

NO:

COUNCIL DATE:

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 13, 2018**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for 2019 Public Art Street Banners**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to undertake a contract and work with Surrey artists, Debbie Tuepah and Kristina Giesbrecht, to create designs for the 2019 public art banners for installation across Surrey as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide background information on the Public Art Street Banner Program and to obtain Council approval for staff to contract Debbie Tuepah and Kristina Giesbrecht to create designs for the 2019 public art banners, these 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 destinations in the City, such as the Surrey Arts Centre, Newton Cultural Centre, Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre (Urban Screen venue), South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre, as well as the City Centre Library.

Public art street banners provide an opportunity for artists to share their creativity with the community, while also beautifying the City. Artists commissioned in the past have included internationally-known Canadian artists Robert Davidson, Gordon Smith, and Susan Point. The intention of the public art street banners is to enhance the experience of the streetscape for drivers, cyclists, transit riders and pedestrians.

This annual commission has been supported by the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), and guided by the Public Art Policy and associated procedures. Following established practice commission processes alternates each year between an open call and a directed call. Fabrication and installation of the banners is coordinated as part of the City's Town Centre Street Banner Program.

At its meeting on July 5, 2018, the PAAC unanimously supported staff's proposal that the 2019 Public Art Street Banners be commissioned through a directed call to a pre-qualified list of local artists. "Local" was defined as an individual who meets the following criteria:

- Resides within the boundaries of the City of Surrey; and/or
- Is a member of a Coast Salish, land-based First Nation.

The Committee also supported staff's recommendation that to be eligible for this opportunity, Surrey artists would need to demonstrate a history of making art, be recognized as artists by the local arts community and not yet have been commissioned to produce a permanent public artwork for the City of Surrey.

2019 Banner Theme: "Visions of Surrey"

The theme of the 2019 banners was recommended by PAAC to be "Visions of Surrey," which references the nine "Vision Elements" listed in the City's Official Community Plan: "Greener, Complete, Compact, Connected, Resilient, Safer, Inclusive, Healthier, and Beautiful". Artists were directed to draw from these themes for inspiration for their banner design.

DISCUSSION

Call Process

Public Art Staff followed the recommendation of the PAAC by developing a directed call and selection process for the Public Art Street Banners opportunity. City staff researched local artists, created a long list of pre-qualified artists (which was approved by the PAAC), and contacted these artists to make them aware of the call. Eligible artists attended an information session about the opportunity, and then created design proposals for the banners using supplied templates.

Selection Process

On September 14, 2018, staff convened a selection panel to review all the artists' concept designs proposed for the banners.

Selection Panel Members:

- Thomas Nelles (a professional artist and Surrey resident);
- Bree-Anna Berman (a Surrey resident, realtor, and president of the Fleetwood Community Association); and
- Kapil Judge (a Surrey resident)

Non-Voting Panel Members/Advisors:

- Amanda Willis, Public Art Advisory Committee representative;
- Liane Davison, Manager, Culture;
- Ashley Guindon, Public Art Coordinator;
- Hossam Meawad, Public Art Coordinator;
- David Sadler, Community Enhancement Planner; and
- Elisabeth Thiel, Landscape Technician.

The selection process included the review of design proposals from eleven artists. The selection panel unanimously voted to shortlist two designs for final consideration by the PAAC:

- Debbie Tuepah’s artwork “Blackie Spit.” Attached as Appendix “I”; and
- Kristina Geisbrecht’s artwork “Greener.” Attached as Appendix “II”.

Public Art Advisory Committee Recommendation and Endorsement

At its meeting on November 1, 2018 the PAAC reviewed the two shortlisted designs from the Selection Panel. Discussion from PAAC indicated that both designs represented the City’s values and would be beneficial to the community in distinct ways. The PAAC felt that producing both designs would be a means to sharing a greater diversity of the City’s local artists with the community.

As such, the PAAC voted unanimously to recommend that the General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture prepare a report to Council recommending that both designs, Debbie Tuepah’s “Blackie Spit” and Kristina Giesbrecht “Greener,” be produced as public art street banners for 2019. “Blackie Spit” will be installed at regular locations in the south part of the City, while “Greener” will be installed in locations in the north.

About the Artists and Proposed Designs

Debbie Tuepah

Debbie Tuepah is a Surrey resident and long-time contributor to the Surrey arts scene. Tuepah Graduated from Emily Carr University of Art + Design, and received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence. Her work has been exhibited at the Surrey Art Gallery, The Reach Gallery Museum, Vancouver Art Gallery’s Family Fuse, Bellevue Washington’s Sculpture Biennial, Ontario’s DNA Artspace, and Access Gallery as a finalist for the 2016 CASV Emerging Artist Award. Tuepah is a long-standing member of the local arts community. She is a founding member of the Surrey-based curatorial collective AgentC Projects and a member of CAM (Contemporary Art Matters), a group that worked with BC Artscape and the City of Surrey to conceptualize the development of an artist-run/board-directed contemporary art gallery.

Debbie Tuepah’s design for the 2019 public art street banners is based on one of her paintings entitled “Blackie Spit.” It features bright, cool colours, thick brush strokes, and rich textures recalling the rivers that nourish the city and its residents. The artwork’s rich colours and strong sense of movement are a reminder of the vibrant energy of the river. Tuepah writes: “living near Surrey’s Nicomekl and Serpentine for the past 24 years, I have been privileged to experience the ebb and flow of all things living at the mouth of a river.” The banner invites everyone to celebrate this important feature of the City: a vital life force, beloved landscape, and unique experience for all of Surrey’s residents. She explains that the work is “a tribute to Surrey’s lowland floodplains, which are rich sources of nutrients for fish and wildlife, and are a primary and much experienced gateway to nature that is enjoyed by citizens, tourists and visitors.”

Kristina Giesbrecht

Kristina Giesbrecht is a Surrey resident and active member of the arts community. Giesbrecht has a Bachelor's of Applied Design in Interior Design from Kwantlen Polytechnic University. She teaches art classes in Surrey and Langley, and created and operated an artist guild in Cloverdale from 2013-2017. Giesbrecht has been a board member of the Surrey Art Gallery Association since 2015 and acted as the association's president from 2017-2018. She works in painting and drawing, and specializes in a unique print-making process called monotype.

Kristina Giesbrecht's design for the 2019 public art banners, "Greener," is inspired by the City of Surrey's goal to be a green city. Giesbrecht writes that, "*as a long-time resident of Surrey, I appreciate the well-treed streets, parks, neighborhoods, and farm land.*" As such, "Greener" illustrates the interplay between Surrey's residents and nature. The graphic design, symmetrical balance, and bright colours of this artwork reflect a harmony between the natural and built environment, both of which are a home for the community.

FUNDING

The Public Art Banner Program 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 (design, printing, replacement) and labour (installation, removal, maintenance) and provides banners at 1015 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 300 would feature the public art design. A map attached as Appendix "III" reflects the locations of the various banners.

The cost to implement this project will be approximately \$2,500 for each artist for a total of \$5,000.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, the artists will proceed to complete the process to finalize the digital file of their design as needed for fabrication of the pointed tip and rectangle banner forms, in January 2019.

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”.
- 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 & Culture Department recommends that Council:

- Receive this report for information; and
- Authorize staff to undertake a contract and work with Surrey artists, Debbie Tuepah and Kristina Giesbrecht, to create designs for the 2019 public art banners for installation across Surrey as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix “I” – Concept Design for Public Art Banners by Debbie Tuepah
Appendix “II” – Concept Design for Public Art Banners by Kristina Giesbrecht
Appendix “III” – Locations of Public Art Street Banners

Concept Design for Public Art Banners by Debbie Tuepah

Right: Tapered Version

Below: Rectangle Version



APPENDIX "II"

Concept Design for Public Art Banner by Kristina Giesbrecht

