

NO: R034

COUNCIL DATE: February 26, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 21, 2024**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **0550-01**
SUBJECT: **2024 Public Art Banners**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract Puneet Datewas and Andrew Talbot to complete the design for the 2024 Public Art Street Banners as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix "I."

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the 2024 Public Art Street Banner Project and to obtain Council approval to contract Puneet Datewas and Andrew Talbot to complete the design. The banners are to be installed on approximately 100 street poles near significant cultural destinations in Surrey.

BACKGROUND

Every year the Public Art Program commissions a unique design to be featured on approximately 100 street poles near significant cultural and community destinations in the City, such as the Surrey Arts Centre, City Centre Library, Newton Cultural Centre, and the South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre.

Public art street banners provide an opportunity for artists to share their creativity with the community, while also beautifying the City. The opportunity alternates annually between an open call to all artists, or a direct invitation to a significant artist. The intention of the public art street banners is to enhance the experience of the streetscape for drivers, cyclists, transit riders and pedestrians. Fabrication and installation of the banners is coordinated as part of the City's Town Centre Street Banner Program. New banners are installed in the spring each year.

DISCUSSION

The artist and design were determined through an open call and selection process. Public Art staff developed an artist call around the importance of diversity. The call was distributed through City of Surrey media channels and other online channels.

On January 27, 2024 staff convened a selection panel to review all the artists' concept designs proposed for the banners. Selection panelists were comprised of two Surrey residents and a local artist.

The selection panel reviewed 71 design proposals by 55 artists. After a process of deliberation, the selection panel voted unanimously to recommend one design by Puneet Datewas and Andrew Talbot (See Appendix "I").

About the Artist and Artwork

Puneet Datewas is a painter and art educator who spent her childhood in Chandigarh, India playing with paint in her mother's studio. Andrew Talbot is an artist and graphic designer from Richmond. He has a Bachelor of Fine Art from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) University.

The design incorporates symbolism that reflect the diversity of Surrey's communities and the supportive environment they create. The hands in the design represent the love and support extended by Surrey's culturally rich community. This collective support allows the depicted seed to evolve, blossom and bloom. The flower serves as a powerful symbol, embodying the hope we hold for our children and the future.

FUNDING

The 2024 Public Art Banners Project is funded by the Civic Street Banner Program, within the Community Enhancement budget. The annual budget for the Civic Street Banner Program is \$125,000. This includes materials and labour and provides banners at 1,015 locations across the City. Types of banners include: Town Centre Identity Banners, Surrey Gateway Banners, Public Art Banners and Community Group Banners. Of these approximately 100 would feature the public art design.

The artist fee for the public art street banner design is \$3,000.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to undertake a contract with Puneet Datewas and Andrew Talbot to complete the design for the 2024 Public Art Street Banners.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix: "I": Recommended design for 2024 Public Art Banners by Puneet Datewas and Andrew Talbot

APPENDIX "I"

**Recommended design for 2024 Public Art Banners by Puneet Datewas
and Andrew Talbot**

