

NO: R061

COUNCIL DATE: April 12, 2021

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 8, 2021**

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

FILE: **7800-01**

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Temporary Installation of Artwork by Atheana Picha on Surrey Arts Centre Windows**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to contract installation of a temporary mural artwork by Atheana Picha in select window areas in the Surrey Arts Centre as attached in Appendix "I".

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Surrey Arts Centre Public Art Project and to obtain Council approval to proceed with implementing the temporary installation of an artwork by Atheana Picha on the windows above the Surrey Arts Centre entrance doors.

## BACKGROUND

As part of its 2021 exhibitions plans, the Surrey Art Gallery has proposed to use the Surrey Arts Centre glazing, above the front entrance, to expand the opportunities the public to view and have to safe access to contemporary art. The use of these windows offers outdoor viewing, while access into the exhibition halls is currently limited to registered visits and limited hours.

To launch this new exhibition program, the Gallery approached Atheana Picha, an emerging young artist from the q̓ʷɑ:n̓l̓ən̓ (Kwantlen) First Nation. Her proposed artwork design references to the mountain goat and utility, the sacred, beauty, inspiration, and ancestry.

Appendix "I" outlines the proposed design and location of the proposed artwork. The artwork will be digitally fabricated in transparent vinyl. Artworks in vinyl applied on glazing facing the sun have an expected lifespan of maximum five years. This artwork is expected to be on display for a minimum of one year.

## DISCUSSION

### Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee Review

On March 10, 2020, the Parks Recreation and Culture Committee received a report on the Surrey Art Gallery's Public Art proposal and approved the recommendation to proceed.

The request to install this design on the Art Centre's exterior windows, is in compliance with the City Signage bylaw as it constitutes a public mural. The City Signage By-law 13656 (amended 01/13/14) states:

- *"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"; and*
- *"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."*

Installation would begin in April following Council's approval of this report, in time for the opening of the Gallery's spring exhibitions.

### About the Artist and Artwork

Atheana Picha is an interdisciplinary Coast Salish artist from the Kwantlen First Nation. Picha studied Fine Arts at Langara College, with a high interest in ceramics, intaglio printmaking, and wood carving. She is currently doing two mentorships: one learning how to weave, spin, and dye with Musqueam weaver Debra Sparrow, and one with Squamish artist Aaron Nelson-Moody learning engraving. Picha is the two-time recipient of the YVR Art Foundation scholarship (2017 & 2019), selected as the youngest artist for the Vancouver Mural festival in 2018, and in the spring for the "Make Art While Apart" mural series.

"The mountain goat was very important to people along the coast, from utilitarian to sacred pieces. Coast Salish people used mountain goat wool for our weavings, and the horns for tools and for adornment pieces. There have been 22 mountain goat horn bracelets found, 4 of which are in North America. These bracelets have an elegant design that never fails to inspire me and other Salish artists. Contemporary Salish artists have done renditions of these bracelets in different materials, often in silver. The bracelets show me that my ancestors took time for designing the utilitarian items in their lives, but also created work for the sake of making something beautiful themselves or for a loved one. These pieces inspire me to take time to create work that can function as something that can speak to my ancestry, but also to my ancestors' and mentors' dedication to visual design language."

## FUNDING

Funding for this project is supported by the Gallery's grant awarded from the BC Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts resiliency funding.

The cost to implement this project will be \$5,000 and includes artist fees, fabrication, installation.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, the artist will proceed to complete the process to finalize the digital file of their design as needed for fabrication.

## **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; and
- 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 and Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to undertake a contract to proceed with installing this temporary artwork in the windows of the Surrey Arts Centre as generally described in this report.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

## **Appendix "I" Proposed Design and Location**

[https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcculadministration/restricted/draft corporate reports/2021/draft cr temporary arts centre window mural .docx](https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/prcculadministration/restricted/draft%20corporate%20reports/2021/draft%20temporary%20arts%20centre%20window%20mural.docx)

## Proposed Design and Location

Rendering of proposed artwork on the exterior glazing of the Surrey Arts Centre  
13750 88 Avenue



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