

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** April 11, 2022

From: Lisa Spitale
Chief Administrative Officer **File:** 2062069

Item #: 2022-247

Subject: The Poet Laureate Digital Poetry Project

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this report for information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council regarding the Poet Laureate's digital poetry project entitled "Common Threads" developed for National Poetry Month.

BACKGROUND

Elliott Slinn began his term as the City's fifth Poet Laureate in 2021. Through public readings and direct community engagement, Slinn strives to make poetry accessible, connect community and inspire creativity.

ANALYSIS

For National Poetry Month, Slinn has developed a digital poetry project entitled "Common Threads" where a rotation of four (4) of his one-line poems will appear on the electronic signs located around the City.

Following is Slinn's statement about the project:

My hope is that these lines connect us as a community. We're all the same. Whether we are alone or together, in company or as individuals – I hope they can be a common thread of connection in our shared humanity.

The four (4) one-line poems Slinn created for this project are as follows:

Rebuild as many times as you need.

We're here briefly; let's spend our time in love.

Let the space between us be connected by peace.

It starts with us: Developed inwardly – Expressed outwardly.

The poems will be in rotation on the electronic signs through the month of April.

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.

This report was prepared by:

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre

This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer