

# **REPORT**

## ***Office of the Chief Administrative Officer***

**To:** Mayor Cote and Members of Council      **Date:** April 25, 2022  
**From:** Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer      **File:**  
**Item #:** 2022-283  
**Subject: Public Art Plan**

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council endorse the recommendation from staff to develop a new Public Art Plan as outlined in this report;

THAT Council approve the allocation of up to 40K from the approved 2022-2026 Capital budget to support development of the Plan.

---

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement to proceed with the development of a new Public Art Plan. Funding is available in the approved 2022 Capital Budget and 5 Year Financial Plan in the Arts Strategy Gap Analysis.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2017, a consultant was hired to develop a Public Art Plan. The resulting draft plan was presented to Council in May 2018, and was referred back to staff and the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) for further consideration and development.

At the time, Council had wanted to see more work regarding the themes included in the Plan, in order to respond to histories beyond the colonial narrative and consider the full telling of history that includes Indigenous, under-represented and marginalized communities, as well as specific histories related to labour and industrialization.

The Plan did not advance due to staff staffing gaps in 2018 and 2019, and the reprioritization of work plans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

With a revised Public Art Policy recently adopted by Council, reflecting the City’s commitments to equity, reconciliation and social justice, the time is right to re-engage with the development of the Plan and build a Public Art Program that is intentional, responsive, respectful and inclusive for the coming years.

**ANALYSIS**

The Public Art Plan will provide a clear vision for public art in New Westminster and set a direction for the Public Art Program for the next ten (10) years. It will inform the development and prioritization of new projects, define clear goals and outcomes and guide future decision-making and resource allocation. The Plan will help shape a critical and engaging Public Art Program that reflects the city’s history, cultural diversity and its journey towards reconciliation while supporting artists engaged in public art.

The Plan will:

- Build on the recently updated Public Art Policy and Guiding Principles;
- Build on previous Public Art Plan work;
- Align with the City’s DEIAR Framework;
- Be rooted in principles of Truth and Reconciliation;
- Be informed by engagement with and include a renewed relationship with Indigenous communities;
- Reflect the voices of artists, stakeholders and general public to ensure the Program is responsive, supportive and relevant;
- Incorporate strategies for collaboration and partnerships with local businesses, organizations and private sector;
- Through cross-departmental engagement, strive to develop a city-wide coordinated approach to public art planning, implementation and asset management;
- Refine and clarify processes, responsibilities, decision-making and inform the Administrative Procedures Manual; and,
- Define maintenance, conservation and collections management strategies.

**Recommended Approach and Scope of Work**

The recommended approach and scope of work is as follows:

- Identify a consultant with strong understanding of the local and regional context, expertise in public art who can support an innovative approach to public art planning through a decolonial lens;
- Finalize the consultant’s scope and issue a call to:
  - Plan, develop, and lead efforts to engage staff, the Arts Advisory Committee, artists, community stakeholders and public to inform the plan and set direction for program;

- Review and assess the public art program, public art collection, policies, plans, guidelines, governance, processes;
- Provide benchmarking and comparative research;
- Identify gaps, opportunities and areas for improvement;
- Deliver a written report with analysis, recommendations and vision for a ten (10) year plan with an accompanying implementation plan.

### Proposed Schedule

The following is the proposed project schedule:

- Procurement (RFP for consultants) - May 2022
- Consultant selected - July 2022
- Project start - September 2022
- Research, consultation and engagement – September 2022-February 2023
- Submission of Draft Plan by Consultant - March 2023
- Draft Plan reviewed with AAC – April 2023
- Draft Plan brought to Council for review and feedback – May 2023
- Final Plan brought to Council for approval - June 2023

### Review with Arts Advisory Committee

The intention, recommended approach, scope of work and proposed schedule as outlined in this report has been reviewed with the Arts Advisory Committee (AAC) at the May 7 meeting. The AAC supported this direction and provided the following motion for Council's consideration:

*THAT the Arts Advisory Committee endorse the development of a Public Art Plan, including funding of a consultant and community consultation process.*

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Funding is available in the approved 2022 Capital Budget and 5 Year Financial Plan in the Arts Strategy Gap Analysis Program.

### **OPTIONS**

Council is asked to consider the following options:

1. Endorse the recommendation from staff to develop a new Public Art Plan as outlined in this report;

2. Approve the allocation of up to 40K in funds from the approved 2022-2026 Capital budget to support development of the Plan;
3. Provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommend options 1 and 2.

### **APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:  
Quyên Hoang, Public Art Coordinator  
Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre

This report was approved by:  
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer