



# **Corporate** NO: C435

# **Report** COUNCIL DATE: October 25, 1999\_

## **COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE**

**TO: Mayor & Council DATE: October 13, 1999**

**FROM: Don Hunter, General Manager of Parks, FILE: 0042-077**

**Recreation and Culture on behalf of  
the Chair, Public Art Advisory Committee**

**SUBJECT: Public Art Advisory Committee Council Report #1**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive this report for information.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Public Art Policy for Surrey was adopted in principle on June 23, 1997 and confirmed as a City Policy No. R-21 on May 4, 1998 (R98-1293A). The Public Art Advisory Committee was officially appointed by City Council October 13, 1998. This nine member Standing Committee was established to advise Council on all aspects of the Public Art Policy including its governance, public art trust programs and public art projects. It is also actively engaged in the establishment and promotion of public art at potential sites. Councillor Judy Villeneuve is the appointed City Council liaison to the Committee and the Committee is supported by civic staff from Parks, Recreation and Culture. I am responsible, on behalf of the City, for all public art contracts and review all minutes arising from meetings of the Public Art Advisory Committee.

This report highlights the accomplishments of the Public Art Advisory Committee and begins a cycle of regular quarterly reporting to City Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) has demonstrated enthusiasm and dedication by participating in ten committee meetings including a sequence of bi-weekly meetings and participating in two staff-facilitated weekend workshops. The Committee spent the first three meetings clarifying roles, responsibilities, definitions, process and structural issues. As several projects were underway immediately upon approval of the

Public Art Policy in May, 1998, PAAC was required to begin making decisions by their second meeting. PAAC's work to date is divided into the following summary categories: Public Art Projects, Awareness and Education, and Public Art Master Plan 2000-2002 and Civic Inventory. Attachment # 1: *Details of Surrey's Public Art Projects*, provides further information regarding selection committees and project descriptions. Attachment # 2: *Recommendation Index*, provides a listing of all PAAC recommendations as per their meetings of November 24, 1998 through to July 15, 1999.

## Public Art Projects

The following lists active projects approved and monitored by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

### 1. *Firehall No. 2 - Location: City Centre/Whalley*

- Budget: \$20,000 (\$15,000 for artwork)
- Artist team chosen: Kip Jones and Jennifer Macklem
- Timeline: Completed on schedule and unveiled June 12, 1999.

### 2. *Surrey Sports and Leisure Complex - Aquatic Centre - Location: Fleetwood*

- Budget: \$150,000 (\$112,500 for artwork)
- Artist: Blake Williams
- Timeline: Completed on schedule and unveiled September 10, 1999.

### 3. *Quibble Creek Pump Station - Location: City Centre/Whalley*

- Budget: \$15,000 (\$11,250 for artwork)
- Artist: Susan Ockwell
- Timeline: The project is expected to be completed by the end of 1999.

### 4. *Guildford Multi-Purpose Community Centre - Location: Guildford*

- Budget: \$110,000 (\$86,250 for artwork)
- Artist Team: Muse Atelier Ltd. - Nancy Chew and Jacqui Metz
- Timeline: The project is expected to be completed by September, 2000.

### 5. *Surrey Sports and Leisure Complex - Arenas - Location: Fleetwood*

- Budget: \$30,000 for artwork
- Artist: Blake Williams
- Timeline: The project is expected to be completed by November, 1999.

## Awareness and Education:

Prior to the establishment of the Public Art Advisory Committee, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department sponsored "*Public Art and the Art of Making Places Public*", a slide presentation by Seattle public artist Jack Mackie on September 29, 1998 - one presentation for the civic staff, one open to the general public. Staff are planning educational and learning opportunities for staff and the community through the winter of 1999 - 2000.

## **Public Art Master Plan 2000-2002 and Civic Inventory**

A primary goal of Surrey's Public Art Policy is “*to incorporate and integrate the public art program into the planning, design and execution of selected civic and private development projects with the assistance of an interdepartmental public art planning team*”.

To achieve this goal, at their spring workshop PAAC members created a list of civic capital projects which have potential for public art opportunities and of which they wish to be kept informed by the broad range of civic staff. PAAC acknowledged that while it needs a period of time to develop the process of public art projects in Surrey, it cannot contribute to and support art in the community if it is not provided with an appropriate lead-time and access to existing opportunities through the civic planning process. The list arises from a broad reading of the policy and is consistent with accepted practices of other public art policies in North American municipalities. Attachment #3: *PAAC's List of Potential Projects for Consideration* includes consideration for PAAC's involvement in vertical banners, murals, town centre and gateway markers, memorials, playgrounds, fountains, bridges, overpasses and interchanges, walkways, streetscapes, sewer covers, fences, youth parks, festivals and community art events.

In order to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach, Parks, Recreation and Culture staff have established an Inter-departmental Art Team with appointed representation from Engineering, Planning, Finance, Facilities and Parks, Recreation and Culture Departments. The Public Art Advisory Committee, with the assistance of civic staff through the Inter-departmental Art Team, are reviewing the approved and proposed civic capital projects that meet the criteria for public art and will compile a list of proposed projects for the Public Art Master Plan. The Master Plan will outline the project details and recommend the style of selection process by which public art will be included on the project. The proposed Public Art Master Plan 2000-2002 will be presented to City Council for consideration by the end of 1999. Under the direction of Public Art Advisory Committee, staff are designing and establishing the tracking system to maintain the City's public art inventory.

## **CONCLUSION**

The purpose of Surrey's Public Art Policy is:

- 1) to ensure that artwork and creative concepts of artists become part of the planning and design of publicly accessible spaces and contribute positively to making public art visually stimulating and community oriented;
- 2) to guarantee an approved, fair, invested and consistent public selection process so that all the citizens of Surrey can access and participate in the cultural, economic and social developmental opportunities afforded by public art; and
- 3) to serve as an act of public trust and stewardship for public art.

Over the last nine months, Surrey's first Public Art Advisory Committee has enthusiastically and responsibly worked to ensure that the citizens of Surrey receive the benefits of this policy. With several successful projects completed to date, the Public Art Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly and as required, to ensure continual progress.

Don Hunter, General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Jim Adams  
Chair, Public Art Advisory Committee

DH:dlg

Attachments