
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 4, 2007
File No.: 7800-01
To: City Manager
From: Sandra Kochan, Public Art Coordinator, Cultural Services Division
Subject: Approval of Recommendation for Financial Contribution from Public Art Reserve Fund for Public Art Project at Cardington Apartments

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve a contribution of \$15,000.00 from the Public Art Reserve Fund for the commissioning of a work of public art for the John Howard Society supportive housing project known as Cardington Apartments.

BACKGROUND:

After attending a number of Public Open Houses, the Public Art Committee, during its strategic planning for 2007 identified a public art opportunity in conjunction with the construction of a supportive housing project known as the Cardington Apartments on St. Paul Street in Kelowna. Staff were asked by the Committee to discuss with the housing project team the possibility of a jointly funded project.

As a result of discussions with the John Howard Society of Central and South Okanagan (JHS) a total public art budget of \$30,000 was agreed upon, jointly supported in equal portions by the JHS and the Public Art Reserve Fund.

A Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) was prepared by Public Art staff and reviewed by the Public Art Committee, the John Howard Society and Meiklejohn Architects.

The RFEI was launched and publicized in late June, 2007. Artists were invited to submit their Expressions of Interest to Meiklejohn Architects by July 20, 2007. As part of their submissions, artists were asked to provide an artistic expression of the theme 'Icons of Inspiration' which would enhance not only the aesthetic and public appeal of the building, but to also promote a sense of motivation, pride and belonging for residents.

A total of 25 submissions were received from artists all over Canada and as far away as Los Angeles, California. Many of the artists expressed a heartfelt empathy for the future residents of Cardington Apartments and a genuine enthusiasm and appreciation for the leadership demonstrated by all of the supporters of this important project.

The selection panel for evaluation of submissions consisted of:

- Dave Thomas, a representative of the housing project's Community Advisory Group (Design);
- Mary Lund, a member of the City's Public Art Committee;
- Jim Meiklejohn of Meiklejohn Architects;



- Shelley Cook, Executive Director of JHS; and
- Simon Davies/Melissa Estable, of Terra Housing Consultants, the project manager.

Facilitation and coordination for both stages of the evaluation process was provided by Public Art Coordinator, Sandra Kochan, using the City's standardized public art evaluation system consisting of a rating evaluation key and a weighted, numerical scorecard based on a number of specified criteria.

The panel met on July 26, 2007 and agreed to a short-list of submissions from the following artists/artist teams (expressed in no particular order):

- Oliver Harwood and Marie Bortolotto, Vancouver, BC
- Jennifer Macklem and Kip Jones, Sackville, NB
- Carol Bradley, Kitchener, ON
- Blake Williams, Vancouver, BC
- Geert Maas, Kelowna, BC

Artists on the shortlist were asked to submit more detailed proposal concepts, material samples and maquettes by late September, 2007.

The panel met again on October 19, 2007 to discuss the final submissions and receive presentations (four in person and one by teleconference) from the short-listed artists.

The proposal by Oliver Harwood and Marie Bortolotto, for their proposed work entitled 'Arborvitae' received the highest scoring. The panel commented many times on the high quality of all of the submissions received, which made the final selection quite difficult. The final evaluation meeting spanned a total of 7 hours.

The Public Art Committee, at its meeting on November 21, 2007, reviewed the proposal by Harwood and Bortolotto and approved the expenditure set out in this recommendation.

An agreement between JHS and the artists is being negotiated. Funding within the recommendation in this report will be paid to JHS and used to pay the artists.

'Arborvitae' (or 'Tree of Life') is an art feature framing the main entranceway to the Cardington Apartments on St. Paul Street. The artists' proposal describes the 'tree of life' as 'an ancient, universal symbol of growth, strength, renewal and connectedness...woven into the mythology of many cultures.' The selection panel felt that this was a fitting and appropriate response to the theme identified in the RFEI. The panel also felt that the artists had appropriately addressed other important concerns such as structural integrity, material durability and safety, resistance to vandalism, and good value.

'Arborvitae' is a stone wall mural consisting of two tree icons fabricated entirely of natural stone and installed with mortar onto both concrete wall surfaces framing the main entry door. As one approaches the threshold, a pillar of engraved text within the recessed area appears. The text consists of 18 words, such as 'courage', 'wisdom', 'patience', 'community' and 'endurance', selected for their ability to provide residents passing through the doors additional inspiration and motivation for their difficult life passage. Materials include local stone and river rock, and different colours and textures of granite.

EXISTING POLICY:

The Public Art Committee submits these recommendations pursuant to its Terms of Reference, Arts & Cultural Policy 274 and Chapter 15 of the Official Community Plan. Specifically, the Public Art Committee's Terms of Reference authorize the Committee to 'recommend to Council any jointly funded installation of public art within a publicly accessible area or public building.'

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

Council is being asked to approve a financial contribution to JHS for the public art project. Payment of the artists will be managed by JHS pursuant to the agreement which JHS negotiates with the artists. The agreement will be based on the City's current template for public art contracts. Public art staff will monitor project progress and report to the Public Art Committee.

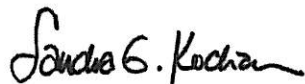
EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Consultations with external agencies, including community representation, are identified above.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO
LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY
LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS
PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION

Submitted by:



S Kochan, Public Art Coordinator

Approved for Inclusion:



David Graham, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services