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CITY OF KELOWNA

**MEMORANDUM**

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**Date:** February 3, 2009  
**File No.:** 7800-01  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Sandra Kochan, Public Art Coordinator  
**Subject:** 2008 Public Art Committee Report

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT City Council receive the 2008 report of the Public Art Committee dated February 3, 2009 for information.

**BACKGROUND:**

**ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST YEAR:**

2008 was a productive and rewarding one for the volunteer Public Art Committee.

The Committee's mandate in its Terms of Reference is 'to work with the community to humanize and animate the urban environment, increase the livability and artistic richness of the community, and stimulate the growth of arts and arts-related businesses through the provision of public art.'

The Public Art Program had its inception in 1997 and since that time, funds from the Public Art Reserve have contributed to the commissioning or acquisition of 27 works, ranging from ornamental tree grates which are being seen on more streets each year, to monumental works such as 'Escape to Stella Polaris' at the Kelowna International Airport.

With the latest round of appointments, the Public Art Committee continues to have a full roster of 11 members:

- Elizabeth Balderston (Vice-Chairperson)
- Kristine Bouw
- Judy Burns (Chairperson)
- Sarah Campbell
- Francisco Carreón
- Vinicio Delgado
- Jane Everett
- Kirsti Jarrett
- George Kroker
- Mary Lund
- Tracy Satin

Two Committee members, Larry Foster and Gordon Hartley, retired in 2008 after many years of service.

The Committee meets monthly. Staff support is provided by a Public Art Coordinator with assistance from personnel from Civic Properties, Parks and Planning as required.

Public art initiatives in 2008 included:

- a) the publication of our third annual Public Art guide. 10,000 copies of this colourful and informative guide were printed in 2008 and are in wide distribution through tourism infocentres, downtown and Cultural District kiosks, and many arts, culture and heritage venues.
- b) Dedication of 'Growth' by Karl Ciesluk. This project features seven small sculptures installed at three different locations along the Brandt's Creek Linear Trail between Yates and Kane Roads in the Glenmore area. The work was installed in August, 2007 and dedicated in April, 2008.
- c) Completion of Geert Maas' 'Spirit of Kelowna' medallion project in City Hall.

The medallion project was a unique community public art project consisting of 104 cast bronze medallions created by Kelowna residents between May and September 2007 in a series of 10 three-day workshops led by renowned local sculptor Geert Maas. Participants were aged 10 and up. Each person created a medallion expressing their interpretation of Kelowna's community spirit. The project was jointly funded by the City's Public Art Reserve and donated proceeds from the Okanagan Mountain Park Fire Recovery Society.

In 2008, work was carried out to complete the installation of the medallions inside City Hall. With design services from then Civic Properties Manager Randy Cleveland, and project management from building technician Steve Walker, a crew of volunteers, city staff and rammed earth experts gathered together over two weekends to build two sections of rammed earth wall which would provide a canvas for mounting the medallions. Other features of the installation include a cast glass titling panel by local artist Carole Tetlow, an interpretive sign, and a photo wall documenting the project.

The final work was officially dedicated at a special event on August 16, which marked the fifth anniversary of the lighting strike which started the 2003 fire.

In addition to much favourable local media coverage, the project was also the subject of a monograph (book) titled 'Spirit of Kelowna: A Celebration of Art and Community' published by the Okanagan Institute, and will be mentioned in the Spring 2009 edition of 'The Medal' magazine edited by the Curator of Medals at The British Museum (London UK).

- d) Completion of 'Arborvitae' by Oliver Harwood and Marie Bortolotto on the entrance façade of Cardington Apartments. This was a \$30,000 project, jointly funded by BC Housing and the Public Art Reserve Fund. The work is a mural created in natural stone in a variety of colours and textures, depicting the ancient, universal 'tree of life' symbolizing growth, strength, renewal and connectedness. It has proven to be a popular enhancement to this important supportive housing project, and the collaborative process between the architect, the John Howard Society, the artists, project managers and the Public Art Committee was rewarding for all involved.
- e) Completion of 'Waterscapes', a banner project funded through the Community Public Art program. This program provides matching funding of up to \$10,000 from the Public Art

Reserve to Kelowna-based non-profit organizations who are proposing projects which involve an artist working directly with the community in the creation of public art. The lead organization for 'Waterscapes' was Science Opportunities for Kids (coordinator Jennifer French), and the project artist was Dawn Emerson. Accompanied by naturalists, groups of children visited riparian areas and sketched what they observed. With guidance from Dawn Emerson, the sketches were developed into small watercolours which were then in turn incorporated into four large (five-by-six foot) tributes to Kelowna's watershed environments. The banners were on display during the annual Kokanee Salmon Festival in September, and will be exhibited in a number of temporary locations around the City throughout 2009. SOKS has also been invited to display the banners at the 5th World Environmental Education Congress in Montreal in May, 2009. The children involved in this project gained knowledge about both the natural environment and the art of watercolour, and they are very proud to see their work displayed.

- f) Award of the \$160,000 public art commission for Stuart Park to Brower Hatcher of Providence, Rhode Island. This project, launched in 2003, and scheduled for completion in 2010, will see the installation of a large bear sculpture on a promontory in the redesigned Stuart Park. The project is funded by both the Public Art Reserve (\$60,000) and the capital budget for the park redevelopment (\$100,000). The final concept plans for the park are nearing completion and the artist has been working collaboratively with the design team to ensure the best integration of the art into the site. This project is one of several public art opportunities identified in multiple phases of the park concept plan, and the Public Art Committee will be working on future projects for this site over the next couple of years.
- g) Award of the \$200,000 public art project for the William R. Bennett Bridge gateway into Kelowna, to Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer of ie Creative Artworks in Vancouver. This project includes a significant sculptural work adjacent to the roadway and a secondary installation at a viewpoint along the pedestrian/cyclist pathway near the City Park tunnel. The primary sculpture is an interpretation of Kelowna's relationship to both sun and water, and the secondary installation, using sections of the old bridge, will tell the story of the lake crossing through history, including the construction of both the 1958 and 2008 bridges. The project budget includes a \$40,000 contribution from the provincial Ministry of Transportation.
- h) Launch of a \$100,000 public art commission, for the west façade of the Mission Recreation Park Aquatic Centre. 40 submissions were received in response to the Request for Qualifications, and 7 shortlisted artists are now preparing final proposals which will be received and reviewed in February, 2009.
- i) Launch of a \$30,000 public art project for the Old Mill Creek Bridge at Pandosy. This project will see a public art installation on the refurbished deck of a de-commissioned roadway bridge. The Public Art Committee completed its first round of evaluation on January 27 and final concepts will be provided by 4 shortlisted artists at the end of March. We expect to bring a recommendation for the project award to Council in April, 2009.
- j) A series of 3 workshops with Rutland stakeholders regarding planning for public art in the Rutland Town Centre. The information emerging from these workshops is now part of a larger planning project for the Rutland Transit Exchange and streetscaping for the Rutland Town Centre.
- k) Completion of two major maintenance projects
  - Based on a condition report and recommendations from Tracy Satin, the professional conservator at the Okanagan Heritage Museum, a new base was created by the original artist, Pete Ryan, for the *'Renaissance of a Tree'* sculpture installed near the Pavilion

building in City Park. This new base replaced the original cottonwood base which had seriously deteriorated over the last 10 years.

- With assistance from the artist Dawn MacNutt and Pyramid Bronze Foundry, '*Sentinel*' was repaired and moved from its original site at the south end of the Artwalk near the Library Parkade, to its new location inside City Hall. At the same time, the sister work '*Spirit of Kelowna*' was removed from City Hall – discussions about a new indoor location for this work are underway. The Public Art Committee is also planning for a replacement work at the Artwalk site in 2010, budget permitting.

In summary, 4 of the 7 commissions launched or completed in 2008 involve funding partnerships with the community and other agencies. These partnerships have assisted in building awareness of the public art program in the community, leveraging financial resources, and providing unique opportunities for art and creativity in the public realm.

#### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES:**

The Public Art Committee is looking forward to another busy and productive year in 2009.

The Committee's activities fall within three broad timeframes:

- Monitoring progress of projects already underway (current year)
- Launch of competitions for new projects (current to 1 year forward)
- Research and planning for future projects (1 to 3 years forward), including allocation of budget reserves.

Most public art projects span a 2-3 year period from planning, through to project competition and selection, and completed installation.

Projects already underway:

- fabrication at the artist's studio of the 'Bear' sculpture for Stuart Park with installation anticipated in 2010 (approved by Council in July, 2008);
- fabrication and installation of the 2 works for the William R. Bennett Bridge project (approved by Council in November, 2008);
- reports will be coming forward to Council in the next few months with recommendations for two project awards: the west façade of the Mission Recreation Park Aquatic Centre and the old Mill Creek Bridge at Pandosy;

New commissioning projects in 2009 (all of which would return to Council for approval of the final selection):

- a) the third annual intake of applications for our Community Public Art program (2009 deadline is February 27). Depending on the number and quality of applications received, these grants will likely generate one or two projects in 2009. We will be working with our colleagues in the Active Communities Department to build some linkages between the Community Public Art program and various neighbourhood and community initiatives they are working on;
- b) Rutland Transit Exchange and Town Centre Streetscaping Plan – a number of public art opportunities have been identified as part of the planning work associated with streetscaping and the development of the new Rutland Transit Exchange. The first phase of public art associated with these plans will proceed in conjunction with construction when it occurs, with future phases to follow as budget and planning allows. The Public Art Committee has identified a public art project in the Rutland Town Centre as a priority, and seeks to integrate the art as much as possible into the overall planning and design in the area;
- c) A design competition for streetscaping elements to be incorporated into Ellis Street improvements. This would offer an opportunity to local emerging artists to provide designs for

- various streetscaping components. This type of opportunity is similar to that used to create the decorative tree grates which now appear throughout the City;
- d) depending on funding and construction timelines, public art features for the pedestrian overpass planned to cross Highway 97 between the Parkinson Recreation Centre and the Landmark Centre development;
  - e) depending on funding and construction timelines, public art features associated with the new Glenmore Bypass;
  - f) in addition to the bear sculpture, public art elements identified in the final conceptual design for Phase I of Stuart Park. Reserves will be accumulated for further public art opportunities associated with Phase II of the Park development.

**Maintenance-related projects planned for 2009:**

- relocation of Dawn MacNutt's 'Spirit of Kelowna'. This wicker sculpture was removed from the City Hall lobby during 2008 renovations and is currently in storage. A number of potential locations have been identified and are being assessed;
- conservation assessment and maintenance report (update to the report done in 2006/2007) by professional conservation staff at the Okanagan Heritage Museum. Repair work identified as a priority in this report will be carried out as resources allow.

**Partnerships, research and planning in 2009:**

- for action in 2010, a community public art project in Kettle Valley which will directly involve local residents in the art-making activity;
- investigation of a possible interactive public art component for the annual Music & Arts Festival (formerly the Life & Arts Festival) at the end of July, 2009;
- for action in 2010, feasibility of an award and event in recognition of high quality public art and urban space design projects initiated by the private sector;
- creation of reserves for future phases of public art in Stuart Park and the Mission Recreation Park Aquatic Centre;
- for action in 2010, feasibility of a public art enhancement for the Chapman Parkade.

Changes to this list will undoubtedly arise as planning and funding priorities shift. A contingency amount is also planned so that we have sufficient budget to respond to opportunities which may arise later this year.

Attached as Appendix A is a spreadsheet itemizing proposed allocations from the public art reserve for the 2009 and future year initiatives identified in this report.

**INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:**

- Jim Gabriel, Director, Active Communities
- Pat McCormick, Planner Specialist, Facilities and Urban Places
- Andrew Gibbs, Parks & Public Space Project Manager
- Lorna Gunn, Grants Manager
- David Graham, Director, Strategic Initiatives & Intergovernmental Partnerships

**CONCLUSION:**

The successes of the last year for the Public Art Program would not have been possible without the assistance and partnership of many individuals and organizations, both within the City, and in the community at large. The Public Art Committee is actively working to build an inclusive and dynamic public art program and extends its thanks and appreciation to Council for its continuing support and to all of the various departments and staff who provide expertise and assistance for public art projects.

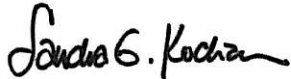
**EXISTING POLICY:**

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.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

**FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS**  
**LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY**  
**LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**  
**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**  
**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**  
**EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION**

Submitted by:



*S Kochan, Public Art Coordinator*

Approved for Inclusion:



Randy Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Asset Management

ANNUAL PROJECTS		Public Art Budget				Version 7	Jan, 26/09
NEW PROJECTS							
PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY							
2009 figures are estimates		Budget	Balance	2010 figures are estimates		Budget	Balance
<b>REVENUE 2009</b>				<b>REVENUE 2010</b>			
1% Public Art Allocation for 2009	\$ 150,000	Note 1		1% Public Art Allocation	\$ 175,000	Note 1	
Plus 2008 Unallocated	\$ 547,350	Note 2		Plus 2009 Unallocated	\$ 350		
<b>TOTAL AVAIL REVENUE 2009</b>	<b>\$ 697,350</b>	<b>\$ 697,350</b>		<b>TOTAL AVAIL REVENUE 2010</b>	<b>\$ 175,350</b>	<b>\$ 175,350</b>	
<b>ADMIN EXPENSES 2009</b>				<b>ADMIN EXPENSES 2010</b>			
Collection Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 12,000	Note 3		Collection Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 12,000		
Conservation Assessment	\$ 5,000	Note 3		Conservation Assessment	\$ 5,000		
Brochure	\$ 8,000			Brochure	\$ 8,000		
Staff	\$ 20,000	Note 4		Staff	\$ 20,000		
Advertising & Promotion	\$ 2,500			Advertising & Promotion	\$ 2,500		
<b>TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSES 2009</b>	<b>\$ 47,500</b>	<b>\$649,850</b>		<b>TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSES 2010</b>	<b>\$ 47,500</b>	<b>\$ 127,850</b>	
<b>PROJECT EXPENSES 2009</b>				<b>PROJECT EXPENSES 2010</b>			
Community Public Art	\$ 12,500			Community Public Art	\$ 12,500		
Music & Arts Fest public art component	\$ 5,000	Note 5		Music & Arts Fest public art component	TBC		
				Private Sector Public Art	TBC		
Stuart Park Phase I - bear sculpture	\$ 60,000	Note 6		Stuart Park Phase II	TBC	Note 2	
Mission Aquatic Centre Art Phase I	\$ 100,000			Mission Aquatic Centre Art Phase II	\$ 40,000	Note 3	
Old Mill Creek Bridge at Pandosy	\$ 30,000			Multi Modal Corridor Reserve	future reserve	Note 4	
WRB Bridge East Side	\$ 160,000			Orchard Park Town Centre	TBC		
Streetscaping (Ellis / Downtown)	\$ 35,000	Note 7		Chapman Parkade	future reserve	Note 5	
Glenmore Bypass	\$ 55,000	Note 8		Kettle Valley community project	future reserve	Note 6	
Stuart Park additional Phase I	\$ 22,000	Note 9		Replacement work S end of Artwalk	TBC		
Rutland Transit Exchange	\$ 50,000	Note 10		Rutland Town Centre Phase II	\$ 50,000	Note 7	
PRC Overpass	\$ 60,000	Note 11					
Relocate wicker Spirit of Kelowna	\$ 10,000						
New project contingency	\$ 50,000						
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES 2009</b>	<b>\$649,500</b>	<b>\$350</b>		<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES 2010</b>	<b>\$ 102,500</b>	<b>\$ 25,350</b>	
<b>NOTES for 2009:</b>				<b>NOTES for 2010:</b>			
1. Reduced from \$190,000; full 1% approx \$215,000				1. Estimate only			
2. Estimate as of Dec. 31/08				2. For public art sites identified in overall park concept Phase II			
3. Supplements Civ Prop \$10,000				3. For interior and/or community projects			
4. Supplements other dept budgets				4. Reserve accumulated in anticipation of construction			
5. Could become an annual feature				5. \$70,000 in 2011.			
6. Plus \$100,000 from Parks capital				6. \$65,000 in 2011.			
7. Design comp for elements for devt use				7. For public art opps arising from streetscaping plan			
8. 50% match with Transp - 2009 timeline firm							
9. Additional public art features from concept plan							
10. Contingent upon transit project construction in 2009							
11. Contingent on external funding							