

Memorandum

To: Arts Advisory Committee

Date: Thursday, February 02, 2023

From: Todd Ayotte, Manager Community Arts and Theatre

File: DOC #2222365

Subject: **City Hall Art Wall Proposal**

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to:

- Provide background information for the Committee regarding a past motion received from Council to reimagine the space and walls outside Council Chambers in order to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment; and,
- Receive feedback from the Committee regarding the concept proposal as outlined in this memo.

Background

At the November 1, 2021 Council meeting, a motion was put forward by Councillor Trentadue to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment in the lobby area outside Council Chambers at City Hall:

Whereas the City of New Westminster's vision is "A vibrant, compassionate, sustainable city that includes everyone"; and

Whereas Reconciliation, Inclusion and Engagement is a high priority for the City as we work towards "creating a welcoming, inclusive and accepting community that promotes a deep understanding and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas our 2019 Arts Strategy outlines goals and a vision that encompasses "Communicate, Nurture, Include, Generate and Innovate" while expanding opportunities for the Arts in our community; and

Whereas a motion approved in January 2020 called for ways in which the City can be more welcoming and inclusive, specifically related to Civic facilities, City Hall and Council Meetings;

Therefore be it resolved that Arts Services report back to Council and the PAAC with options to reimagine the space and walls outside Council Chamber to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment.

PAAC was dissolved in early 2022 following the completion of the revised Public Art Policy and the City transitioned to a single Arts Advisory Committee. Therefore, staff are bringing recommendations developed in response to this motion to the Arts Advisory Committee at this time for review and input.

Proposed City Hall Art Wall

City Hall Art Wall Concept

It is proposed that City staff work in partnership with the Arts Council of New Westminster (ACNW) to facilitate and install a rotating exhibition of work by ACNW local visual arts member organizations. Current member organizations are New West Artists, Artists in the Boro and the New West Photography Club. In addition to providing opportunity to these long-standing community art organizations, this exhibition opportunity would be available to new and emerging member organizations - noting that the ACNW is actively looking to grow and diversify their organizational membership.

Exhibition Space

The exhibition space would include the wall directly outside the Mayor's office and Council Chambers (image 1 below) as well as the full second floor corridor of City Hall (image 2 below).



Image 1



Image 2

Community Benefit

This rotating exhibition opportunity would serve to raise the profile of the City's local community-based visual arts organizations and expand opportunities for New Westminster residents to experience and enjoy art in the community - in alignment with the goals and vision of the Arts Strategy.

Start Up Costs

Start-up costs would include installation of a hanging system and permanent exhibition signage. Start-up costs would be funded through the existing Art Services equipment, materials and supplies budget. The installation of a hanging system similar to the one installed in Anvil Centre will alleviate the costs related to ongoing maintenance (painting and patching between exhibitions).

On-going resource requirements

Exhibition-related tasks would be shared between Art Services staff and the ACNW. This includes scheduling of exhibitions, preparing exhibition materials (labels, artist statements), liaising with the member organizations, installation and strike of exhibitions, marketing and promotion. Material requirements would include foam core for labels and artist statements and temporary vinyl lettering. These costs would be funded through the existing Art Services materials and supplies budget.

Roles and Responsibilities

Following Council's endorsement of this proposal, a memo of understanding would be drafted to outline the responsibilities of the City staff and the responsibilities of the ACNW.

Exhibition Rotation

It is recommended that the exhibitions rotate every three (3) to four (4) months.

Discussion

Staff are seeking feedback from the Arts Advisory Committee regarding this program proposal:

- Does the Committee have any specific feedback regarding this program proposal?
- Are there any other considerations that the Committee feels need to be reviewed or options considered?
- Does the Arts Advisory Committee support this program proposal?