancouver's public art.

Quick Starts identified in 2016 used Innovation Funding to provide major support to the Create Vancouver Society to launch the Vancouver Mural Festival, and to the Lumière Festival Society for new lighted artwork commissions. Capital funds supported projects by CityStudio and a new public art infrastructure project developed with the Musqueam First Nation.

In 2017 and 2018, three granting streams supported 33 projects across the city, with partners including Vancouver Pride Society, Western Front Society, Il Centro – Italian Cultural Centre Society, Vines Art Festival and the Or Gallery.

In early 2019, Innovation Funds were used to support partnerships with the Contemporary Art Gallery, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden resulting in public artworks ranging from Feminist Land Art Retreat's flying banner artwork to a series of Transit Shelter posters by Paul Wong documenting his mother's traditional homemade Chinese medicines. Innovation Funding was also allocated to support the Creative City Strategy Symposium, a one-day event which brought together artists and arts professionals from Vancouver and across Canada to explore key questions in the Creative City Strategy, including plenary sessions on Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh visibility on the land and on public art's role in cultural redress and memory.

## Strategic Analysis

Following the approval of a Public Art Boost, on June 29, 2016 Council approved recommended allocations of \$1,500,000 to create opportunities for artists and other partners to support Vancouver's vibrant and world-class emerging art scene, 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 phased 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	2017-2019	\$745,000
Total		\$1,500,000

#### **Quick Starts**

Included in the June 29, 2016 report were five Quick Start projects, resulting in 80 new artworks. 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
Partnerships	Vancouver Mural Festival 2016	44 murals and festival in Mount Pleasant	\$200,000
	Lumière Festival 2016, West End BIA	3 artist lighting projects for Jim Deva Plaza	\$45,000
	Imagination Zone: CityStudio and Emily Carr University of Art and Design	5 pilot projects (fall 2016) and 10 curated projects (2018)	\$110,000
	Musqueam Infrastructure Project (South Vancouver)	Crosswalk mural designed by a Musqueam artist (Marpole neighbourhood)	\$100,000
Community Public Art	Public Art Community Grants (2017 and 2018)	23 community-led projects	\$300,000
Total Quick Starts Boost			\$755,000

# Public Art Community Grants 2017 and 2018:

A total of \$300,000¹ in grants was recommended to support community organizations working with artists to produce twenty-three new public art projects. Projects include Radix's series of free public interventions in False Creek designed to explore the geographic, social and political consequences of sea level rise, a new community mural at Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, and the wilding of 221a's outdoor venue in Chinatown by T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss and a team of Indigenous youth.

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 subsequent phases of the allocations for the Public Art Boost continue this work.

## **Previous Projects Recommended**

In total, allocations for thirty-three new public art projects were approved in 2017 and 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Amount does not include \$32,050 contributed from the Public Art capital budget for a total amount of \$332,050 for the Public Art Community Grants.

In March 2017, along with recommendations for the Public Art Community Grants, staff recommended ten new projects to enrich Vancouver's public realm 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, as well as new singular projects such as 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 upcoming inaugural commission for a dedicated art screen on The Independent at Kingsway and Broadway.

On February 26, 2019, Council approved disbursements of \$167,115 in Innovation Funding for five new partnership public art projects and the Creative City Strategy Symposium. These projects focused on Reconciliation and Equity, working with organizations as diverse as the Contemporary Art Gallery and the Wild Salmon Caravan to deliver innovative public art projects and festivals, temporary installations, and public information and engagement.

# Final Projects Recommended for 2019

The Public Art Program is partnering with three arts organizations to enable new public art projects that will use the remaining Public Art Boost Innovation Funds.

Table 3 below summarizes the previous Public Art Boost allocations and the remaining funds.

Public Art Boost Phases	Allocation	Previously Recomm'd	Recomm'd this Report	Balance Remaining
2016 Quick Starts	\$755,000	\$755,000		\$0
2017 & 2018 New Projects	\$490,000	\$490,000		\$0
2019 New Projects	\$255,000	167,115	\$87,885	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$1,412,115	\$87,885	\$0

**Table 3: Public Art Boost Allocations** 

In this report, funding is being recommended for three new projects totalling \$87,885 to conclude allocations for the Public Art Boost.

#### New Recommended Projects

New recommended Projects continue to advance the goals of the Public Art Boost motion and support the importance of Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh visibility and voice on the land, which has emerged as an important principle for the Nations through the development of the Creative City Strategy and dialogue with artists. New projects have a special focus on the following areas:

- Reconciliation: Supporting redress and reconciliation and partnering to bring new Indigenous public art projects to the city.
- Opportunities: Enabling significant new public art projects by community partners.

These recommendations cover a range of diverse projects:

- Transits and Returns As part of a major group exhibition featuring 19 Indigenous artists from lands all around the Pacific Ocean, Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow will create installations for two Canada Line stations. Derived from Sparrow's interest in "blanketing the city," these installations will connect the downtown site of the Vancouver Art Gallery with the Indigenous art at the Vancouver International Airport, extending into the public realm the exhibition's themes of travel and exchange among Indigenous peoples.
- Skeins The Blue Cabin, a heritage project to restore a cabin once set on the North Vancouver foreshore and long used by noted Vancouver artists, will begin a new life in 2019 as a floating artist residency. Its inaugural year will be devoted to artists from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and an Indigenous artist from Australia. This Innovation Funding will allow for the realization of Skeins, a series of three residencies and public programs by Indigenous weavers from the local nations.
- Indian Summer Festival This multi-arts festival provides ten days of creative, diverse, inclusive and innovative programming that focuses on the transformative power of the arts. As part of the festival, programming will also take place at the PAUSE pavilion, an outdoor programming hub situated at the site of the village of səna?qw, now known as Vanier Park. For 2019, guest curator, Joleen Mitton, of Plains Cree and Blackfoot heritage and founder of Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, will identify a Musqueam, Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh artist and a South Asian artist to present their own independent textile work representing each artist's visual language and tradition. These works will be mounted onto the tops of the stools that are stored on the walls of the PAUSE pavilion, much like a giant jigsaw puzzle. The two works will initially be separate, independent artworks, but as members of the public remove and replace the stools, they will be inadvertently 'weaving' the two textile pieces together in unexpected and infinite ways.

Table 4 below lists previously approved projects as well as the recommended projects by special area of focus along with recommended allocation amounts.

Table 4 – Innovation Fund Projects Including New Recommendations

Previously Approved Projects	Approved Amount	Match Amount		
Quick Starts 2016 (RTS 11505)				
Create Vancouver Society – inaugural Vancouver Mural Festival	\$ 200,000	\$311,000		
West End BIA – Vancouver Lumière Festival 2016	\$45,000	\$55,946		
Subtotal Quick Starts	\$245,000	\$366,946		
2019 Projects - (RTS 13029)				
First Nations Health Authority – Wild Salmon Caravan	\$ 20,000	\$46,075		
Collingwood Neighbourhood House – Ancient Cedar's Journey Home	\$5,000	\$106,700		
Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden –     Occupying Chinatown poster series	\$16,250	\$150,000		

Contemporary Art Gallery – Feminist Land Art     Retreat site activation and Neighbours poster series	\$ 25,865	\$116,650
Creative City Strategy Symposium	\$100,000	\$0
Subtotal 2019	\$167,115	\$419,425
2019 New Projects Recommended	Recomm'd Amount	Match Amount
The Blue Cabin - Skeins	\$30,000	\$38,500
Vancouver Art Gallery – Transits and Returns	\$37,885	\$246,180
Indian Summer Festival	\$20,000	\$66,500
Subtotal New Projects	\$87,885	\$351,180
TOTAL INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS	\$500,000	\$1,137,551

# Implications/Related Issues/Risk

#### **Financial**

This report is the fifth and final report regarding allocation of funds approved by Council on June 2, 2016. No new funds are requested at this time. Please refer to **Appendix B** for a detailed breakdown of the previously approved Public Art Boost allocations and the source of funds.

This report recommends allocations of \$87,885, source of funds is the Innovation Fund as previously approved through the Public Art Boost.

The Innovation Fund has a target leverage of 3:1 matching requirements. The recommended \$87,885 contribution will leverage \$351,180 cash and in-kind support from external sources, a 4:1 ratio. Furthermore, Public Art Boost projects advance key civic objectives:

- City of Reconciliation goals
- Early finding themes of the Creative City Strategy's pre-engagement phase
- Healthy City Strategy long term goal "Expressing Ourselves"

The final recommendations in this report results in the City's total support of \$500,000 in Innovation Funds leveraging a total of \$1,137,551 in external cash and in-kind support, a ratio of 2.3:1.

**Appendix C** outlines the external investment leverage and alignment of the recommended projects to City Priorities. It also demonstrates clear outcomes and transformation toward City of Vancouver goals.

### **CONCLUSION**

Since the Public Art Boost was approved by Council on May 31, 2016, staff have recommended \$1,412,115 in funding allocations to augment public art activities in Vancouver and raise awareness through new events and projects. This report identifies allocations for the remaining \$87,885 to support three new public art projects.

The Public Art Boost has attracted a wide range of partners and projects that have continued to advance Council's goals of leveraging funds and partner resources to support the creativity and commitment of arts organizations and other partners' efforts to increase the amount and diversity of art expression throughout the city and enhance the experience of the public realm for residents and visitors alike.

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#### **APPENDIX A**

# Motion Approved by City Council, May 31, 2016

B.4

# 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.

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APPENDIX B

Public Art Boost Total Allocations and Source of Funds

			Funding Allocation			
	Public Art Boosts	Funding Source	2016	2017 & 2018	2019	Subtotals
2016 Quick Starts						
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	\$300,000	Capital	\$0	\$300,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$0	\$300,000
Subtotal Quick Starts	\$755,000		\$455,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$755,000
2017 & 2018 New Projects						
Create Vancouver Society (Mural Festival)	\$200,000	Capital	\$0	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000
Public Art Boost Projects	\$290,000	Capital	\$0	\$290,000	\$0	\$290,000
Subtotal 2017 & 2018 New Projects	\$490,000		\$0	\$490,000	\$0	\$490,000
2019 New Projects						
Innovative Partnerships	\$ 67,115	Innovation Funds	\$0	\$0	\$ 67,115	\$ 67,115
Creative City Strategy Symposium	\$100,000	Innovation Funds	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Final Innovative Partnerships	\$87,885	Innovation Funds	\$0	\$0	\$87,885	\$87,885
Subtotal 2019 New Projects	\$255,000		\$0	\$0	\$255,000	\$255,000

TOTAL \$1.5M	\$455,000 \$790	0,000 \$255,000	\$1.5M
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Amount of \$300,000 does not include \$32,050 contributed from the Public Art capital budget for a total amount of \$332,050 for the Public Art Community Grants.

# Appendix C

# **Innovation Fund Guidelines and Alignment**

# **City of Vancouver Innovation Fund:**

Increasingly, more opportunities exist to work with other parties to leverage expertise, funding, and access to various in kind resources in order to focus on strategic areas important to the city. This form of leverage allows the City to continue to advance its policy priorities at a lower cost to taxpayers.

The Innovation Fund is expected to build on the City's experience in leveraging funding and expertise with outside agencies, other levels of government, private sector, universities and not-for-profits to advance key City priorities through aggressive leveraging of external partners.

Some examples of these types of unique opportunities would include: Enhancing the success of our urban aboriginal residents; enhancing our local economy with an emphasis on social enterprise particularly in the green sector; innovative child care programs for children at risk; cultural programs which enhance the community and create local jobs for artists; enhancing the involvement of our seniors in community; enhancing our sport strategy through partnerships of significant sporting initiatives; sport for youth at risk; and others.

## Guidelines for accessing City of Vancouver Innovation Fund:

With the establishment of an Innovation Fund, one time innovative projects can be funded to advance key agendas in the city. Accessing the City of Vancouver Innovation is at Council discretion; however, the following guidelines have been established to optimize the use of the fund:

- Aligns with Council Agenda (Housing, Public Safety, Economy, Environment)
- Demonstrates clear outcomes
- Matching requirements target leverage of 3:1 (minimum 1:1) 3rd party investment (cash and in-kind) to City funding
- Size of CoV contribution should enable a broad range of programs to be supported by fund (Guideline maximum project size of \$250,000 recommended).
- Projects which are one-time innovative opportunities; maximum commitment for expenditure of funds - up to 2 years
- Supports transformation and innovation in meeting City goals; shines a spotlight on Vancouver

**Table 5** on the following page indicates how the recommended funding in this report aligns with the guidelines for the Innovation Fund to support broader civic strategies and illustrates innovation and transformation.

# **Table 5 - Innovation Fund Alignment**

# 2019 Public Art Boost Projects

City Priorities	Project Alignment	Outcomes
City of Reconciliation Goals	<ul> <li>Promote Aboriginal         Peoples arts, culture,         awareness and         understanding</li> <li>Strengthen Musqueam,         Squamish, and Tsleil-         Waututh First Nations and         Urban Aboriginal relations</li> <li>Incorporate First Nations         and Urban Aboriginal         perspectives</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Raise profile of Indigenous artists and events</li> <li>Strong examples of Indigenous-led artistic practices and projects</li> <li>Strengthen relationships with First Nations and urban Indigenous communities</li> </ul>
Creative City Strategy - Early Findings Themes	<ul> <li>Reconciliation</li> <li>Equity and Access</li> <li>Visibility and Investment</li> <li>Capacity</li> <li>Collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Support a range of projects in many creative disciplines</li> <li>Represent the breadth of diversity and artistic expression</li> <li>Promote local arts and culture</li> <li>Improve arts access for new and under-served communities</li> <li>Foster collaborative initiatives between diverse artists and communities</li> </ul>
Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy (Expressing Ourselves)	Increase public participation and engagement in arts and culture	<ul> <li>Enable community partners to produce significant public art projects</li> <li>Partner with local arts and culture organizations to strengthen their public presence</li> <li>Strengthen public awareness through the Creative City Strategy Symposium</li> </ul>

# Investment leverage

- Leverages 4:1 third party investment
- \$87,885 one-time opportunity leverages \$351,180 external support
- City's total \$500,000 Innovation Fund contribution leverages \$1,137,551 external support (a ratio of 2.3:1)