

Memo



Date: April 7, 2010
File: 7800-01
To: City Manager
From: Staff Liaison to the Public Art Committee
Subject: Public Art Committee Annual Report for 2009

Recommendation:

THAT City Council receive for information, the 2009 Annual Report of the Public Art Committee dated April 7, 2010;

Corporate Reorganization

With the corporate reorganization of the City of Kelowna, the Public Art Program was transferred from Cultural Services, to the newly created Infrastructure Planning department in the Community Sustainability Division.

This transfer of responsibility is consistent with Infrastructure Planning's mandate to oversee the design of public spaces of which public art is a key component, particularly in the Urban Centres. The stewardship of the program by Infrastructure Planning also recognizes that the public art inventory is a valued asset representing millions of dollars of public investment. This investment is growing through the careful selection of new acquisitions. Moreover, the collection requires on-going care and maintenance to protect its artistic and monetary value over the long-term.

The author of this report is the designated staff liaison to the Public Art Committee and the administrative overseer of the Public Art Program.

Background

Public Art Program

Council recognizes that the aesthetic quality of Kelowna's public realm can be enhanced through the provision of works of art in public places and that provision of such works can also increase community identity as well as awareness and appreciation of the arts generally.

Council has therefore established a Public Art Program to acquire art for public display. The Public Art Program had its inception in 1997 and since that time, annual funding in support of the program has been allocated by Council. This funding has contributed to the commissioning of more than 30 works of public art.

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Public Art Committee

Council has also deemed it appropriate to seek professional and community advice on the disbursement of dedicated funding through the establishment of a Public Art Committee. The Public Art Committee is an Advisory Committee of Council.

The Committee's mandate as set out in its Terms of Reference is to work with the community to humanize and animate the urban environment, increase Kelowna's livability and artistic richness, and stimulate the growth of arts and arts-related businesses through the provision of public art. The Committee determines suitable indoor and outdoor public spaces, conducts competitions, and makes recommendations to Council regarding the awarding of public art commissions. In all instances, the final decision regarding any public art commission rests with Council.

In order to provide for broad representation from the community, the membership of the Public Art Committee is composed of a group of individuals with diverse backgrounds, all with interest in the arts and public art in particular. The membership of the Committee shall be comprised of up to eleven individuals who reside, are employed, or who own property in Kelowna. Members have a responsibility to make decisions based on the best interests of the community.

Judy Burns presided as Chair throughout 2009. Elizabeth Balderston served as Vice-Chair. At its first meeting of 2010, Judy Burns stepped down as Chair and was replaced by Elizabeth Balderston. Jane Everett was elected as Vice-Chair. At present, there are 10 members on the Committee. The members of the Committee are:

- Elizabeth Balderston, Chair
- Jane Everett- Vice-Chair
- Judy Burns
- Francisco Carreón
- Kirsti Jarrett
- George Kroker
- Mary Lund
- Phred Martin
- Amanda Parks
- Tracy Satin

The Committee meets monthly. In addition to the designated staff liaison, support to the Committee is provided by personnel from the Office of the City Clerk as well as other departments and divisions as needed.

Committee Activity, 2009

Public art initiatives in 2009 included:

Zephyr

Zephyr was Phase 1 of a commission awarded in 2008 to *ie creative Artworks* of Vancouver. The piece was installed in July of 2009 at the east end of the WR Bennett Bridge.

Standing, Leaning, and Reclining

These pieces are Phase 2 of the commission to *ie creative Artworks*. This installation utilizes three sections of the lift span of the former Okanagan Floating Bridge as an artistic statement to commemorate the structure. The pieces were installed in October, 2009.

The pieces were selected by the artist from among the sections that were cut from the lift span when it was dismantled. The pieces were polished and painted and installed adjacent to the Lake on the site where the former bridge touched the shore of Okanagan Lake.

The pieces will be complemented by a series of signs that convey the history of the previous bridge as a critical link in the development of the region's transportation network and as such, key to the economic development of Kelowna and the Okanagan Valley. Additionally, the signage will profile the construction of the new bridge, highlighting the design and construction as a significant engineering accomplishment.

The budget for the project, including Phase 1 and Phase 2 was \$200,000.00 with \$40,000.00 contributed by the Ministry of Transportation and \$160,000.00 contributed by the City of Kelowna Public Art fund.

Bear

This artwork will be a centerpiece of the new Stuart Park. The commission was awarded in 2007 to Mid-Ocean Studio Inc. of Providence, Rhode Island. The administration of this contract continued throughout 2009. Fabrication has been completed. The artwork is in storage in Rhode Island and will be delivered when Stuart Park has been completed and the artwork can be installed without risk of damage from on-going construction activity.

Other

Two Public Art competitions were undertaken in 2009.

H2O Aquatic Centre

This proposal, for artwork to be attached to the west face of the new H2O Adventure and Fitness Centre was advertised in 2008. First- and second- round evaluations were completed in 2009. The budget for the project is \$100,000.00.

Old Mill Creek Bridge

This proposal, for artwork on the site of the bridge over Mill Creek that was decommissioned from vehicular traffic when Water Street was re-aligned with Pandosy Street at Harvey Avenue, was also advertised in 2008. First- and second-round evaluations were completed in 2009. Budget for the project is \$30,000.00.

Eagles in the City

Eagles in the City is a program initiated and administered by the BC Lions Society's Easter Seal Services. The Society's mandate is to raise money to run programs for children with disabilities.

The Kelowna installation of *Eagles in the City*, was an artwork by local artist Rod Charlesworth. No funding was requested from the Public Art fund. However, the Public Art Committee was pleased to support the project in principle and the staff liaison worked with the BC Lion's Society and the Kelowna Art Gallery to identify a suitable site, to see that the necessary insurance was in place, and to help coordinate installation and dedication of the artwork.

The artwork was unveiled on May 27th, 2009. The City of Kelowna was represented by the late Councilor Brian Given. The artwork was situated at the north-east corner of the Kelowna Art Gallery site. It was removed on March 18th, 2010. It was shipped to Vancouver to be auctioned with other pieces in the program that were located in other temporary locations throughout the province. The money raised will help fund the Society's programs.

Projects under the Community Public Art Program

Community Public Art is a collaborative process between a professional, a practicing artist, and the community. As such, it is a way for the community to creatively express its needs and aspirations. The program is promoted and administered by the City of Kelowna Cultural Services division with funding from the Public Art fund. Proposals under the Community Public Art program must meet the terms of reference set out for the program and must be approved by the Public Art Committee, and the Committee's recommendation endorsed by Council, to receive funding.

In 2009, the following projects were endorsed by the Public Art Committee:

Pride Mural

Pride Mural by Kelowna artist Scott Tobin was completed at the end of June on the south wall of the building at 1476 Water Street. The image of two hands clasped together in a rainbow background was developed through a series of youth focus groups from the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/questioning community and reflects positive messaging about the work of the Okanagan Rainbow Coalition and the Pride Week theme of "unity". The lead organization for the project was the Okanagan Rainbow Coalition; \$5,000.00 was contributed from the Public Art Reserve.

One Block at a Time

One Block at a Time is a project initiated by Communities in Bloom. The project's aim is to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the 400 block of Leon Avenue. It involves three related initiatives:

- A mural on the east face of a privately-owned building at 420 Leon Avenue;
- A series of panels painted by Westbank First Nations youth to be mounted on the wall of the Ki-low-na Friendship Society (442 Leon Avenue);
- Eight paintings, each painting applied directly to one face of four double-sided metal banners; each painting is by a local artist. Each banner will be mounted on a separate pole which in turn will be mounted at an as-yet-to-be-determined location along the sidewalks on the block.

The mural, by local artist Graham Chambers has been completed. The doors and the banners will be installed in spring, 2010. The Public Art allocation contributed \$5,000.00 to this project.

Maintenance

In 2009, an upgrade was made to *Natural Language* located in front of the Downtown branch of the Okanagan Regional Library. The piece is interactive in that it was designed to be rotated by viewers. However, individuals also climb on it and this activity puts more stress than initially intended, on the turning mechanism located at the base of the artwork.

The artwork was removed for repairs in spring 2009 and the mechanism that facilitates the rotating action was replaced with sturdier bearings. The artwork was returned to its designated location and the changes are expected to allow the artwork to withstand a wider range of loads created by public use.

Fruit Stand, located along the Cultural District Artwalk was vandalized in the summer. Extensive damage was incurred as a result of an attempt to dislodge one of the pieces from its moorings. Repairs required that the piece be returned to the artist's Vancouver studio where it is being

repaired. City staff worked with the artist to strengthen the anchoring system by which the artwork is attached to its base. The piece is expected to be back in place in April, 2010.

Ran is a series of three companion pieces located along the Mission Creek Greenway. The artwork nearest Gordon Drive was marked with aerosol paint this past fall but has since been cleaned.

Other artworks in the collection are under a program of on-going maintenance administered by City staff.

Committee Activity, 2010

Projects for 2010

The following projects and activities are anticipated in 2010:

- *Bear*- the sculpture has been completed and is in storage in Rhode Island; it will be delivered and installed in time for the opening of Stuart Park in June, 2010;
- Knowles Park- \$5,000.00 was allocated to complete the arbour at the entrance to the park from the Ethel Street / Bernard Avenue corner. This artwork is under construction.
- H2O Aquatic Centre; Requests for Proposals were received in 2009 and the Committee completed the evaluation process (see Committee Activity, 2009 above); subsequent to that process, the Committee was advised by staff that more public input might be desirable; the Committee responded and is discussing how this might take place; it is expected a recommendation to Council will be forthcoming later this year;
- Old Mill Creek Bridge- an artwork has been selected for recommendation to Council (see Committee Activity, 2009 above); a report to Council will be forthcoming in the next month;
- CN Station- this is a jointly-funded project between the Public Art Program and the train station developer; the total budget is \$30,000.00 to be shared equally between the parties. The artwork will commemorate the role that the railway played in the economic development of the region. The terms of the Request for Proposal are being discussed with the developer and the Public Art Committee.

Other projects and activities include:

- 1) Lakeshore Rd. and Houghton Rd. multi-modal corridors; these two components of the community's active transportation network will be under construction this spring; possible locations for public art installations along the corridor are being examined by the Committee;
- 2) Glenmore Bypass; this re-alignment of Glenmore Road is under construction and expected to be completed in June, 2010; possible public art locations along the length of the bypass are being explored by the Committee.

The above two projects speak to the Committee's desire to capitalize on opportunities to integrate public art with capital projects as they are identified. This approach requires close coordination with City of Kelowna staff during the planning stages of such projects.

- 3) Education and promotion- the Committee will be discussing opportunities to promote awareness and understanding of the Public Art Program and the role that the Public Art Committee plays in the stewardship of the program.

- 4) Preparation of a Conservation Report; conservation assessments by a qualified practitioner are a necessary step in the preservation and protection of any public art collection. The most recent assessment of Kelowna's collection was completed in 2006. It is appropriate, given the amount of time that has intervened, and given the number of additions to the collection since 2006, that another assessment be undertaken. A proposal from the Okanagan Museum (the Ursula Surtees Regional Conservation Laboratory) has been received. It is expected that the terms will be agreed upon shortly and that an assessment will be completed in 2010.
- 5) Community Public Art Projects- The following projects were reviewed in March by the Committee under the Community Public Art Program described above. A recommendation to Council regarding funding, including more information about these projects, is pending:
 - Willowbridge Art Project- a proposal from the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) to create a metalwork installation in conjunction with the Willowbridge Supportive Housing facility (330 Boyce Crescent; a joint project among CMHA, the City of Kelowna, and BC Housing).
 - The Body Mapping Project- a proposal from the Living Positive Resource Centre of the Okanagan in partnership with the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange. With this project, participants, create compelling paintings that illustrate the impacts of living with HIV.
 - Spirals- a proposal from the Cool Arts Society (a local non-profit organization that provides fine art opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities); the project will be a series of temporary artworks to honour environmental awareness while demonstrating social responsibility and community interaction.

Conclusion

The Committee has embarked on another busy year in which it will strive to diligently build an inclusive and dynamic program that demonstrates and celebrates Kelowna's commitment to arts and culture. The Committee wishes to acknowledge that the success of the Public Art Program would not have been possible without the City of Kelowna and the assistance and partnership of many individuals and organizations. The Committee extends its appreciation to Council for its continuing support and to all of the departments and staff who provide expertise and assistance to the Program.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations

The Public Art Program receives up to 1% of the City's annual capital budget from taxation and receives a minimum of \$100,000.00 annually. The Public Art Program is adequately funded for the works being considered.

Internal Circulation:

Cultural Services Manager
Manager, Community and Media Relations

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 not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/statutory Procedural Requirements:

Personnel Implications:

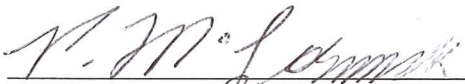
Technical Requirements:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Considerations:

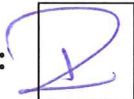
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



P. McCormick, Urban Design Planner

Approved for inclusion:



R. Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning

cc: J. Paterson, General Manager, **Community Sustainability**

S. Kochan, Cultural Services Manager

C. Stephens, Director, Community and Media Relations

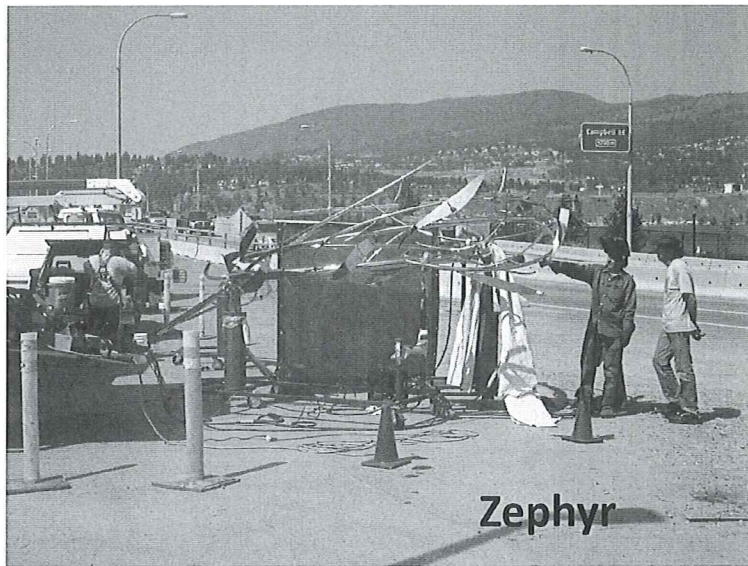
PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Annual Report, 2009



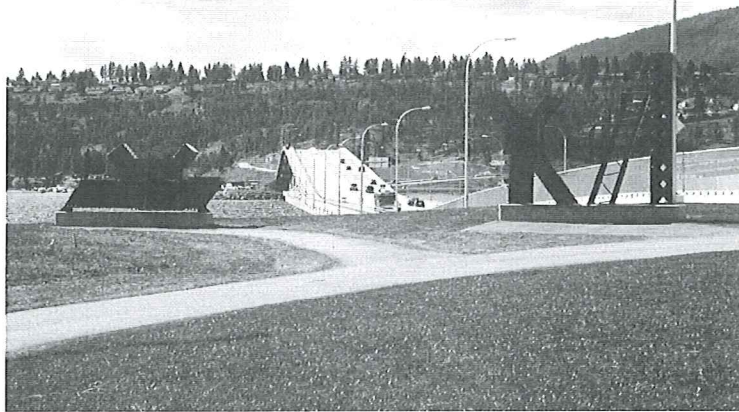
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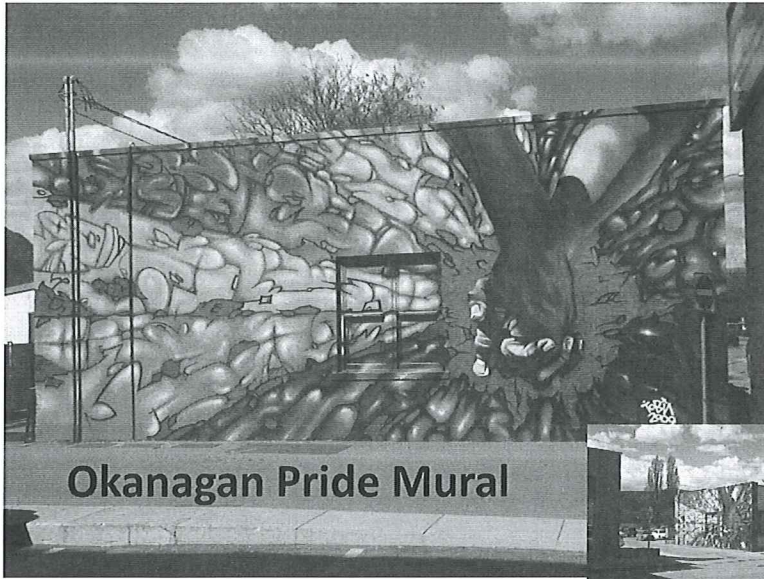
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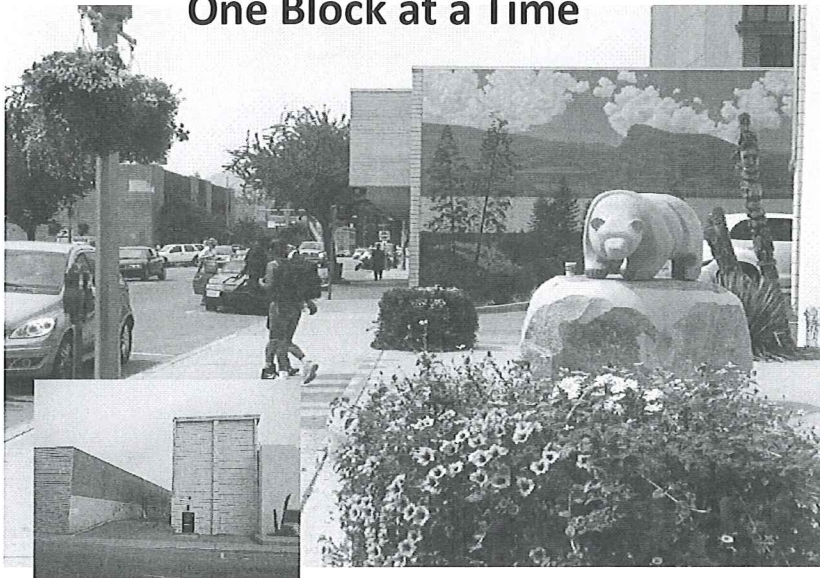


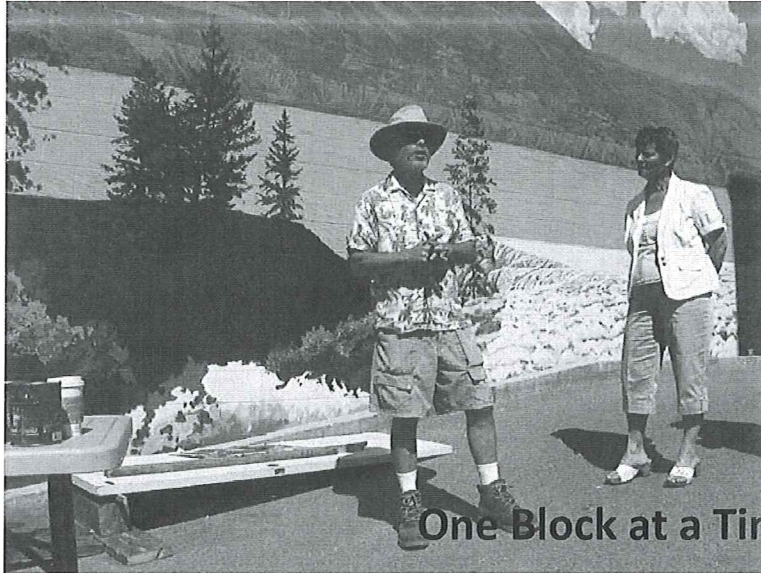
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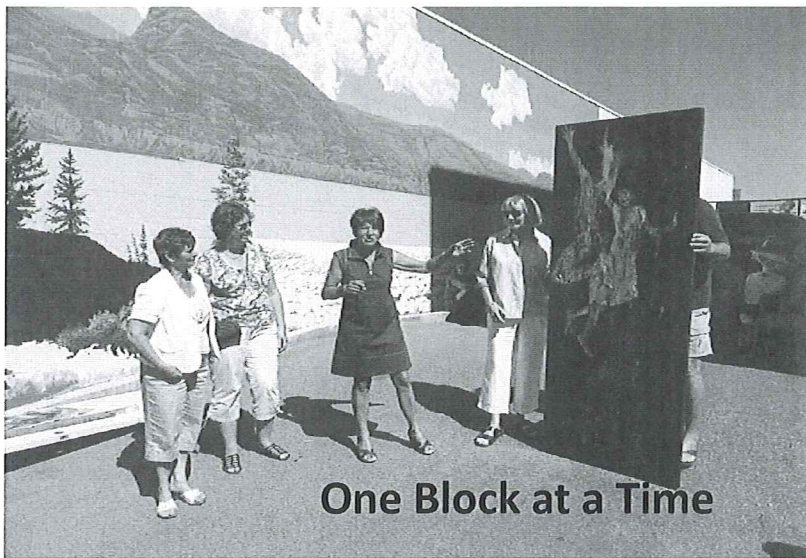


One Block at a Time



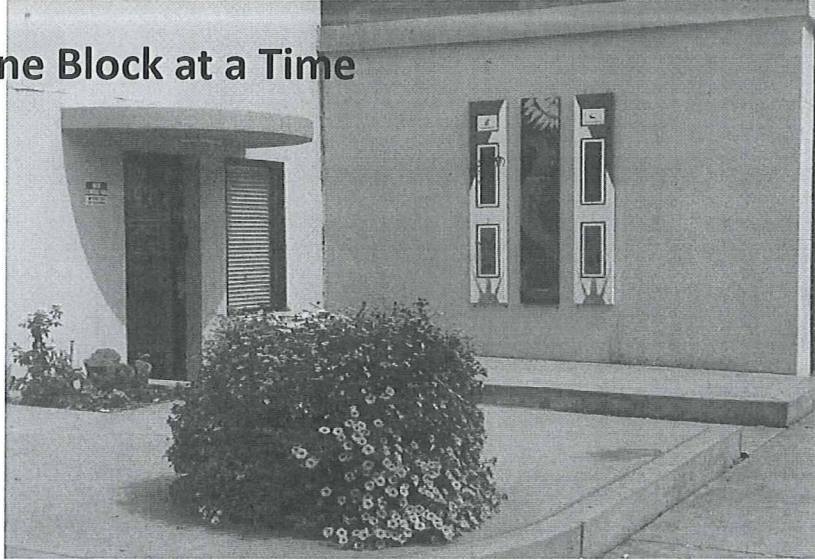


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