

NO: R029

COUNCIL DATE: February 11, 2019

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 6, 2019**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Fleetwood Community and Surrey Arts Centre Public Art Projects**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract the artists Laara Cerman and Sofia Tan Wu to complete two designs for creative bike racks, one to be located within the Fleetwood community and one to be located at the Surrey Arts Centre as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on two proposed concepts for the creative designs for two bike racks; and to obtain Council approval for staff to retain Laara Cerman and Sofia Tan Wu to complete the Public Art projects.

BACKGROUND

The Public Art Master Plan has guided research into strategies for the creative enhancement of civic facilities and infrastructure. Communities benefit from the introduction of public art within the public realm because public artworks make neighbourhoods more interesting and vibrant, contribute to community identity, and enhance sense of place. Public art and community enhancement staff have identified creative bike racks as a suitable application for creative enhancement through public art and neighbourhood place making. This pilot project initiative provides much needed bike parking infrastructure, while also incorporating art at the neighbourhood level. The project to implement two forms of creative bike racks was collaboratively developed by staff from public art, community enhancement, and the Engineering Department.

Fleetwood Community Location

Two strategic locations were identified for this pilot project – the community of Fleetwood and the Surrey Arts Centre. The Fleetwood community was identified as a suitable pilot location due to interest expressed from the community. The Fleetwood Business Improvement Association (“Fleetwood BIA”) approached community enhancement staff with a desire for more place making projects and public realm enhancements that would help to build the identity of Fleetwood.

The Fleetwood BIA also participated in a public art planning exercise with the public art team. With the support of the Fleetwood BIA a design brief was developed for a Fleetwood-specific bike rack design. The Fleetwood BIA is also supporting implementation through assistance with site selection.

Surrey Arts Centre Location

The Surrey Arts Centre is a major civic facility currently without bike parking infrastructure. This pilot initiative will ensure the Surrey Arts Centre has bike parking facilities, while an artist-designed bike rack will reference the creativity that is a hallmark of the Surrey Arts Centre.

Public Art Recommendation

At the Public Art Advisory Committee (“PAAC”) meeting on November 1, 2018, the PAAC received the creative bike rack Public Art recommendation and unanimously recommended the creative bike rack Public Art opportunity proceed through an open call to artists currently living in BC. PAAC recommended two themes for the public art. The Fleetwood opportunity’s theme, “Crossroads, Connections, Community,” was informed by feedback from local historians and community members. The theme helps to reflect on Fleetwood’s unique characteristics and values. The theme for the Surrey Arts Centre opportunity was “Move, Create, Grow,” and reflects the activities and values of the Arts Centre and the joy of bike riding.

DISCUSSION

Call Process

Public Art staff followed the recommendation of the PAAC by developing an open call to BC artists and a selection process for the creative bike rack Public Art opportunities. Staff advertised the artist competitions on local and national artist platforms, City of Surrey social media channels, and contacted universities and colleges in the Lower Mainland, including Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Simon Fraser University Surrey, to ensure student artists were aware of the opportunity. Eligible artists were invited to attend an information session to learn more about the opportunities. Templates were provided for artists to use to create their design proposals to ensure all proposals would meet the size and material requirements.

Selection Process

On January 11, 2019, staff convened a selection panel to review all the artists’ concept designs proposed for the two bike racks. The voting members of the selection panel invited were representatives of the neighbourhoods where the bike racks would be installed.

Selection Panel Voting Members:

- Dean Barbour (Executive Director, Fleetwood BIA);
- Evelyn Zaklan (Surrey resident, long-time user of the Surrey Arts Centre, and avid cyclist);
- Jane Anderson (Fleetwood Community Association); and
- Kira Wu (visual artist and professor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University).

Non-Voting Panel Members/Advisors:

- Ashley Guindon, Public Art Coordinator;
- David Sadler, Community Enhancement Planner;
- Julia Stewart, Public Art Advisory Committee representative and Surrey resident;
- Liane Davison, Manager, Culture;
- Natalie Androsoff, Engineering Assistant; and
- Ryan Gallagher, Manager, Heritage Administration & Facilities.

The selection process included the review of 135 different designs, with 69 submissions for the Surrey Arts Centre and 66 for the Fleetwood opportunities respectively. The selection panel unanimously voted to recommend Laara Cerman's design for the Fleetwood project and Sofia Tan Wu's design for the Surrey Arts Centre opportunity.

About the Artists and Proposed Designs

Laara Cerman

Laara Cerman is a Vancouver-based artist and graduate of Langara College and Vancouver College of Art and Design. Predominantly a photographer, Cerman has exhibited her work in solo shows in the Lower Mainland. She recently completed public art vinyl mural projects in Richmond and Vancouver. She also works in the commercial photography industry. Cerman writes that the "creative bike rack opportunity is giving me a chance to think in a different medium while continuing to pursue public art projects."

Cerman's design for the Fleetwood creative bike rack references the Fleetwood area's natural and built characteristics. The design depicts the diagonal Fraser Highway and the breathtaking view of Mount Baker. Cerman writes that the design is "*inspired by the natural resources near the Fleetwood area.*"

Sofia Tan Wu

Sofia Tan Wu is an international artist from Honduras who has made BC her home during her studies at Emily Carr University. She has always had an interest in artistic opportunities, both academic and extracurricular. She writes that she is "*always looking for new ways to challenge (herself) and contribute to the community.*"

Wu's design for the Surrey Arts Centre creative bike rack references the powerful energy of a community working and moving together. The active figures invite visitors to the Arts Centre to join in the movement, both artistically and literally, as they engage in activities within the building – participating in classes or attending performances. It also celebrates those who arrive at the Arts Centre by bicycle, which Wu describes as "*a means to grow as a person and live a healthier and happier life. The figures symbolize how movements from one community can grow into something bigger.*"

Final designs from the artists will be received by March 2019, with fabrication and installation of the artworks in April 2019. Aggressive Tube Bending will be fabricating the bike racks.

Engaging with the community on this pilot project has provided good value to the City, as the design for the Fleetwood project can be implemented again should the Fleetwood BIA wish to purchase additional bike racks.

FUNDING

The total budget for these two projects is \$13,000 which includes all costs for design, fabrication and installation of bike racks at Surrey Arts Centre and Fleetwood. Of this total, \$4,000 will be funded from the 2019 Community Enhancement Operating Budget and the remaining \$9,000 will be funded out of the Public Art Contribution Program.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The creative bike racks 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 authorize staff to undertake contracts and work with artists Laara Cerman and Sofia Tan Wu to designs two creative bike racks.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" – Concept Design for a Creative Bike Rack in Fleetwood

Appendix "II" – Concept Design for a Creative Bike Rack for the Surrey Arts Centre

APPENDIX "I"

Concept Design by Laara Cerman for Fleetwood



Concept Design by Sofia Tan Wu for Surrey Arts Centre

