

REPORT TO COUNCIL



Date: November 22, 2011
File: 1340-40
To: City Manager
From: Staff Liaison to the Public Art Committee
Subject: Public Art Program Annual Report

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information, the report from the Public Art Committee dated November 22, 2011, with respect to the Public Art Program Annual Report.

Purpose:

To update Council on activity in 2011 related to the Public Art Program and to provide an overview of expected projects and activities in 2012.

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 and that provision of such works can also increase community identity as well as awareness and appreciation of the arts generally.

In addition, public art contributes to the distinctiveness and economic development of a community. Distinctiveness is one of the magnets that attract tourists, business, and the younger professional labour cohort. There is a real return on public investment in art in the public domain.

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. The City's Public Art Brochure, with an overview of the collection can be found at: www.kelowna.ca/CityPage/Docs/PDFs//Art/PublicArtBrochure.pdf.

Public Art Committee

Council has deemed it appropriate to seek professional and community advice on the disbursement of dedicated funding through the establishment of a Public Art Committee, as an advisory committee of Council.

Program Activity, 2011

1. *PLEASE TOUCH THE ART; Art in the Public Space* (Attachment 1) - this exhibition was a partnership with the Kelowna Art Gallery (KAG), with Public Art Committee members and KAG staff contributing considerable time and effort towards the project. The

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials "R" followed by a flourish.

exhibition took place at KAG from July 16 to September 4. Its aim was to promote the City's Public Art Program and engage the public in a dialogue about public art. In addition to profiling prominent artworks in the collection, the exhibit set out the process by which public art is delivered to the community.

An Open House in conjunction with the exhibit was held July 23, and a panel discussion took place on the evening of August 11. Both events were at KAG. The discussion centred on the social and economic role that public art plays in Kelowna and resulted in a lively discussion of key benefits and opportunities. The exhibition also included a wall where questions were posted and where visitors were encouraged to post their responses. KAG actively promoted the event which received significant positive media exposure and was well attended by the public. More information on the activities associated with the exhibition can be found in Attachment 1.

2. *Coming Home* (Attachment 2) - This artwork by Fran Kiefer Bezeau was commissioned by the Okanagan Dragoons to commemorate its 100th anniversary. In February, the artwork was accepted into the City's public art collection. The artwork was subsequently installed in the arrivals lounge at the Kelowna International Airport.
3. *Tradition of Service, Firefighters' Memorial* (Attachment 3) - In July, the artwork was accepted into the Public Art Collection. The artwork was subsequently installed at the firehall on Enterprise Way.

4. Community Public Art - projects for 2011:

Science Opportunities for Kids (SOKS) - EcoArt Project (Attachment 4)

EcoArt is one of several projects initiated under the SOKS program Science Meets Art. These projects use hands-on activities to encourage children to explore and express their experiences in the natural world through art. In 2011, the EcoArt Project was undertaken at 8 Kelowna schools. The ages of the students who participated ranged from 6 to 10 years.

The project began with an in-class presentation about understanding processes and an introduction to the biotic and abiotic components of local ecosystems, focusing on water as a limiting element. The next session was a field trip with the students from each of the respective schools to a near-by ecosystem. Participants hiked, reflected, discussed, played, and recorded their experiences through painting, sketching, and note taking after a series of hand-on activities that introduced them to the characteristics of the site.

Each field trip was followed by a number of classroom sessions in which the students worked collaboratively. With the help of local artist Pippa Vein Deerman and support from parents and SOKS staff, students learned many techniques of fibre art including felting, cattail weaving, pine needle braiding, shaburi and fabric painting- the goal being to express observed relationships within the natural environment and their own interaction with the ecosystem they visited. Perhaps more importantly, students learned to put into practice the process by which artists transform observations and experiences into physical forms.

The artworks were displayed September 10 and 11 at the Lake Country ArtWalk and September 13 at the Kokanee Salmon Festival. A selection of the artworks is now on display at the Kelowna Museum.

Gospel Mission Leon Avenue Banners (Attachment 5)

A workshop was held at the Gospel Mission on June 8th. Approximately ten Gospel Mission clients worked alongside artists who volunteered for the purposes of helping the clients express their creative possibilities with paint and brush. The 8 local artists subsequently used the experience of working with the clients as inspiration to create 4, 2-sided metal banners, each artist hand-painting one banner.

With extra resources available from the project sponsors and the City's Park Services, the applicant asked the Public Art Committee's permission to undertake and install 2 banners in addition to the 4 banners that had already been commissioned. No money was allocated from the Public Art Program for these additional banners. The metal banners are being installed with the assistance of City staff in the 200 and 300 blocks of Leon Avenue.

5. Public Art Program Review: The Terms of Reference and the budget for a review to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Public Art Program were approved by Council and a consultant has been hired. The report is expected in spring 2012;
6. H2O - On November 7, Council endorsed a process including public engagement to select an artwork for the west façade of the H2O Adventure + Fitness Centre. The winning submission will be recommended in 2012.

Program Activity, 2012

2012 will see continuation of the H2O project and given the nature and scope of this project, it is expected it will be the most significant undertaking for the coming year. Additionally, the deadline for Community Public Art submissions is December 9, 2011 and it is expected that there will be a number of applications for the Committee to review in early 2012.

As well, public art opportunities will be explored as part of the detail design phase of the Bernard Avenue Revitalization with the aim of creating a streetscape that speaks to the natural and cultural landscapes of the region. The identification of other possible projects will await completion of the Program Review and presentation of recommendations to Council.

Committee Membership

The Terms of Reference for the Public Art Committee provides for 11 members. The Committee's term coincides with that of Council, expiring on December 31, 2011.

As of November 9, 2011, the following individuals filled 7 positions on the Committee:

- Amanda Parks, Chairperson
- Jane Everett, Vice-Chairperson
- George Kroker, Vice-Chairperson
- Elizabeth Balderston
- Kirsti Jarrett
- Phred Martin
- Nataley Nagy

There were four resignations from the Committee in 2011. Those resignations were from James Calder, Catherine Hale, Mary Lund, and Francisco Carreon.

The Public Art Committee staff liaison has interviewed the three individuals whose applications are on file and will be making a recommendation to Council in the New Year to instate these applicants on the Committee.

Maintenance

A program of regular maintenance by staff from Real Estate and Building Services was carried out in 2011. There were no incidents of vandalism in 2011.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations

The Public Art Program receives up to 1% of the City's annual capital budget from taxation. The Program received \$15,000.00 in 2011. A submission for funding in 2012 will be included in the 2012 capital budget.

Existing Policy:

The information in this report is submitted pursuant to the Public Art Committee Terms of Reference, Arts & Cultural Policy 274, the City of Kelowna Cultural Plan (2011), and Chapter 9 of the Official Community Plan.

Internal Circulation:

Manager, Parks and Public Spaces
Manager, Cultural Services
Chair, Public Art Committee

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:

Patrick McCormick, Staff Liaison to the Public Art Committee

Approved for inclusion:



R.Cleveland, Director, Infrastructure Planning

cc: General Manager, Community Sustainability
Director, Real Estate and Building Services
Director, Communications
Manager, Cultural Services
Chair, Public Art Committee

Attachment 1: *Please Touch the Art: Art in the Public Space*

The following information was posted on the KAG website, sent to local media outlets, and sent to KAG members via KAG's electronic newsletter.

Events

Open House - Kelowna Art Gallery Saturday, July 23, 2011 1-3 pm

Tour the informative exhibition inside the Gallery while enjoying light food and refreshments. Members of the Public Art Committee and Kelowna Art Gallery staff will be available for discussion. Free walking and pedi-cab tours of public art throughout the city will be available. Pedi-cab tours courtesy Monashee Adventure Tours.

Panel Discussion - Kelowna Art Gallery Thursday, August 11, 2011 7-9 pm

Stimulating, provocative and informative discussion about public art and the role it plays in creating a vibrant community. Artist Brower Hatcher will be here to speak about his sculpture *Bear*, now installed in Stuart Park in downtown Kelowna. Additional artists including Jock Hildebrandt and Lee Claremont will speak from the perspective of artists and community members. The panel also includes Public Art Committee Chair, Amanda Parks, and City of Kelowna Cultural Services Manager Sandra Kochan.

Activities

Public Art Walking Tours July 26-September 1, 2011 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2:30 pm

- Drop-in, departing from the Kelowna Art Gallery
- Cost: \$8 per person (includes Gallery admission)

Enjoy a stroll through the city and view many pieces of the public art collection. These are drop-in tours, and the cost includes a tour of the Kelowna Art Gallery's current exhibitions.

Public Art Scavenger Hunt July 16-September 4, 2011

Tour the informative exhibition at the Gallery and then challenge your knowledge of the collection with the public art scavenger hunt. Complete all the questions with touring, and then return the form to the Kelowna Art Gallery. Participants' names will be entered into a draw for a Kelowna Art Gallery *Sacks in the City* bag (made from a past exhibition banner), a Kelowna Art Gallery membership, and a *Nexus* catalogue featuring the Gallery's permanent collection.

Pedi-Cab Tours - Monashee Adventure Tours 90-min downtown Kelowna Public Art Tour

- Cost: \$40 per person (incl. HST)

- Two pedi-cabs available; 3 people per tour or max. 500 lbs

View the City of Kelowna's public art collection by pedi-cab; 15 to 20 pieces of art will be viewed, with a Kelowna Art Gallery visit included Monday to Saturday. Tours must be booked in advance through Monashee Adventure Tours. Tour will disembark from place of accommodation or a designated starting point. Call Monashee to book.

Toll Free: 1.888.76C.YCLE (2.9253)

Phone: 250.76C.YCLE (2.9253)

Cell: 250.878.3KVR (587)

Public Art Exhibition Public Input
July 16-September 4, 2011
Kelowna Art Gallery

Please Touch the Art: Art in the Public Space features a wall where questions will be posed to visitors to the Gallery, with an invitation for the visitor to write down their answers and post it on the wall. The City of Kelowna is interested in this feedback, and the Kelowna Art Gallery will collect this information and give it to the Public Art Committee to pass along.

Merchandise

***Bear*, by Brower Hatcher**

18" x 24", poster

Rendering of *Bear* Sculpture in Stuart Park

Purchase one of these limited number, high-quality, 6 colour renderings of the *Bear* sculpture in Stuart Park by artist Brower Hatcher. Available for purchase at the Kelowna Art Gallery.

Unframed Prints

\$20 Non-member

\$15 Member

Framed Prints*

\$35 Non-member

\$30 Member

**limited supply; available while quantities last.*



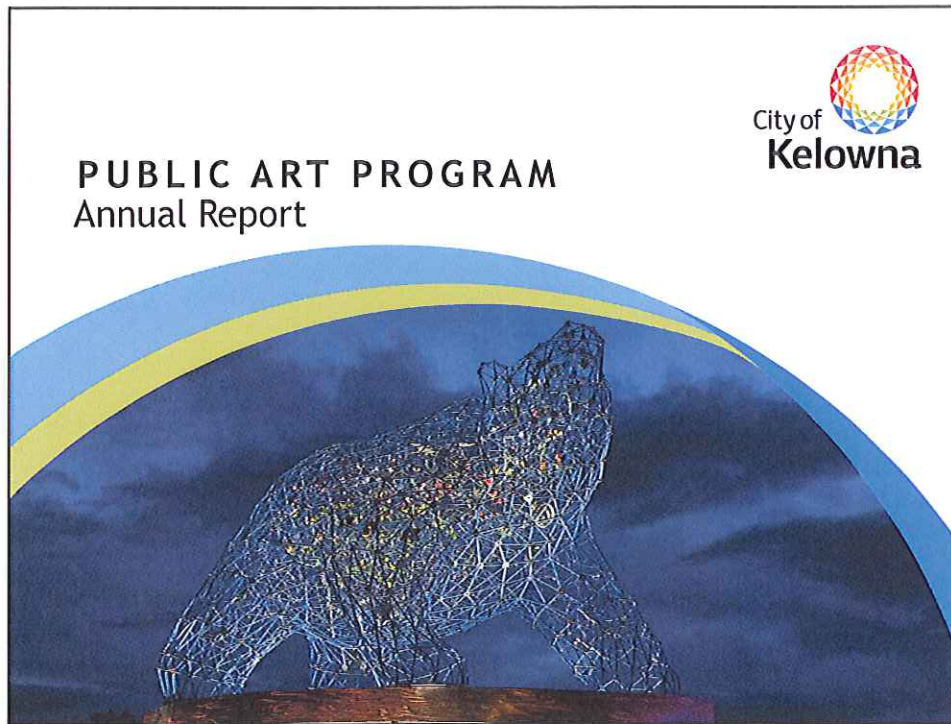


Attachment 4: Community Public Art Program - SOKS EcoArt Project



Attachment 5: Community Public Art Program - Gospel Mission Leon Avenue Banners Project



This slide details the activities for the Kelowna Art Gallery Exhibition. It features a blue and yellow curved border at the top. The City of Kelowna logo is in the top right corner. The main heading is 'KELOWNA ART GALLERY EXHIBITION'. Below it is a list of activities, each preceded by a blue right-pointing triangle. At the bottom right, the website 'kelowna.ca' is listed.

KELOWNA ART GALLERY EXHIBITION

- ▶ Exhibition
- ▶ Open House
- ▶ Panel Discussion
- ▶ Walking and Pedi-cab Tours
- ▶ Scavenger Hunt
- ▶ Public Input
- ▶ Media promotion

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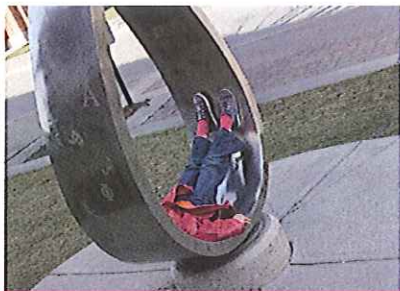


The bear was fabricated from the ground up, ending with the head and nose. After constructing the light boxes and paw plates, the four legs were fabricated. A jig (a tool for guiding construction) was built consisting of a numbered grid on plywood, which was used to fabricate the legs of the bear on top of each light box. This grid allowed Hatcher to locate critical points in space, so custom vertex and rod lengths could be welded into the desired shape.



Involvement of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Kelowna created the Brandt's Creek Linear Pathway along Brandt Creek, as it runs through the neighbourhood of Glenmore. With the participation of local residents, artist Karl Ciesluk created the work titled *Growth*. It suits the creek-side space, with its dispersal of seven individual sculptures dotted along the pathway. Natural stone worked to suggest fruit, and the pieces reflect the neighbourhood's past as an orchard while providing a resting spot in which to enjoy the park.

Suitability for all Audiences

While public art should stimulate debate and challenge our assumptions, we have to be conscious that it is in a public space and will be seen by everyone, from toddlers to jaded art critics. Artists Jennifer Macklem and Kip Jones collaborated in creating *Natural Language* for the outdoor Plaza of the downtown branch of Kelowna's public library. This work has become a favorite stop for children en route to the library. The work also offers a sophisticated meditation on language, natural history, and the role of the public library in learning.

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COMMUNITY PUBLIC ART

- ▶ Gospel Mission Leon Avenue Banner Project




- ▶ SOKS EcoArt Project



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PROGRAM ACTIVITY, 2012

- ▶ H₂O
- ▶ Program Review
- ▶ Bernard Avenue

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PUBLIC ART PROGRAM
Annual Report

