

# Memorandum

To: Culture & Economic Development Task Force      Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023

From: Quyen Hoang, Public Art Coordinator              File: DOC #2222035

**Subject: Public Art Plan**

## Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to:

- Provide the Task Force background information regarding the Public Art Plan;
- Share information about the consulting team, the scope and timeline for the project;
- Receive feedback from the Task Force regarding the work plan and project updates.

## Background

A draft public art plan was developed and presented to Council in 2018 and referred back to staff and the Public Art Advisory Committee for further consideration and development.

In 2021 a revised Public Art Policy was approved by Council reflecting the City's commitments to equity, reconciliation and social justice. From this, it was determined that it was the right time to re-engage with the development of the plan and build a program that is intentional, responsive, respectful and inclusive for the coming years.

On April 25, 2022, Council endorsed the development of a new plan and approved an allocation 40K from the capital plan to hire a consultant team to facilitate the process.

## Vision

Building on the recently updated Public Art Policy, the new public art plan will:

- Engage with departments across the City to develop a city-wide coordinated approach to public art planning, implementation and asset management;
- Engage with local First Nations and the urban Indigenous community to build relationships and honour commitments to truth and reconciliation;
- Be informed by consultations with artists and diverse communities to ensure the public art program is innovative, responsive and inclusive;
- Connect with local organizations, businesses and private developers to help build strategies for collaboration and maximize the potential of public art.

## Selection Process

Following is a summary of the selection process followed to identify the successful consulting team:

- A call to Consultants was issued on August 8, 2022 and closed on September 19, 2022;
- The call was posted on the City's website and social media, shared on local distribution lists and advertised on Akimbo, a national online source for visual culture information;
- The call was managed by Public Art staff within the framework of the City's purchasing and procurement guidelines to ensure accessibility and flexibility;
- A Selection Panel including the Manager of Museums and Heritage Services, the Indigenous Relations Advisor, the Manager of Community Arts and Theatre and the Public Art Coordinator shortlisted and interviewed three (3) consulting teams.

The successful consulting team demonstrated a strong background in developing public art plans, a strong understanding of the local and regional context and reflected a diversity of experience and expertise required to ensure the delivery of an innovative, intentional and responsive public art plan.

#### About the Consultants

The selected consulting team is a collaboration between two firms (Aartplace, led by Anabella Alphonso and SUMO, represented by Ruth Mora) as well as an Engagement and Indigenous Relations Advisor (Indigenous curator, Ryan Rice).

- Aartplace is a Vancouver-based art consulting studio providing curation, development and delivery of art collections, programs, plans and strategies for developers, municipalities, public institutions and private clients;
- Sumo is a Toronto-based multi-disciplinary studio that focuses on the integration of Art, Architecture and Urban Design with proven experience with municipal public art;
- Ryan Rice is a respected curator and professor with extensive experience in museums, galleries and public art.

Together they form a highly capable, diverse, multidisciplinary team with an unparalleled combination of cultural knowledge, technical understanding and curatorial excellence in the fields of community engagement, Indigenous relations, public art, art curation, design, architecture and urban design, among other disciplines.

#### **Workplan and Schedule**

##### Phase 1: Current State Analysis/Discovery and Research

Timeline: January - May 2023

Deliverables include: reviewing current conditions and provide preliminary analysis; engaging with staff, relevant Task Forces and Advisory Committees; developing a stakeholder and community engagement strategy and plan.

##### Phase 2: Opportunities and Vision

Timeline: May - August 2023

Deliverables include: conducting community engagement and present findings; developing a first draft of the Public Art Plan to confirm the direction forward.

Phase 3: Public Art Plan Development

Timeline: August - November 2023

Deliverables include: developing and finalizing the public art Plan.

## Reporting

Following is the proposed reporting process:

- Staff and/or the consulting team will report to/ engage appropriate Task Forces and Advisory Committees in each phase of plan development as required;
- The draft plan will be brought to the Arts Advisory Committee and Council for review and feedback prior to preparing the final the plan for Council's approval;

## Discussion

Staff requests feedback, comments and suggestions from the Task Force:

1. Does the Task Force endorse the reporting process as outlined in this report?
2. How best can staff build Council engagement into the process? One-on-one interviews? Council workshop? Other?
3. What other elements does the Task Force feel need to be considered to support a successful process and outcome?