

NO: R089

COUNCIL DATE: May 9, 2022

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 4, 2022**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Public Art at Forsyth Park**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Aaron S. Moran to complete the design for a public artwork at Forsyth Park, as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix "I".

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to proceed with the implementation of the design for a public artwork on the Forsyth Park washroom building located at 10632 – 139 Street.

BACKGROUND

The Forsyth Park public art opportunity is a creative enhancement of a park washroom facility. Similar projects have been completed in recent years at the washroom facilities at Maple Green Park and Chimney Heights Park.

The Forsyth Park opportunity will be implemented by using a vinyl print mounted onto an aluminum panel that is affixed to the back wall of the structure. The use of vinyl film has been a cost-effective strategy to introduce public art at various civic venues. Appendix "II" provides imagery showing the broader park context.

DISCUSSION

Call Process

Following the Public Art Program's standard best practices, a call to artists was promoted, open to any artist living in BC. The call to artists was issued on January 24, 2022, with a deadline of March 18, 2022. In total, 18 BC artists submitted 23 unique designs for consideration. The artist call

invited artists to submit photo-based artwork. The public art opportunity was open to the full spectrum of photographic practice from documentary photography to digital collage.

Selection Process

On March 28, 2022, staff convened a selection panel to review all the artists' concept designs. The selection panel consisted of three Whalley residents, including a teacher from the school adjacent to the park, a member of the Whalley Community Association, and one professional artist. The panel was supported by staff of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department. The selection panel unanimously voted to recommend one design, *Branch Round* by Aaron S. Moran.

Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee Review

Following the outcome of the selection panel, staff presented the concept design at the April 12, 2022 Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee ("PRCC") meeting. The PRCC supported the proposed design and recommended that staff prepare a Corporate Report to proceed with the implementation of the artwork.

About the Artist and Artwork

Aaron S. Moran

Aaron S. Moran (b.1986) is an artist working largely with found materials in both studio and public settings. He received a Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) from Emily Carr University, and an Masters of Fine Art ("MFA") from the University of Windsor. He has exhibited work and completed commissions nationally and internationally. He has received grants from Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the BC Arts Council. He has lived throughout Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, including many years in Surrey.

Branch Round was produced with natural materials found on location in a Surrey park. Branches were arranged as an artistic intervention in public space and left behind after being photographed. The artwork speaks to the creation of community and the way that unique individuals come together to make an ordered whole. The photograph will be printed on vinyl mounted aluminum and affixed to the side of the washroom structure.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of creative enhancements of civic infrastructure draws from the public art fund reserved for this purpose, per the recommendations of the Public Art Policy. Total cost to implement the public artwork design at Forsyth Park will be up to \$8,000, which includes artist fees, fabrication, installation, and maintenance for 10-years.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This initiative supports the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Built Environment & Neighbourhoods, Education & Culture and Economic Prosperity & Livelihoods. Specifically, this project supports the following Desired Outcomes ("DO") and Strategic Directions ("SD"):

- Neighbourhoods & Urban Design DO 1: Surrey is comprised of distinct, diverse and compact town centres with an engaging public realm;
- Neighbourhoods & Urban Design DO 8: The built environment enhances quality of life, happiness and well-being;
- Neighbourhoods & Urban Design DO 15: All new buildings, public places and outdoor spaces are welcoming, safe and universally accessible;
- Arts and Heritage DO 7: An enviable and vibrant arts and heritage sector contributes to Surrey's citizen engagement, enrichment, economy, community livability and civic pride;
- Arts and Heritage DO 11: Public art is visible in diverse forms throughout the community and brings art into the daily lives of Surrey residents”;
- Arts and Heritage SD 9: Support the development of local artists of all ages and through all stages; and
- Innovation SD 10: Support the development of growth of key sectors including health technology, clean technology, advanced manufacturing, agri-innovation and the creative economy.

CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to contract Aaron S. Moran to complete the design for a public artwork at Forsyth Park and proceed with installation as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix “I” – Artwork design by Aaron S. Moran for Forsyth Park
Appendix “II” – Public Art Opportunity and Park Context

APPENDIX "I"

Artwork design by Aaron S. Moran for Forsyth Park



APPENDIX "II"

Public Art Opportunity and Park Context

