

NO: R047

COUNCIL DATE: March 11, 2019

---

## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **March 6, 2019**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **7800-01**  
SUBJECT: **Surrey Central Station TransLink Mural Proposal**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize TransLink to proceed towards the installation of a mural designed by artist Marianne Nicolson outside the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station, as described in this report, and attached as Appendix "I."

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information about the City's process for reviewing mural proposals, and to seek Council's approval for a mural proposed by TransLink for the west wall of the Surrey Central SkyTrain.

## POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Murals are covered under the *City Sign By-law, 1999, No. 13656* (amended 01/13/14) which states:

*"5. (5) No owner of a lot or premises shall erect, allow or cause to be erected a mural unless such mural has received approval from Council or from any Committee appointed by Council to approve such mural."*

*"Mural means any piece of artwork, including a painting, fresco, frieze, photograph, picture, image, illustration or graphic presentation, applied directly or by an electronic or digital means on and partially or fully covering a wall, ceiling or other permanent or non-permanent surface."*

The process for approval and management of murals is described in Appendix "II". As per the City process, the Public Art Planner for TransLink brought forward the mural proposal to the City's Manager of Culture for review. In the absence of the first meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee, this proposal has been advanced directly to Council for consideration.

## **BACKGROUND**

TransLink is funding two artworks as part of the Surrey Central SkyTrain station renovation. These artworks were selected through a process undertaken by TransLink. One artwork is a carved wooden sculpture by artist Marianne Nicholson that was recently installed inside the station (not the subject of this report). An image of the sculpture is not provided in this report as TransLink has not yet issued public information about this artwork and plan to make this information available at the time the new Station entrance opens. The second artwork is a vinyl mural proposed by the same artist for the outside west wall of the Surrey Central SkyTrain station building facing the Civic Plaza.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **About the Artist**

Marianne Nicolson is an internationally recognized artist, who has been commissioned by both art museums and municipal public art programs to create large scale artworks. She is also trained as a linguist, anthropologist. Dr. Nicolson is of Scottish and Dzawada'enuxw First Nations descent and is based in Victoria, BC. The Dzawada'enuxw People are a member tribe of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nations of the Pacific Northwest Coast.

### **About the Artwork**

The artwork describes North America as Turtle Island, surrounded by birds and animals and iconography which references medicinal plants from the west coast of British Columbia. Additional information about the content of the artwork is in Appendix "I".

The west wall of the Surrey Centre Skytrain is a bare concrete face located in a prominent location, facing Civic Plaza and the Surrey Centre Library. A mural with the scale and vibrancy proposed by TransLink will add colour, visual interest and contribute positively to the uniqueness of this high-profile public space. The mural's lifespan is expected to be 3-5 years. This wall will likely be obscured by future development in Centre Block, subject to future plans.

The recommendation for an artwork by an Indigenous artist aligns with the Surrey Indigenous Leadership Committee's Surrey Urban Aboriginal Social Innovation Project, entitled All Our Relations, A Social Innovation Strategy. Approving First Nations art in public spaces supports the following recommendations in the document:

- Goal #10: Indigenize Public Spaces: Partner with the City of Surrey to increase Indigenous art in City Hall, city-owned buildings and public spaces.
- Goal #38: Combat negative stereotypes and discrimination in the City: Create opportunities for visual representations of reconciliation.

## **FUNDING**

All costs for this mural, as well as its maintenance, will be supported by TransLink's public art program.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of this mural 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

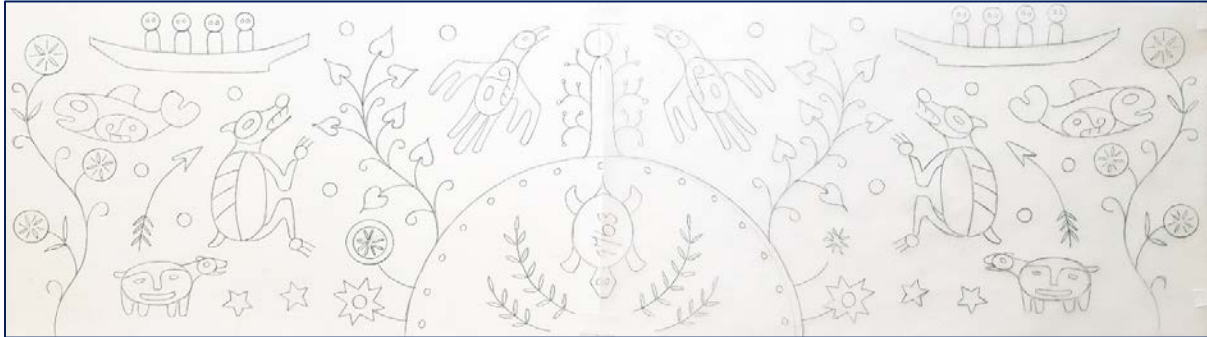
The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council authorize TransLink to proceed with implementing the proposed mural.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

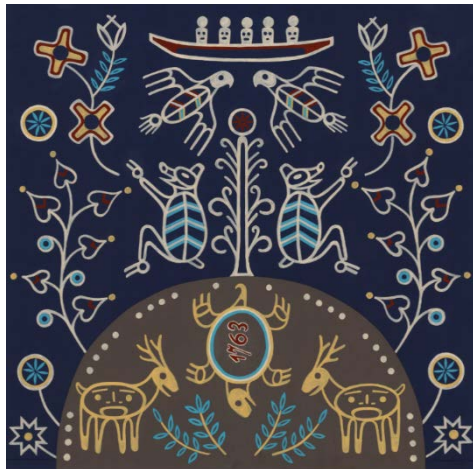
Appendix "I" – Mural Concept for Surrey Central SkyTrain Station  
Appendix "II" – City of Surrey Mural Proposal Guidelines

### Mural Concept for Surrey Central SkyTrain Station

Below is the design concept for a proposed 40’ wide x 15’ high vinyl mural to be mounted on the exterior 100’ x 31’ concrete wall of the Surrey Skytrain Station. Titled “1763,” the artwork is designed by internationally recognized artist, Marianne Nicolson. Marianne Nicolson is a linguist, anthropologist, and a visual artist of Scottish and Dzawada’enuxw First Nations descent based in Victoria, BC. The Dzawada’enuxw People are a member tribe of the Kwakwaka’wakw Nations of the Pacific Northwest Coast.



The mural will be supported by an aluminum frame and will have a lifespan of 3-5 years. The artwork colour and form will be very similar to the completed artwork shown below. The design responds to the subject of Indigenous Rights in Canada recognizing the British Royal Proclamation of 1763 which is at the root of legal protection for Aboriginal Rights and Title today.



Left: Marianne Nicolson’s banner design “1763” (Quebec version).

The blue night sky illuminates an earthly orb. From the central crescent emerge floral motifs, bears, birds and a canoe in a beadwork pattern influenced by pictograph (paintings on rock) style imagery. Within the earth like crescent, two deer face a turtle with the date 1763 written on its back. The turtle represents the land and is a nod to the Indigenous cultures of North America which is often named Turtle Island. The title “1763” refers to the Royal Proclamation of 1763 which recognized the rights of Aboriginal land title in what would become Canada after the 7 Years War fought between 1756-1763. The Royal Proclamation laid the foundation for the constitutional recognition and protection of First Nations rights. This original work was created as a 20’ x 20’ mural for Manif d’art, The Quebec City Biennial (February - April 21, 2019) and its theme: “Small Between the Stars, Large Against the Sky”.

The proposed mural design for Surrey Central Station will be similar in colour and content. It will incorporate the date 1763 and utilize similar pictograph images seen in an artwork commissioned by the Surrey Art Gallery for an UrbanScreen exhibition Sept 28, 2017 to Jan 7, 2018. The artwork will specifically refer to the western part of Canada with floral motifs that reference medicinal plants from the Westcoast.

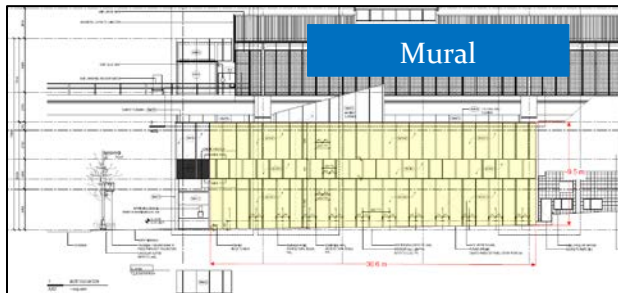


*"The Way In Which It Was Given to Us"* Marianne Nicolson  
Surrey UrbanScreen exhibition 2017/2018



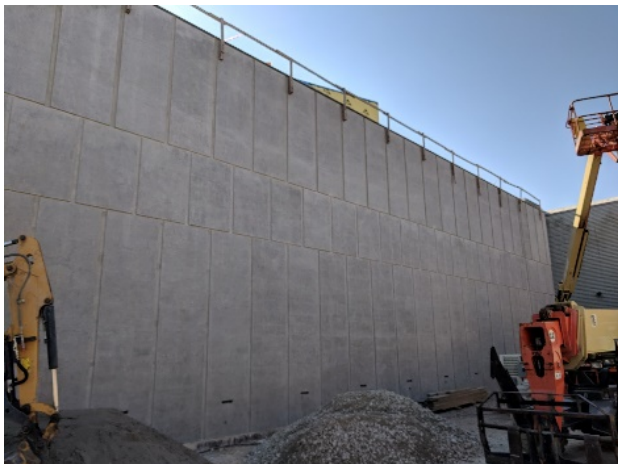
The mural will be printed on vinyl and framed in aluminum similar to the mural shown below mounted on the exterior of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at UBC. The fabricator will be Can Design and Super Graphics (which produced the work on the UBC Belkin Gallery).

*"The Sun is Setting on the British Empire"* Marianne Nicolson  
2017 UBC Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery



Surrey Skytrain Station mural site.

Mural width 15.24m (50 feet) x 4.57m (15 feet) shown here in blue to approximate scale.



Concrete Wall site for proposed mural installation

City of Surrey Mural Proposal Guidelines

**WALL ART AND MURALS ON PRIVATE AND CITY PROPERTY GUIDELINES**



**CITY OF SURREY APPROVAL PROCESS AND ADVICE ON COMPETITIONS FOR DESIGN**

**Introduction:**

Wall art including painted and vinyl murals are recognized as an effective strategy to engage communities, enliven streetscapes and contribute positive and aesthetic messages within the public realm. Wall art can also generate creative opportunities for groups of artists, residents, businesses and others to collaborate on projects whose process of production, design and presence contribute a positive sense of place and create an experience of community and belonging in the City’s neighbourhoods.

This Guideline anticipates applications to install temporary wall art on both City and private property and guides the planning and approval following both the City Signage By-Law and the City’s Public Art Policy and procedures.

Temporary projects are planned to be installed for less than twelve (12) months and are designed to be removable. These include large-scale vinyl wraps and large painted panels temporarily fastened to an external wall. Permanent wall art has a planned life-expectancy longer than one year.

**Process for approval to proceed with a wall art project on private property:**

**Step 1:**

Mural sponsor contacts Surrey’s Community Engagement Planner to discuss the intention to create a proposal for a temporary wall art project, and ensure the project as conceived will meet the City’s guidelines. The Planner will provide preliminary advice, and will schedule an internal meeting with Planning and Public Art staff to brief them on the pending proposal.

**Step 2:**

Mural sponsor creates a written proposal and include the following information:

- 1) Who comprises the group proposing the project (experience, lead individuals, roles and responsibilities)
- 2) Location, material, size and dates for the proposed wall art installation and removal date,
- 3) Theme and purpose of creating the artwork
- 4) Process for artist selection, community engagement artwork production and project coordination;
- 5) Documentation of the skills, abilities and experience of
  - the group proposing to coordinate the project (if different from the building owner) and
  - the artists, fabricators and installation company (reflecting process for selection and intended materials etc.)
- 6) Written and signed agreement between the property owner and the group undertaking the wall art that confirms the following:
  - Approval and support for the project to use their building;
  - Responsibility for the installation and the removal of the artwork;
  - Responsibility for insurance as needed for those undertaking the project;

**The City Signage By-law**

(13656 amended 01/13/14) states:

DEFINITIONS: 4. (1) In this By-law: “Mural means any piece of artwork, including a painting, fresco, frieze, photograph, picture, image, illustration or graphic presentation, applied directly or by an electronic or digital means on and partially or fully covering a wall, ceiling or other permanent or non-permanent surface.”

APPLICATION: 5. (5) No owner of a lot or premises shall erect, allow or cause to be erected a mural unless such mural has received approval from Council or from any Committee appointed by Council to approve such mural.”

**Permanent wall art on private property:**

A permanent artwork is not removable, such as a mural painting on a wall. Inquiries about permanent wall art are received by public art staff.

Private property owners, who wish to propose permanent artwork on private property, will need to prepare a written proposal, including a rendering of the final design.

This proposal, together with a delegation of the property owner, will be received by the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC), who will then advise Council with recommendations.

Permanent murals and other forms of permanent wall art are not produced or funded through the City’s public art program.