

Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 10, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Open to public attendance in Committee Room G

Lower Level, City Hall

Committee members may attend electronically

We recognize and respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. We acknowledge that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. As a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

	Pages
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</u>	
The Chair will open the meeting and provide a land acknowledgement.	
2. <u>INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKERS</u>	
3. <u>CHANGES TO THE AGENDA</u>	
Additions or deletion of items.	
4. <u>ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u>	
4.1 Minutes of February 9, 2023	3
4.2 Notes of May 25, 2023	7
5. <u>REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS</u>	
Staff and guest reports and presentations for information, discussion, and/or action	
5.1 Discussion Paper: Downtown Mural Pilot Program	10
6. <u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u>	
7. <u>STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES</u>	
Regular and ongoing reports from staff or members for information and discussion.	

8. NEW BUSINESS

Items added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

9. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED MEETING

THAT the committee will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 90(1)(e), (k) of the Community Charter:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

10. END OF MEETING

11. UPCOMING MEETINGS

There are no further scheduled meetings.

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Thursday, February 9, 2023
Open to public attendance in Committee Room G
Lower Level, City Hall
Committee members may attend electronically

PRESENT

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	Chair
Councillor Paul Minhas*	Council Member
Sienna Campbell	Community Representative
S^yowah Elijah	Artist, New Westminster Based
Laura Grady	Representative, Arts Council of New Westminster
Erin Jeffrey	Representative, Local Not-for-Profit Arts Sector
Julia Schoennagel	Artist, New Westminster Based

REGRETS

Ezra King	Community Representative
Jas Lally	Arts Professional
Anjana Pradhananga	Urban Designers, Architects, Landscape Architects
Kelly Proznik	Representative, Education Sector
Giulia Setticasi	Community Representative

STAFF

Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Quyen Hoang	Public and Community Art Coordinator
Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor McEvoy opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND ICEBREAKERS

The Committee began with a round of introductions.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of December 1, 2022

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the December 1, 2022 Arts Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 City Hall Art Wall Proposal

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, provided an overview of the Proposed City Hall Art Wall memo. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Ayotte advised:

- It would be possible to have a mix of exhibitions, local arts organizations as well as broader community calls;
- The City Hall art wall space would be limited to two-dimensional, hang-ready works;
- Although we would not include pricing labels, interested parties would be put in touch with the artist(s);
- Staff would explore signage options to promote the exhibitions within City Hall.

The Committee had the following comments:

- This is a fantastic way to engage community arts organizations;
- The Committee would like to see City Hall added to the list of venues for the annual Culture Crawl;
- Recommendation to explore opportunities to include youth art;
- Signage on the first floor would help to lead people to the second floor to view the works; and

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the recommendation from staff to have art on the second floor of City Hall be taken to Council.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There were no items.

7. **STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES**

There were no items.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

At a future meeting, the committee would like to discuss graffiti and its inclusion in the city's public art scene, for example via graffiti walls.

9. **END OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6:08 p.m.

10. **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next meeting is to be determined.

Certified correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Katie Stobbart
Committee Clerk

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**NOTES****Thursday, May 25, 2023****Open to public attendance in Committee Room G****Lower Level, City Hall****Committee members may attend electronically****PRESENT**

Julia Schoennagel	Alternate Chair/Artist, New Westminster Based
Laura Grady	Representative, Arts Council of New Westminster
Jas Lally*	Arts Professional
Anjana Pradhananga*	Urban Designers, Architects, Landscape Architects
Guilia Setticasi*	Community Representative

REGRETS

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	Chair
Councillor Paul Minhas	Council Member
Sienna Campbell	Community Representative
S^yowah Elijah	Artist, New Westminster Based
Erin Jeffrey	Representative, Local Not-for-Profit Arts Sector
Kelly Proznik	Representative, Education Sector

STAFF

Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Quyen Hoang	Public and Community Art Coordinator
Rob McCullough	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Julia Schoennagel, Chair, opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. noting that quorum had not been achieved.

She recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. She acknowledged that

colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. She recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions took place.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Staff withdrew item 5.2.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Minutes of February 9, 2023

As quorum was not achieved, adoption of the February 9, 2023 minutes was deferred to the next meeting of the Arts Advisory Committee.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Public Art Projects Update

Quyen Hoang, Public and Community Art Coordinator, provided an update on Public Art Projects including projects in process and new projects.

In response to questions from Committee members, Ms. Hoang provided the following comments:

- The fencing medium at the Agnes Street Commemorative Park will be determined by the artist; however, it will be non-corrosive and appropriate for the site;
- The Call for the Agnes Street Commemorative Park will be by invitation, led by a curator, will include BC artists, and the budget will not allow for the cost of travel;
- StreetBond 150, which was used at the Joyce/Collingwood Station, will be used for the mural at the Boundary Road Drainage Substation. The mural will span concrete surfaces, buildings, and structures on site; and,

- The public will be able to view the restoration process of the Centennial Totem Pole.

5.2 Discussion Paper: Downtown Revitalization - Pilot Mural Project

This item was withdrawn by staff.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

7. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED MEETING

As quorum was not achieved, the Committee did not move into a closed meeting.

8. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6:02 p.m.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting date is to be determined.

Certified correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk

Memorandum

To: Arts Advisory Committee

Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023

From: Quyen Hoang, Public Art Coordinator

File: #2336279

Subject: **Downtown Mural Pilot Program**

Purpose

- The purpose of this memo is to share information about an active mural project; and
- Request feedback from the AAC regarding staff's approach to a pilot project that will facilitate the creation of new murals at strategic locations in the downtown neighbourhood.

Background

There have been numerous requests for murals in recent years from local artists who want opportunities to develop their skills and share their work, and community groups who envision murals that bring attention to climate action, social justice or promote diversity and belonging. In addition, citizens and businesses have raised concerns regarding vandalism, safety and livability of our downtown.

Although there are a number of murals around the City, currently only three (3) existing murals were commissioned by the City:

- *Sounding the Land*, 2023 by Jenny Hawkinson. A recently completed project in Queen's Park on shipping containers;
- *Flow*, 2017 by Sandeep Johal on the concrete barriers along Front Street. This was a design-only project meant to connect to the overall design of the Front Street Mews; and,
- *Puzzled*, 2013 by Steve Hornung. This mural was initiated by the City's Engineering Department to enhance the Pump Station on Brunette Avenue.

Challenges

- Existing grant opportunities do not provide sufficient funding to support large-scale murals;
- Artists are not being properly compensated for their labour;
- Lack of documentation around ownership, responsibilities and lifespans;
- Requirements for completing murals such as insurance, WorkSafe BC, lift certificates, traffic management, permits, etc. can be complex for community members and artists to navigate.

Opportunity

Staff have initiated a pilot project working with the Vancouver Mural Festival (VMF), a Metro-Vancouver non-profit arts organization to support the commissioning of a mural downtown. Working with a partner that specializes in the production of large-scale murals will be of benefit to artists, community organizations and the City.

About the process:

- Staff have been working with the VMF over the past year to explore opportunities and scout possible sites downtown (both City-owned and private);
- VMF provides curatorial and mural production services (project management, lead artist selection process, surface preparation, technical expertise, logistics, traffic management, insurance, WorkSafe BC clearance, lift certificates, anti-graffiti protection, etc.) so artists can focus on conceptual and creative parts of projects;
- VMF promotes the murals as part of their annual festival or year-round programming which elevates local projects and expands audiences, bringing interest and visitors to our city;

- VMF oversees logistics, provides artists with support and lift training, ensuring safety for all involved, as well as quality and successful outcomes for New Westminster.

The selected site:



- Purpose Society wall facing Alexander Street was identified as a strong opportunity (location, sightlines and potential for a meaningful project);
- Purpose Society owns the building and have for a number of years expressed a strong interest in having a mural to beautify the space, highlight the services provided at this location and help build understanding and compassion for community members who access this site;
- The Purpose Society will own and care for the mural with clear responsibilities documented in an MOU with the City.

The artist:

- Randall Bear Barnetson was selected from our 2022-2024 Artist Roster.
- Barnetson interprets matters of mental health and wellbeing through an Indigenous lens and has been identified as a great fit for this project.

Schedule:

- To be completed August 2023.

Discussion

The pilot can teach us about how best to support artists in implementing large-scale murals and create more opportunities for murals downtown.

Through this process we hope to identify the following:

- Areas for improvement on the mural production and commissioning processes;
- Level of interest from the community for more murals and an inventory of potential sites beginning with downtown;
- Support to provide funding for one mural per year from the Public Art Reserve within the multi-year capital budget that has been approved by Council;
- Potential partnerships and additional funding sources.

Staff request feedback, comments or suggestions regarding using this project to advance additional murals downtown through a similar process.