

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** November 1, 2021

From: Lisa Spitale
Chief Administrative Officer **File:**

Item #: [Report Number]

Subject: Public Art Calls: Artist Roster and Artist-Initiated Projects

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this report for information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding two (2) public art calls to establish an artist roster and to develop new artist-initiated public art projects.

BACKGROUND

In September 2021, staff worked under the advisement of the Public Art Advisory Committee to develop the terms of reference for two (2) unique calls:

1. A Call to Artists to develop an Artist Roster, allowing the City to identify up to twenty (20) pre-qualified artists and artist teams of diverse backgrounds, practices and stages of their careers for smaller-scale and emerging public art opportunities;
2. An Expression of Interest for Artist-Initiated Public Art Projects to identify artist(s) of diverse backgrounds, practices and stages of their careers to develop projects to animate the urban landscape.

Further details regarding eligibility, application and selection processes are outlined in the calls attached to this report. Both calls are currently active, with submission deadlines in late November.

ANALYSIS

Establishing an Artist Roster will streamline the selection process and position the public art program to be more responsive to emerging opportunities. Projects will include community engaged works, site-responsive commissions for temporary works, artist residencies and design-only contracts for permanent projects. The Artist Roster can also be used to support private sector or community-based initiatives.

The call for Artist-Initiated public art projects is intended to support artist-led initiatives and build capacity for artists. Shortlisted artists will be invited to prepare a concept proposal to animate the urban landscape. Artists will be encouraged to explore outdoor spaces such as parks and plazas, as well as common urban spaces such as sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes. The call also includes a series of questions that are designed to support reflection on the impacts of the pandemic.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Artist-Initiated Public Art Projects will be funded through an approved allocation from the Public Art Reserve. Projects emerging from the Artist Roster will be funded through a variety of streams, including approved allocations from the Public Art Reserve, approved allocations from civic capital projects and public realm initiatives and private sector or community sources.

OPTIONS

Council is asked to consider the following options:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommend option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1: Call to Artists – Artist Roster for Public Art Projects Under \$25,000

Att 2: Expressions of Interest – Artist-Initiated Public Art

This report was prepared by:

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Quyen Hoang, Public and Community Art Coordinator

This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer