

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** February 14, 2022

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

Item #: 2022-89

Subject: Revised Public Art Policy

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this report for information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to release Council's approval of the revised Public Art Policy.

BACKGROUND

The City's first Public Art Policy was adopted in 2012 and has been a significant tool for promoting the cultural growth of the community, encouraging economic development, and creating a sense of enhanced civic pride.

In 2021, with guidance from the Public Art Advisory Committee and in response to recommendations included in the City's Arts Strategy, staff initiated a review of the Policy. The intention was to ensure that the Policy is aligned with key City policies and priorities and supports a more responsive, diverse, equitable and sustainable program.

The policy review process was informed by best practices research, internal reviews with Arts, Heritage, Planning, Finance and Purchasing staff and consultation with the Public Art Advisory Committee, the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion and Engagement Task Force, the Culture and Economic Development Task Force. The final revised Public Art Policy as attached to this report was endorsed by the Public Art Advisory Committee prior to bringing forward to Council.

At the Closed Council meeting on January 31, 2022, City Council approved the following motion:

THAT Council approve the revised Public Art Policy as attached to the January 31, 2022, report entitled *Revised Public Art Policy*.

ANALYSIS

Following is a summary of the key Policy adjustments:

1. Removal of Administrative Procedures

The administrative processes have been removed from the Policy to be captured in an Administrative Procedures Manual. The Manual will be a living document that can be reviewed and refined as practices and administrative processes evolve over time.

2. Establishment of Guiding Principles

The revised Policy includes the addition of Guiding Principles which build upon the goals identified in the Arts Strategy and align with City priorities related to reconciliation, social justice and equity.

3. Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities of Council, staff, the Arts Advisory Committee, Selection Panels and other community advisors and advisory bodies have been clarified and defined in alignment with the City's financial processes and Procurement Policy and the Terms of Reference for the newly-formed Arts Advisory Committee.

4. Diversification of Artist Selection Processes

The revised Policy outlines a diversity of approaches for selecting and hiring artists to respond to varying project needs, address systemic inequities and facilitate decolonial practices.

5. Funding

Public art continues to be supported by a percent for art funding strategy and through annual municipal contributions equal to \$2.00 per citizen from property taxes. The revised Policy streamlines the City's role in relation to private development opportunities, clarifies what public art funding can support and allows for greater flexibility in capital public art funding management through the introduction of pooling options. The ability to pool funds allows for intentional investment for projects on sites outside of capital projects where impact and need may be greater.

OPTIONS

Council is asked to consider the following options:

1. That Council receive this report for information;
2. Provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommend Option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Att. 1 - Revised Public Art Policy/TOR for Arts Advisory Committee

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