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CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 2, 2008

File No.: 7800-20 (Public Art Special Projects)

To: City Manager

From: Civic Properties Manager

Subject: *Spirit of Kelowna* Installation at City Hall

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*"To me this is true community spirit that can only happen when citizens come together in moments of creative expression. We learn from each other and we feel joy in the success of each other." Geert Maas quoted by Karen Close, "The Art of Community Spirit", Okanagan Arts, Spring 2008, p.15.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** Council support the permanent installation of the *Spirit of Kelowna* in the Queensway Lobby of City Hall;

**AND THAT** Council authorize the utilization of \$20,000 from the 2008 carry-over budget of City Hall Renovations (10-220-C1003) for the building related construction components of this project.

**BACKGROUND:**

In early 2007, Geert and Elly Maas were commissioned by the Public Art Committee to engage 102 local citizens (see Annex 1) in the creation of 102 bronze medallions commemorating the community spirit that emerges spontaneously in Kelowna. Judy Burns, Chairperson of the Public Art Committee stated that "Although this project was inspired by the fire in 2003, we wanted to create an art legacy which is not just about that one event. Kelowna's community spirit isn't reserved just for extraordinary circumstances---it is a constant, daily presence in our lives. It motivates our legions of volunteers, it raises our voices in enthusiastic support for our performers and athletes, and it inspires many quiet and sometimes unnoticed acts of kindness and civic pride." The Fire Recovery Society contributed \$33,000 toward the \$60,000 commission, and the Public Art Reserve Fund (10-221-C9990-Q4500) paid the remainder. The works were created between May 5 and September 23, 2007 (see Figure 1). The medallions have been publicly displayed at the artist's studio on previous occasions.



**Figure 1:** Geert Maas with volunteer artists working on the medallions

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It is proposed that the medallions be embedded in a rammed earth wall (see Figure 2) in the general location of the "City of Courage" display in the Queensway Lobby that was mounted after the 2003 Okanagan Fire (see Figure 3). The under-utilized private stair and office on the east side of the lobby will be returned to public space with funds from the City Hall Renovations budget.



**Figure 2:** Example of rammed-earth wall at Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre

It is expected that the wall will be built with the labour of volunteers, selected first from the original artists, and then from other interested citizens if additional labour is needed.

#### **INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:**

Cultural Services Manager  
Cultural Services and Public Art Coordinator  
Financial Planning Manager  
Communications Manager

#### **LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The wall, attached to the building, would be owned by the City and can be altered or relocated if necessary at some future time. The medallions will be arranged on the wall in cooperation with the artist. The medallions themselves are protected by intellectual property laws in favour of the artist, which means they cannot be altered or replicated without permission of the artist.

#### **FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Public Art Committee will purchase the required signage, estimated at \$6,000. The funding for this project is currently appropriated to Civic Properties.

#### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The construction of the rammed earth wall will be supervised by an experienced consultant. \$10,000 would be budgeted to cover formwork engineering, mix design and colour samples, forming, mixing and ramming, supervision, materials and specialized equipment.

#### **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:**

Coordination of the entire project will be provided by Civic Properties. Appropriate action will be taken under the City insurance policy to cover volunteers working on the installation while on City property. The exhibit lighting will be installed by City staff and/or contractors under the supervision of City staff.

#### **EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Geert Maas and the Public Art Committee support the proposed location of the installation and have been involved in its design. Positive press has been published about Mr. Maas' accomplishment since the work was completed.



**Figure 3:** Queensway Lobby private space to be reclaimed for the public domain and installation wall construction.



**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Cultural Services and Public Art Coordinator will coordinate volunteers to work on the installation. Work creating noise and dust will be scheduled for weekends to avoid disrupting normal City Hall business operations. A formal opening will be scheduled once the installation is complete.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

**LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**EXISTING POLICY:**

**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:**

Submitted by:



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R. Cleveland  
Civic Properties Manager

Approved for Inclusion:



Reid Oddleifson, Acting Director, Recreation Parks & Cultural Services

Cc: Lorna Gunn, Cultural Services Manager  
Sandra Kochan, Cultural Services and Public Art Coordinator  
Keith Grayston, Financial Planning Manager  
Karen Cairns, Communications Manager

**ANNEX 1: The Artists and their Work**

Spirit of Kelowna' Medallion Artists		
Last Name	First Name	Title of Medallion
Alton	Jean	Valley Fruit
Anderton	Suzanne	Community in Bloom
Bailey Haythornthwaite	Simon	Paradise
Bailey Haythornthwaite	Francis	Okanagan
Barta	Pavel	Team Spirit
Bates	Jeanne	Unexpected Joy
Beesley	Lynden	Pommunity
Beleutz	Trees	Kelowna & Sister Cities Veendam & Kasugai
Beleutz	Krista	Mother Nature
Birker	Elisabeth (Litti)	At Play
Birker	Dorothee	A Quilted Community
Bosma	Menno	Fruitful Unity
Brown	Bruce	Thank you fire fighters
Burgess	Renee	Continuum
Burns	Judy	Kelowna's Floating Bridge 1958-2008
Byrnes	Olga	Volunteer Spirit
Castillo-Vega	Esteban	Eagle Eyes II
Christie	Elizabeth	In Song
Christie	John M.	Futures
Close	Karen	Community in Rhythm
Coles	Justin	Grown with Love
DeHart	Maxine	DeHart Family Branding Iron Insignia
Docherty	Dr. Majorie Ann	The Birth of Healing
Dunne	Myrtle	Gentle Breeze
Dunne	Vivian	Fruitful In Unity
Freitag	Ute	In Harmony
Freitag	Ekhard	Four Seasons
Gambouras	Isabella	Godspeed Kelowna
Gibbs	Sylvia	Believe
Gibbs	Conner	A Faithful Community
Greedy	Rosemarie	Butterflies Swarming
Hansen	Angela	Embracing the Arts
Hanson	Cherie	Stewardship: Holdingon
Hayes	Joseph F.	Giver of Life
Haythornthwaite	Kim	Swimmer - Sarsons Beach
Heinrich	Linda	Arrowleaf Balsamroot
Hermans-van Leijden	Jo (J.C.)	Friendship
Hoar	Brian	Greenways, Willowbrook Farm to Mission Creek
Holm	David	Summer Wind
Hunt	Mel	Interbeing

Itani	Beryl	Volunteers - The Heart of the Response
Jarrett	Kirsti	Helping Hand
Johnson	Suzanne	Basket of Bounty
Jones	Kathie J.	Mission Creek Greenway
Ketler	Julia	Peaceful Sunrises
Knowles	Linda	Bountiful Harvest
Kochan	Sandra	We Are Diverse Under The Same Sun
Koopman	Nancy	Our Place Amongst the Stars
Kotler	Dina	Rehearsal
Kroker	George	Helping Community
Kulik	Allison	Sharing A Slice of Caring Pie
Lejbak	Maureen	The Core is Love
Lerner	Leonard	Life in the Valley
Letnick	Helene	Entre Nous
Lindoe	Simon	Yee-Ha
Lindsay	Emma	Flower Dance
Livingston	Ralph	To See Heaven In A Flower
Loney	Claire	Calming the Waters Within
Lorette	Diana	Wealth
Lovisa	Linda	Paths to Paradise
Maas	Elly	People
Maas	Geert	Spirit of Kelowna Unleashed
Mason	Mary	Country Drive
Massey Ball	Barbara	Hands across the Sea - KKSCA
Maurmann	Katja	Mother's Love
McKinnon	Scott	Fruitful in Unity
Mentes	L. Gay	Forever Friends
Mentes	Alex	Pioneers of the Okanagan
Mergens	Jeannette	Balancing Act
Morash	Doreen	Warmth
Morden	Iris	Bacon in Kelowna
Murray	Jill	Ladies of the Lake
Nierop	Lorie A.	Keeping The Spirit
Panio	Matthew	The Kelowna Bear and Me
Panio	Dianne	Abundance
Perrin	Richard	Fin - Yang
Rankin	Anne	Hairdressing The Elderly
Ribbink	John	Pinnacle at Layer Cake Mountain
Richmond	Jan	Wine and Sunflowers
Rink	Julie	Place of Peace
Rogers	Dennis	Good Ice
Rosenblatt	Stephanie	Iris
Rule	Michele	Seasons
Salisbury	Laura	Foster the Flower, Shield the Heart, Reward the Hands
Schwarz	Laura	Our roots are our foundation
Serwa	Lois	The indomitable Spirit
Sexsmith	Rose	Love & Peace in the Valley
Shepherd	Sharon	Spirit Bear

Siddiqui	Tina	Smiles
Simpson	Sharron	Honouring Our Pioneers
Spencer	Kathy	Around The Cross
Stephen	Linda	MS Clinic KGH
Tetlow	Carole	Gather
Tracy	Robin	Fire Angel
Trops	Julia	Sanctuary
Trudeau	Doris	Palette of Life
Turnbull	Glenna	We Tri (triathlon)
Turner	Lynne	Joy in the Garden
Van Leening	Miriam	The Cycle of Life
Way	Jo-Ann	Cede Wisdom
Widmer	Laura	Blaze of Compassion
Wood	Shareen	Universal Love
Woodside	Elisabeth (Liz)	Humanity
Zoellner	Dorothy	Unto the hills around do I look up

## ANNEX 2: Conceptual Plan & Section for installation wall

