

NO: R067

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 Chimney Heights Park Washroom Public Art**

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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 the artist Jasmine Mingjie Weng to complete the design for the Chimney Heights Park Washroom as generally described in this report and attached as Appendix "I".

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on Chimney Heights Park Washroom Public Art Project and to obtain Council approval for staff to contract Jasmine Mingjie Weng to complete the design for the Chimney Heights Park Washroom gate and wall panels.

## 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.

### **Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee Recommendation**

On January 22, 2020 the Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee received a presentation on a public art feature to enhance the new Chimney Heights Park Washroom. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee supported the recommendation to commission public art at this location.

### **Community Engagement**

A community engagement meeting with the purpose to inform the theme for the call to artists was convened on February 26, 2020 at the Chimney Hill Elementary School. Residents of the Chimney Heights community, and stakeholders in the facility, received a presentation on the public art program and the opportunity proposed for the Park Washroom. Participants then shared ideas on themes that would reflect their community and enhance the experience of

Fieldhouse users. This feedback from the residents was reflected in terms of reference for the call to artists and informed the criteria for the selection process. An image of the park washroom identifying the location of the artwork that will feature the design is attached as Appendix "II".

### **Chimney Heights Park Washroom Public Art Project Theme: "A Welcoming Place for Everyone"**

The theme for the Chimney Heights Park Washroom Public Art was "A Welcoming Place for Everyone" and reflects how the Chimney Heights Park and neighborhood is "friendly, inclusive, and proud." During a community engagement session, residents talked of large gatherings at the park, with families of many generations and cultures coming together. The artists were directed to draw from this theme for inspiration for the glazing design. An example of a previous wall and gate panel public art project at Maple Green Park is attached as Appendix "III".

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Call Process**

Following the Public Art Program's standard best practices, a call to artists was promoted, open to any artist living in BC. The call to artists was originally issued in the spring of 2020 and suspended due to the pandemic and reissued in fall 2020. In total, 20 BC artists submitted 27 unique designs for consideration.

### **Selection Process**

On January 15, 2021, staff convened a selection panel to review all the artists' concept designs. Selection panel members included community members and Parks, Recreation & Culture Staff. The selection panel unanimously voted to recommend one design: "Harmony" designed by Jasmine Mingjie Weng. A copy of the artwork is attached as Appendix "I".

Staff presented the concept design to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee at their meeting on March 10, 2021, and the Committee supported the recommendation to commission Jasmine Mingjie Weng for the design.

### **About the Artist and Artwork**

Jasmine Mingjie Weng is a 4<sup>th</sup> year Communication Design student at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. She immigrated to Surrey, Canada in 2015 and now lives in Burnaby. Weng is passionate about creating simple, attractive, and original designs. Her time in Surrey was important to her; she writes, "In that period of time, I deeply felt the harmony between people from different cultures, and received kindness from our neighbors, which let us feel warm and encouraged us to be courageous to face and overcome the challenges of our new life in Canada."

Weng's design, "Harmony", depicts a harmonious picture of a family and people from different cultural backgrounds, all enjoying the sunshine and freedom in a culturally inclusive environment. Weng hopes that people will feel "positive and bright" when they see the artwork. She intends to further refine her design to reflect the diversity of Surrey residents.

## FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of the creative enhancements to Park washrooms draws on 1.25% of the construction costs of the washrooms (following the recommendations of the Public Art Policy) and matched equally by funding contributed to the public art reserve, through the Private Development Public Art Program. The cost to implement the project is \$18,600 and includes artist fees, fabrication, installation, and lifetime maintenance.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, the artist will proceed 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 & Culture Department recommends Council authorize staff to undertake a contract with Jasmine Mingjie Weng to complete the design for the Chimney Heights Park Washroom Public Art Project.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I" - Jasmine Mingjie Weng design for Chimney Heights Park Washroom  
Appendix "II" - Location for Public Art at Chimney Heights Park Washroom  
Appendix "III" - Example of a previous wall and gate panel public art project at Maple Green Park

Jasmine Weng design “Harmony” for Chimney Heights Park  
Washroom



Jasmine Weng’s design, “A Welcoming Place for Everyone”, depicts a harmonious picture of a family and people from different cultural backgrounds, all enjoying the sunshine and freedom in a culturally inclusive environment. Weng hopes that people will feel “positive and bright” when they see the artwork. She will further refine her design to reflect the diversity of Surrey residents by introducing more detail in the clothing. This design will be further developed to meet guidelines that mitigate risk such as pinch points.

**APPENDIX "II"**

**Location for public art design on gate and wall panels of Chimney Heights Park Washroom**



## APPENDIX “III”

### Example of a previous wall and gate panel public art project at Maple Green Park

*Chito Maravilla’s View from the Top and Lifting Hands, 2019*

